

**Policy regarding the retention or acceleration of pupils in Stepaside Educate Together National School**

**Rationale:**

This policy was drafted in February 2017 to ensure equality of access for all pupils in SETNS.

**Retention of pupils:**

SETNS adheres to circular 32/03 in relation to the retention of pupils. In line with this circular the following applies:

* We recognise that the Primary curriculum is an eight year cycle with children progressing to the next grade at the end of each school year. The curriculum is flexible and child-centred and can be adapted to meet children’s needs.
* Learning support provision is in place to support pupils in making progress in keeping with their needs and abilities and to move consecutively through the different class levels aling with their peers.
* Children should only be allowed to repeat a year for educational reasons and in exceptional circumstances.
* In such circumstances the decision would be made by the Principal following consultation with the learning support teacher/resource teacher, and class teacher and parent(s).
* A record outlining the educational basis for the decision to retain a child should be kept on the pupil’s file it should outline a programme that records precisely what new approach will be used for him/her and what its expected benefit will be.
* Primary Payments section of the Department of Education and Skills should be notified where the proposed retention has staffing implications.
* Pupils who have completed 6th class must not transfer to another primary school to repeat 6th class. If this were to happen capitation and other grants would not be paid in respect of this pupil.

**Acceleration of pupils:**

There exists no circular in relation to the acceleration of pupils. After careful consideration the following factors were considered to inform any decision regarding accleration of pupils in SETNS.

* We have to have a measured and consistent approach in considering accelerating any pupil to a higher class level in the school. This would be important in terms of equality of access to all pupils.
* Decisions regarding acceleration of pupils who are excelling in their current class must be led by placing essential focus on the professional opinion of teaching staff involved while taking the views of the parents in to account.
* We recognise that both under-performance and over-performance can be characteristics of exceptionally able pupils and as such these pupils can be difficult to identify accurately however we would expect to see high attainment levels in standardized testing along with other characteristics.
* The age of the pupil is a factor in considering any acceleration. (Both age when pupil starts national school and secondary school).

**Review and Ratification:**

This policy will be reviewed as required but no later than 2022. It was ratified at the Board of Management meeting on March 6th 2017.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Aidan Gallagher, Chairperson of the Board of Management, SETNS

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