

# Swanbourne Primary School

Narla Road, Swanbourne 6010

Telephone: (08) 9385 5033 Facsimile: (08) 9284 7846

Email: [Swanbourne.ps@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Swanbourne.ps@det.wa.edu.au)

Web Address: [www.swanbourneprimary.wa.edu.au](http://www.swanbourneprimary.wa.edu.au)



## Year Level Placement

All states and territories have now recognised the difficulties interstate students face when entering a new school and in 1989 the Australian Education Council endorsed a recommendation which stated that:

*“Systems agree there where movement interstate means that a student may be disadvantaged, the receiving state will exempt the student from its internal policy”*

This means that students changing schools in a new state or territory may be placed in the year deemed most appropriate given their age, ability and previous schooling history. Some schools have developed the practice of placing new students in a lower level on a “trial basis” planning to review the placement in a few weeks. In practice, adjustments are rarely made because the student settles into the new class, makes friends and is then reluctant to move classes again. It is therefore preferable to put the effort in the beginning to determine the most appropriate year level for the new student. In doing this the following issues should be taken into account:

- The age, physical, social and emotional maturity of the child
- The age of entry to school in the receiving state or territory and the number of years schooling the child has had and in years 1-3 the amount of pre-schooling the child has had
- The documented educational progress of the child and the consistency of the curriculum with the proposed year level at the new school
- The consequence of year level placement on any potential future move
- The preference of the student and parents regarding placement

If a trial placement is still felt necessary to make the final decision, the student should be trialled in the most appropriate class, but only for a few days while further assessment and analysis is made. A review of the placement should be made after two weeks.

It can be seen that there is no simple strategy that can be applied equally to all children to determine the most appropriate year level due to the unique nature of each child and their individual circumstances. Decisions can only be made on a case by case basis in which children and their parents are allowed to participate significantly. The availability of mixed age classes can significantly ease the decision-making around year level placement.