What is a Composite Class?
Composite classes occur when children from two or more year grades are grouped together. Composite classes are classes which have more than one year grade e.g. 2/3.

Why are Composite Classes formed?
The number of children in each grade in a school varies from year to year. Schools are, however, staffed to agreed standards based on the total number of students within the school, regardless of the number of students in each grade. This means that the principal has to organise classes to make the best use of available staff, resources and space to the benefit of all children in the school.

How are Composite Classes formed?
Composite classes are normally formed on the basis of:
- existing successful groupings of students
- academic level
- proficiency
- independence
- balance
- school requirements

When will a Composite Class be formed?
Normally, classes will be formed before the start of a new school year so that all involved know the class structures for the new year. In certain circumstances (after day 8), significant changes in numbers may affect those plans.

How will I know what is happening to my child?
- You will be kept informed of the arrangements for annual class structures.
- You may contact the school to discuss arrangements for your child.
- You are invited to discuss your child’s progress at parent’s evenings and at regular intervals throughout the year.
Questions Parents Ask

Why do classes have to change from year to year?
The number of children attending the school changes regularly because of families moving into and out of the area. The school has to take account of this and organise classes to make the best use of all available staff.

Will my child be considered when the school is making organisational changes?
Children are the most important consideration in the school. The principal and staff make every effort to ensure that the class structure takes the individual needs of all children into account.

Will my child’s education be affected?
Teachers are skilled and experienced in planning and providing for your child. They consider many factors which help your child learn and develop e.g. ability in classwork, motivation, involvement with others at the same stage and social well-being.

Where children are working in ability groups, would more advanced working groups be placed in higher year grades?
This is not always the case. The principal and staff have to consider how the different groups contribute to the overall balance of the class.

Will my child have opportunities to be involved with children of the same age?
Students will be involved with others in the same grade in activities which bring the whole year group together.

Will my child stay in a Composite Class?
Composite classes are a normal part of school organisation. Some children are never part of a composite class while others, particularly in rural schools, never experience anything else.