

Durham Blue Coat C. E. Aided Junior School

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Mixed Class Curriculum

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on our class organisation for this academic year. As you are aware, we have adjusted our usual two-form entry structure to include a dedicated Year 3 class, a dedicated Year 4 class, and a mixed Year 3/4 class.

We know that changes to class structures can raise questions. We want to reassure you that our team has planned carefully to ensure every child gets a high-quality, engaging education tailored precisely to their needs.

How the Curriculum Works

Our school follows a **Lower Key Stage 2 (LKS2)** curriculum model across both Year 3 and Year 4. This means the core topics and themes are designed to span a two-year rolling program.

- **Foundation Subjects (History, Geography, Science, Art, etc.):**

The whole mixed class will access the **Year 4 curriculum content** for these foundation subjects this year. Next year, the cohort will access the **Year 3 curriculum content**. Because these subjects are built around broad, connected themes and concepts, exploring them together allows for rich discussions, collaborative learning, and deep exploration without repeating content or lowering expectations. All curriculum maps have been reviewed and will be available on our website this week.

- **Maths and English:**

Maths and English require progressive, step-by-step skill mastery. These subjects are **not** taught using a single blanket approach. Instead, our teachers use rigorous, targeted planning with **distinct, age-appropriate objectives** for Year 3 and Year 4 pupils.

- The teacher and our skilled teaching assistants deliver differentiated direct instruction.
- Children complete tasks matched specifically to their year group's national curriculum expectations and personal targets.



Benefits of Our Approach

Mixed-age classes are common in many primary schools across the country and offer unique benefits:

- **Independent Learning:** Pupils naturally develop greater self-reliance, focus, and collaboration skills.
- **Social Growth:** Children expand their friendship groups and learn to support one another across age ranges.
- **Targeted Support:** With smaller or more flexibly managed focus groups, teachers can give precise, individual attention to ensure no child is left behind or held back.

We are fully committed to making this a fantastic, thriving year for all of our children. If you have any specific questions about your child's learning or how this setup supports them, please feel free to contact the school office to arrange a chat with us.

Yours sincerely,

L Grieve

L Grieve
Headteacher

