

Lakewood Elementary School

Student Placement Policy

Our Goal:

Our goal at Lakewood Elementary School is to provide the best possible learning environment for all students. This process is both detailed and complicated. We try to give students the opportunity to experience as many teaching styles and teacher personalities as possible in order to enhance their lifelong learning skills. We recognize that there can be circumstances where it is advantageous for a child to have the same teacher two consecutive years. Parental input about student placement is welcomed, but it is NOT the only factor that can be considered. Specific friendships are important to children, but part of the process of growth involves getting to know others and learning to work with them. We want students to be successful learners, comfortable with a wide range of teachers and other children from Kindergarten through Grade 5.

Before Class Lists are finalized:

Firstly, the District advises us of our staff allocation for the year. This can change according to enrolment and may be adjusted in September. We then determine the types of support programs we can offer and the class organization of the school in keeping with school philosophy, as well as contractual obligations such as class size and preparation time.

When this step is completed, we are then able to allocate students to proposed classes. These proposals are a draft and final student placement will not be made until September when our enrolment is solidified, and our staffing number is set. This initial process is carried out during several meetings in June. We first profile each student and then the current year's teachers meet to place students in the most effective educational environment they foresee. In doing this, we consider many factors.

What we consider:

A student's current and past performance is carefully reviewed along with input from support staff when appropriate. For each class we consider many factors, including:

- ◆ The number of students permitted in each class (Class size limits are determined by Ministry and School District Guidelines)
- ◆ Individual social emotional needs of the child
- ◆ Social/emotional development balance
- ◆ Student learning style and teacher learning style
- ◆ The history of the child
- ◆ Behavioural balance
- ◆ Gender balance
- ◆ Group dynamics
- ◆ Balance of independent/dependent learners
- ◆ Academic balance
- ◆ Balance of students with special needs
- ◆ The need to separate certain students
- ◆ The provision of support staff (Learning Support, Integration Support, Educational Assistants)
- ◆ Students' birth dates (particularly in Kindergarten/Grade 1)
- ◆ Benefit of being with the same teacher two years in a row

If a parent wishes to advise the administration about the kind of learning environment they perceive would be best for their child, they must make an appointment. It is not a meeting to pick your child's teacher. Please do not send letters or communicate your preferences through your child's teacher. At the meeting, the parent has the opportunity to provide information about their child in relation to the educational criteria listed above. Although this provides an opportunity to meet with administration to discuss your feelings regarding your child's educational needs, *it does not guarantee that your request will be granted.* The meeting with administration ensures that your voice will be heard during the configuration process; but in the end, the final decision rests with the teaching professionals. **You will be able to set up an appointment with school administration between Monday, May 6th and Friday, May 17th. Please contact the office to set up an appointment.**