

STATEMENT 5 - INDIVIDUALS

COMMENTS - IN AGREEMENT

	PUBLIC	PARENT	YOUNG PERSON	STAFF MEMBER	TOTAL RESPONSES
	461	400	11	71	943
"Gives children more experience in life / social skills", "encourages mentoring"	40	67	3	21	131
"Unavoidable in smaller schools", "Inevitable in rural areas"	48	40	2	15	105
"No evidence that this is detrimental to a child's education"	18	19	3	8	48
"As long as classes are not too large"	20	21		2	43
Education should be on ability, attainment & development level - not age	17	18		7	42
Depends on quality of teacher/teaching - USE IN GENERAL	11	19		4	34
"As long as the age groups are not too wide"	13	12		6	31
"It did not affect/harm previous generations"	16	6		1	23
"Sensible due to costs involved"	9	6		3	18
To keep schools open	5	12		1	18
"As long as teaching is at the right level for each child", "as long as it is applied fairly"	3	12		2	17
As long as 1 year group not split over 2 years, so some get left behind	4	7		1	12
But don't want in Lerwick		5		5	10
As long as teachers have classroom assistants/support		8		1	9
More flexible & more individually tailored	1	7			8
"As long as pupil /teacher ratio is not too high"	3	3		1	7
"Enables children to be taught in their own community", "prevents the need for travelling long distances"	3	4			7
As long as it does not compromise teaching standards of each peer group		3			3
Agree but not same teacher for more than one year		2			2
As long as size of classroom/equipment available large enough		2			2
Composite classes are better in bigger school - more outlets & bigger class		2			2
Why not in Lerwick? - Unfair.		1			1

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COMMENTS - AGAINST

	PUBLIC	PARENT	YOUNG PERSON	STAFF MEMBER	TOTAL RESPONSES
	135	125	4	12	276
"Children should be taught in their own age groups", "especially at younger ages" Not to let them feel intimidated in their primary education.	26	24	2	6	58
"Difficult for children, when others in class are being taught differently", "Teacher cannot tend to all ages at the same time" Older/brighter made to help younger/less able - so not stretched, unfulfilled.	12	7		2	21
Too wide age groups are undesirable	7	10		3	20
"Can be stressful for teachers"	5	7		3	15
Not in large schools. Not in Lerwick Schools		10			10
Disruptive to be continually split up when classes change. Left out from friends	2	5		1	8
Smaller schools should be closed - to eradicate composite classes	6	2			8
"Children do not fulfil their potential in composite classes", "Need more one-to-one attention"	2	5			7
Preferable to huge schools		1		3	4
Self esteem & possibly behaviour of pupils go down = A/B classes. Affects self confidence.		3		1	4
"Would be beneficial but difficult for smaller schools", "Prefer not to but unavoidable"		3			3
Children can be overshadowed by older children or passed over for younger ones		3			3
Increase of pupils with social & emotional needs makes more difficult		2		1	3
"Puts younger children at a disadvantage"	1	1		1	3
Classroom sizes not large enough		1		1	2
Considerable task to change Curriculum for Excellence if designed around single stream				2	2
Childrens strong points not pinpointed or improved on		1			1
Acceptable in some subjects - not ideal in maths, science & english.	1				1
large classes not good				1	1

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COMMENTS - GENERAL	PUBLIC	PARENT	YOUNG PERSON	STAFF MEMBER	TOTAL RESPONSES
<i>"No real alternative"</i>	12	4		6	22
<i>"Poorly worded question"</i>	7	3		2	12
<i>"Important that teachers are trained appropriately to do this effectively"</i>	5	2		2	9
<i>"Depends entirely on the school in question"</i>	1	5		2	8
<i>"Don't know", "Not sure"</i>	2	3			5
<i>Composite classes happen everywhere - Shetland, Scotland, England</i>	1	1	1	2	5
<i>"Children with learning disabilities should be helped more in composite classes"</i>		4			4
<i>As long as the teacher is happy with this</i>	1				1
<i>Can only be prevented if small schools are closed</i>		1			1
<i>As pupils at different levels in same age group - not good enough reason to close schools to enable no composite classes</i>		1			1