



Twins in the Classroom Policy

October 2019

Signed on behalf of GB by COG	
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Twins in the Classroom Policy

Callands Community Primary School believes that the decision to separate twins or keep them together will be based on the twins' personalities, abilities and needs.

Therefore, we will involve the parents in the decision around this before they are on roll at the school.

Parents have two options:

- start them together and they will always then stay together in the same class throughout their time at the school
- separate your twins from the start and they will always be in separate classes throughout their time at the school.

Once this decision is made, there can be no changes to this once they are on roll.

Separating twins

Around one-third of twins are currently separated in school. Advice from Tamba and the [Multiple Births Foundation](#) says that the benefits of this can include:

- Recognising the wishes of multiples who may want to be separated.
- If 1 child is noticeably more able, either socially or academically, than the other, separation can reduce the risk of comparisons and competition between the two.
- Multiples may display disruptive behaviour when they're together.
- If the children are too dependent on each other and are not separated, they may find it hard to mix with and relate to other children.
- If they're in the same class, twins often strive to be the same, which can mean a more able twin underachieves, or the less able twin struggles to keep up.
- Twins, particularly if they're identical, can use their similarity to confuse teachers and entertain other children, but this can be distracting and disruptive.
- In boy and girl twins, the girl twin will tend to develop faster and this can lead to "mothering" behaviour, which may harm the boy's relationship with his peers.

Keeping twins together at school

The benefits of keeping twins together at school include:

- Twins often settle faster in school if they're kept together. If they like being together, there are definite advantages to keeping them in the same class.

- Twins who do not want to be separated may suffer if they're forced apart. This may only make them more dependent on each other.
- If twins are highly dependent and would be distressed to be separated, it's better to keep them together.
- If twins are highly competitive, it makes sense to separate them, but a mild rivalry can provide stimulation.

Parents are requested to complete and sign appendix 1 to demonstrate they understand and commit to the aforementioned within the policy.

This policy will be implemented as from January 2020 and will be phased in as we will not be moving any current twins already on roll.

Appendix 1

To be completed by all parents of twins prior to admission

We understand that as parents of twins, we have two options prior to admission at Callands Community Primary School:

- **Option 1** - We can start them together in the same class and they will always then stay together in the same class throughout their time at the school **OR**
- **Option 2** - We can separate our twins from the start and they will always be in separate classes throughout their time at the school.

We understand that once this decision is made, there can be no changes to this once they are on roll.

For our children, _____ and _____, we choose Option _____.

Name of Parents _____

Signature of Parents _____

Date _____