Policy Title:	Required Number of Children in a Class for the Purposes of School Placement
Description:	This policy ensures students are teaching in classes with a sufficient number of pupils to allow them to implement the strategies they are taught in curriculum lectures, in line with the grade descriptors for their assessed placement period.
Author (Position):	Dean of Education: Policy and Practice
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Approved By:	MIE Governing Body
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Required Number of Children in a Class for the Purposes of School Placement

1. Context

School Placement is a mandatory component of the Bachelor in Education (Primary) and Professional Master in Education (Primary) courses. The Teaching Council (2017) requires students to spend 30 weeks on School Placement on the Bachelor in Education (Primary) course and 24 weeks on the Professional Master in Education (Primary) course.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are teaching in classes with a sufficient number of pupils to allow them to implement the strategies they are taught in curriculum lectures, in line with the grade descriptors for their assessed placement period.

3. Benefits

According to The Teaching Council (2017, p.13) School Placement should provide opportunities for student teachers to:

   i.   Integrate theory and practice;

  ii.   Rate theory and practice;

 iii.   Plan for, and undertake, class teaching, learning and assessment using a wide range of strategies;

  iv.   Develop classroom, organisational and behaviour management skills;

   v.   Observe experienced teachers teaching and be involved in a wide range of school activities;

  vi.   Reflect critically on their practice;

 vii.   Receive and respond to feedback on their practice;

viii.   Seek and receive advice and guidance in a supportive environment.

4. Scope

This procedure applies to students on the Bachelor of Education (Primary) and the Professional Master of Education (Primary) undertaking School Placement.

5. Principles

5.1. School Placement is a mandatory and assessed component of the Bachelor in Education (Primary) and the Professional Master of Education (Primary) courses.

5.2. Students are graded using Marino Institute of Education (MIE) and Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin approved grading rubrics.

5.3. Classes with less than 10 pupils that are recognised by the Department of Education and Skills.

6. Definitions

A glossary of definitions relating to School Placement are provided by the Teaching Council (2013, pp 6-7)

7. Policy

7.1. Students are expected to source a class with a minimum of 15 pupils. An exception can be made in relation to this requirement in the following situations.

i. A developing school;

ii. Geographic location;

iii. Falling numbers in the class;

iv. Multi-grade classroom.

7.2. Permission to take a placement in a class with less than 15 pupils must be sought from the School Placement Department.

7.3. Decisions will be based on the criteria above and the student's profile on School Placement, such as:

i. Class size previously taught;

ii. Formative and summative feedback from previous placement;

iii. Assessment profile.

7.4. In these exceptional cases a minimum of 10 students is required in order to have a valid placement.

8. Responsibility

The overall responsibility for this policy lies with the Dean of Education: Policy and Practice.

9. Related Documents

9.1. Teaching Council Guidelines on School Placement (2013)

9.2. The Teaching Council Initial Teacher Education: Criteria and Guidelines for Programme Providers (2017)

9.3. Policy on Special Considerations for School Placement

9.4. Code of Practice for Students with Disabilities

9.5. Consent to Disclose and Share Disability Information

9.6. School Placement Attendance Policy

9.7. Allocation of Students for the Purposes of School Placement