

- Q. How is education delivered within a composite class?**
A. All classes, whether composite or not, contain pupils of different abilities and levels of development. Teachers Use a variety of methods, for example, small group teaching and individualised learning to ensure that the differing abilities of all children are meet.
- Q. What is the impact of composite classes?**
A. Inspection reports from across Scotland indicate that there is no difference in the quality of education provided in composite classes, or in outcomes for children taught in composite classes.
- Q. Will my child be 'kept back'?**
A. No, we treat every child as an individual.
- Q. Does the teacher teach to the 'middle' of the class?**
A. All teachers take account of the needs and abilities of individual pupils.
- Q. Do more able pupils get bored? Do the less able 'switch off'?**
A. All teachers plan to motivate and engage all children.

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

COMPOSITE CLASSES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Composite Classes - your questions answered

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Q. What is a composite class?

A. This is when pupils from more than one year group are taught as a single group. The maximum class size for a composite class is 25.

Q. Why do we need composite classes?

A. Composite classes help us to deliver education efficiently when there are not enough children to make a single year class.

Q. How are composite classes composed?

A. We base composite classes on pupil age. For example, when we are making a composite P3/4 class, we take the oldest pupils in P3 and the youngest pupils in P4. The age-range in composite classes may often be less than 8 months, whereas in single-year-group classes it may be 12 to 13 months.

Q. Are there many composite classes in East Lothian schools?

A. There are composite classes in the majority of schools in the county.

Q. Will children repeat work?

A. No, we plan and record work so children are always learning something new.

Q. Will my children be able to mix with friends of their own age?

A. Yes, we know that friendship groups are important and we encourage children to mix with their friends at break, through whole-school or stage events.

Q. Will there be more composite classes in the future in East Lothian?

A. Yes, we think that we will have more composite classes as we strive to deliver a high quality education within budget.

Q. What can I do to support my child?

A. You can help to reassure and settle your child in his/her new class.
You can create opportunities to maintain friendships and encourage new ones.
You can be positive and continue to work with the school.