

**GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION OF BANDING
IN YEARS 5 & 6 OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

INTRODUCTION

The following guidelines are meant to facilitate the classification of Years 5 and 6 in Primary schools where the number of children in each grade level is such that these can be grouped into more than one class.

The models hereunder apply the grouping process of banding in situations that require the grouping of children in two, three, four, five or six classes, depending on the number of children in the grade level. The maximum class size on which the models are based is 26 children.

The models are such that give Heads of school some degree of flexibility. For instance, the bands need not necessarily be of the same size such that, if children number permit, the 'lower' band may consist of a **slightly** smaller number of children so that classes within this band are of a relatively smaller size. Moreover, Heads are expected to use their discretion to ensure that:

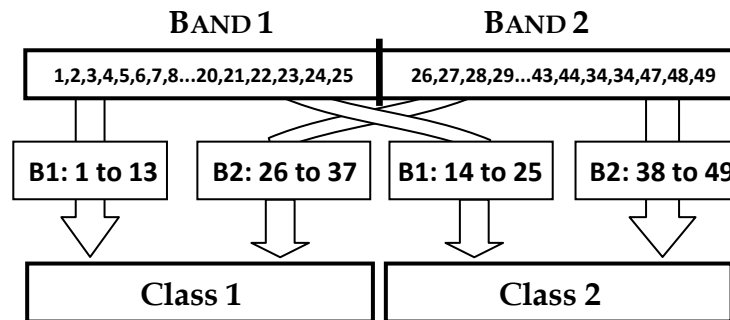
- (a) each class has some degree of **gender balance**;
- (b) children with a statement of needs are **evenly allocated in all the classes**.

TWO CLASSES (not more than 52 children)

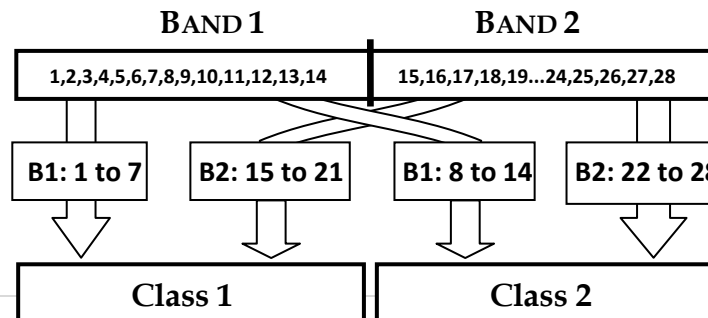
Taking the list of pupils in rank order from the top-placed to the bottom-placed on the basis of the total standardised score:

1. Determine the size of each of the 2 classes.
2. Divide the rank ordered list into TWO approximately equal bands and (commensurate with the size of the first and the second class) and mark this cutoff in the rank ordered list.
3. Divide the number of children in Band 1 and in Band 2, rounding up where this is odd.
4. Place the top half of EACH band in Class 1 and the remaining half of EACH band in Class2. If there is a shortfall in Class 1 enlarge the top half of Band 1 accordingly.

e.g. 1: 49 children - 25 pupils in Class 1, and 24 in Class 2; Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 25, Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 26 to 49.



e.g. 2: 28 children - 14 pupils in each of Classes 1 & 2; Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 14, Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 15 to 28.

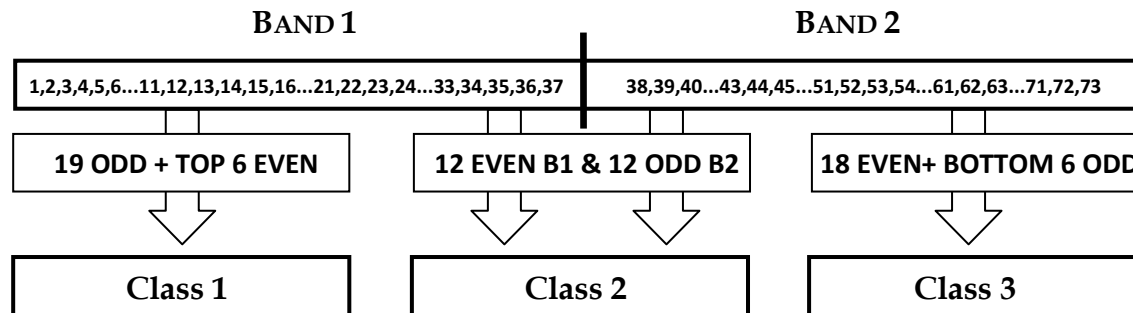


THREE CLASSES (not more than 78 children)

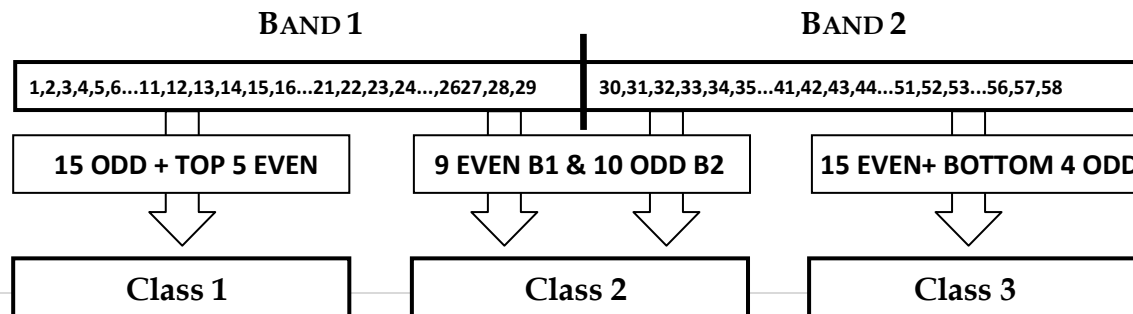
Taking the list of pupils in rank order from the top-placed to the bottom-placed on the basis of the total standardised score:

1. Determine the size of each class.
2. Divide the rank ordered list into TWO approximately equal bands (if this is not possible make Band 1 the larger of the two) and mark this cutoff in the rank ordered list.
3. Starting from the first ODD numbered pupil, take the ODD numbered pupils from Band 1 and place them in Class 1. Similarly, starting from the last EVEN numbered pupil, take the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 2 and place them in Class 3.
4. Once you have determined how many more pupils are required to top-up Class 1 (if any), take these from the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 1 starting from pupil No 2. Similarly, take the remaining number of pupils required to top-up Class 3 (if any) from the ODD numbered pupils starting from last ODD numbered pupil.
5. Place the remaining EVEN numbered pupils from Band 1 and the ODD numbered pupils from Band 2 in Class 2

e.g. 1: 73 children - 25 pupils in Class 1, and 24 in each of Classes 2 & 3; Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 37, Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 38 to 73.



e.g. 2: 58 children - 20 pupils in Class 1, and 19 in each of Classes 2 & 3; therefore Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 29, Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 30 to 58.

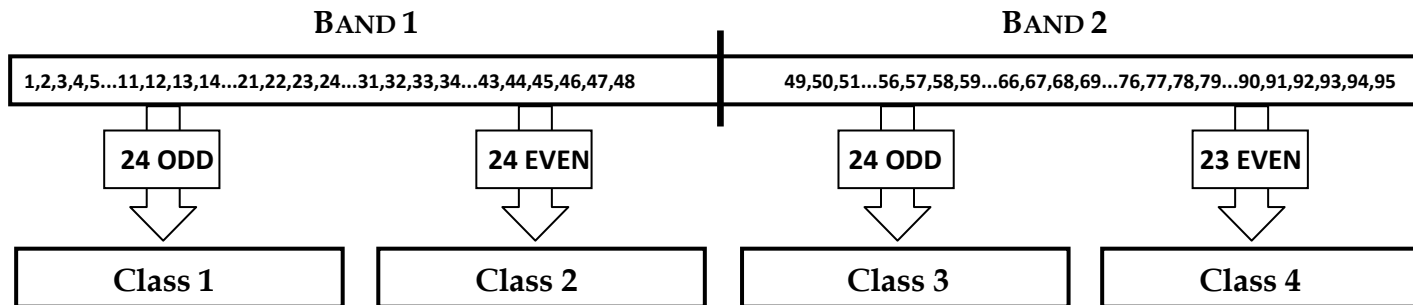


FOUR CLASSES (not more than 104 children)

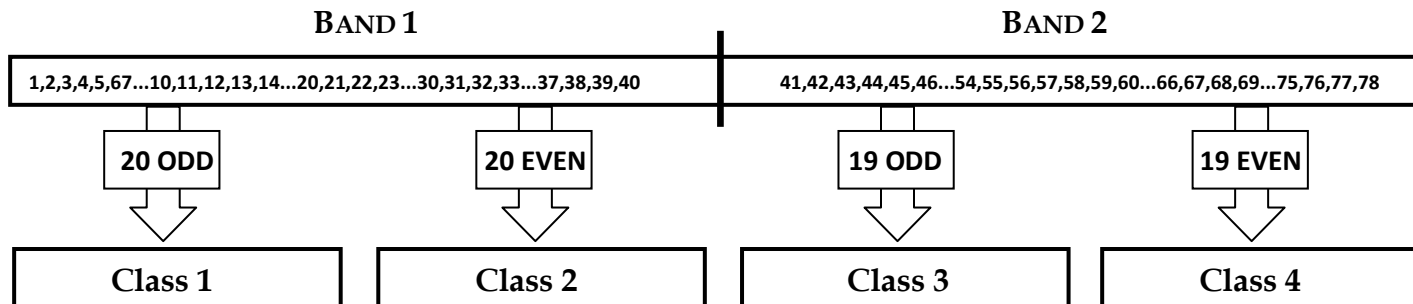
Taking the list of pupils in rank order from the top-placed to the bottom-placed on the basis of the total standardised score:

1. Determine the size of each class.
2. Divide the rank ordered list into TWO approximately equal bands (commensurate with the size of the first two and the second two classes) and mark this cutoff in the rank ordered list.
3. Starting from the first ODD numbered pupil, take the ODD numbered pupils from Band 1 and place them in Class 1. Similarly, starting from the first EVEN numbered pupil, take the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 1 and place them in Class 2.
4. Starting from the first ODD numbered pupil, take the ODD numbered pupils from Band 2 and place them in Class 3. Similarly, starting from the first EVEN numbered pupil, take the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 2 and place them in Class 4.

e.g. 1: 95 children - 24 pupils in each of Classes 1, 2 & 3 and 23 in Class 4; Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 48, and Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 49 to 95.



e.g. 2: 78 children - 20 pupils in each of Classes 1 & 2, and 19 in each of Classes 3 & 4; therefore Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 40, and Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 41 to 78.

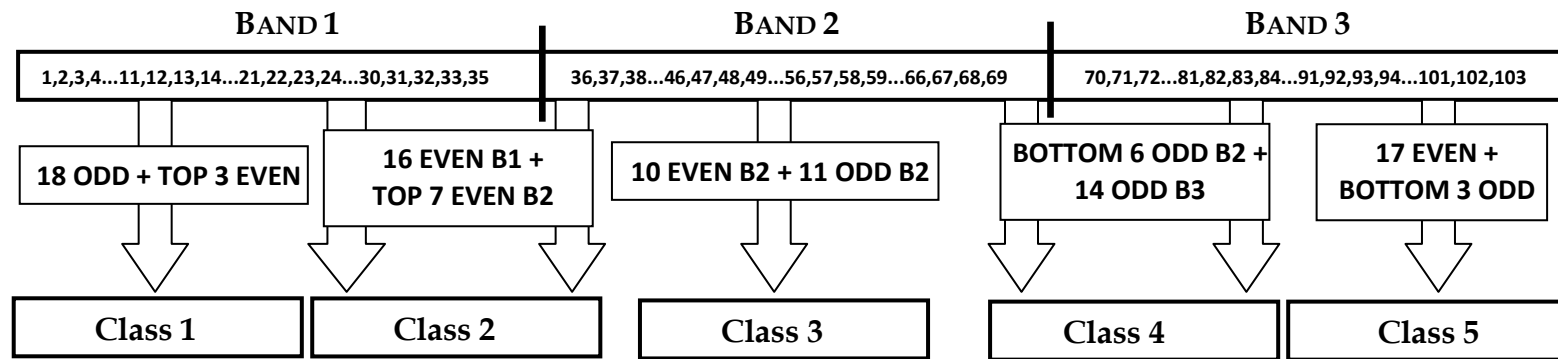


FIVE CLASSES (not more than 130 children)

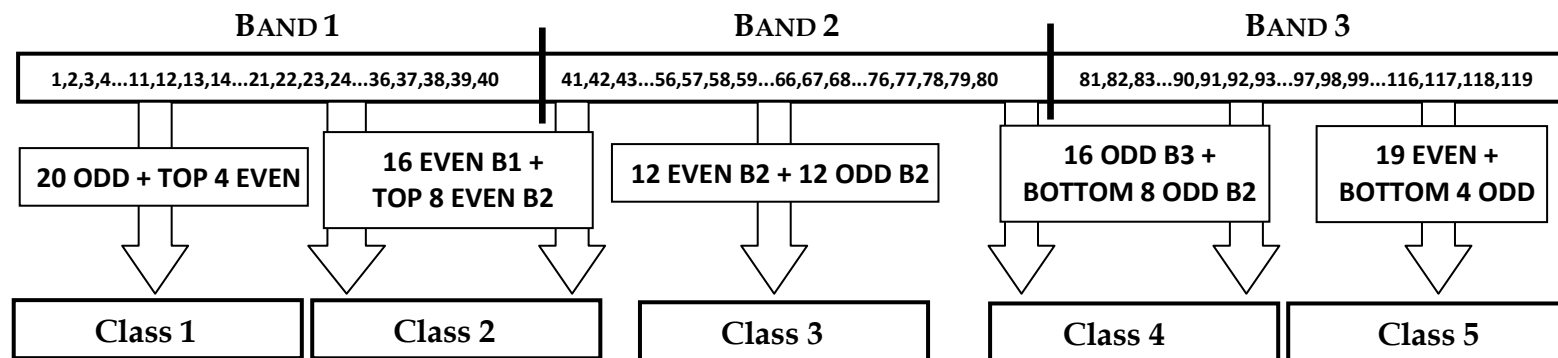
Taking the list of pupils in rank order from the top-placed to the bottom-placed on the basis of the total standardised score:

1. Determine the size of each class.
2. Divide the rank ordered list into THREE approximately equal bands (if this is not possible make Band 1 [and possibly also Band 2] the larger of the three) and mark these cutoffs in the rank ordered list.
3. Starting from the first ODD numbered pupil, take the ODD numbered pupils from Band 1 and place them in Class 1.
4. Determine how many more pupils are required to top-up Class 1 and take these from the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 1 starting from the first EVEN numbered pupils (in Band 1).
5. Place the remaining EVEN numbered pupils from Band 1 in Class 2.
6. Determine how many more pupils are required to top-up Class 2 and take these from the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 2 starting from the first EVEN numbered pupil (in Band 2).
7. Starting from the last EVEN numbered pupil, take the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 3 and place them in Class 5.
8. Determine how many more pupils are required to top-up Class 5 and take these from the ODD numbered pupils from Band 3 starting from the last ODD numbered pupil (in Band 3).
9. Place the remaining ODD numbered pupils from Band 3 in Class 4.
10. Determine how many more children are required to top-up Class 4 and take these from ODD numbered pupils from Band 2 starting from the last ODD numbered pupil (Band 2).
11. Take the remaining number of ODD numbered pupils from Band 2 and place them in Class 3. Similarly take the remaining ODD numbered pupils from Band 2 and place them in Class 3.

e.g. 1: 103 children - 21 pupils in each of Classes 1, 2 & 3 and 20 in each of Classes 4 & 5; Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 35, Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 36 to 69, and Band 3 groups pupils numbered 70 to 103.



e.g. 2: 119 children - 24 pupils in each of Classes 1, 2, 3 & 4 and 23 in Class 5; Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 40, Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 41 to 80, and Band 3 groups pupils numbered 81 to 119.

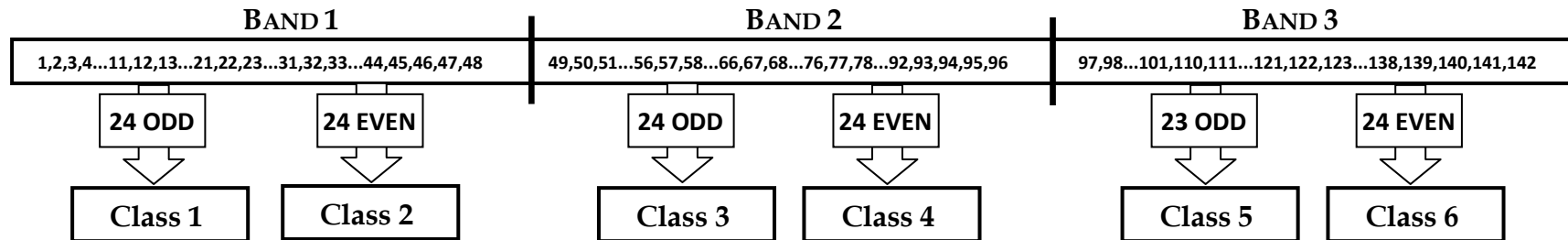


SIX CLASSES (not more than 156 children)

Taking the list of pupils in rank order from the top-placed to the bottom-placed on the basis of the total standardised score:

1. Determine the size of each class.
2. Divide the rank ordered list into THREE approximately equal bands (commensurate with the size of the first and the second class) and mark these cutoffs in the rank ordered list.
3. Starting from the first ODD numbered pupil, take the ODD numbered pupils from Band 1 and place them in Class 1. Similarly, starting from the first EVEN numbered pupil, take the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 1 and place them in Class 2.
4. Starting from the first ODD numbered pupil, take the ODD numbered pupils from Band 2 place them in Class 3. Similarly, starting from the first EVEN numbered pupil, take the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 2 and place them in Class 4.
5. Starting from the first ODD numbered pupil, take the ODD numbered pupils from Band 3 place them in Class 5. Similarly, starting from the first EVEN numbered pupil, take the EVEN numbered pupils from Band 2 and place them in Class 6.

e.g. 1: 142 children - 24 pupils in each of Classes 1, 2, 3 & 4, and 23 in each of Classes 5 & 6; Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 48, Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 49 to 95, and Band 3 groups pupils numbered from 96 to 142.



e.g. 2: 127 children - 22 pupils in Class 1, and 21 in each of Classes 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6; Band 1 groups pupils numbered from 1 to 43, Band 2 groups pupils numbered from 44 to 85, and Band3 groups pupils numbered from 86 to 127.

