



Know your practical technology class sizes 7–12



The schools staffing agreement 2016–2020, between the Department of Education and Federation, notes: “Class sizes will be planned generally on the following basis and will have regard to the needs of the school.”

Years 7–10

The staffing agreement notes:

“The principal, in consultation with staff, is responsible for determining actual class sizes on the basis of the curriculum needs of the school, student needs, community expectations, and the expertise of the teachers. In the case of vocational education, principals also take account of work health and safety issues when forming classes.

“No class need exceed 30 students.”

Practical classes

The staffing agreement states that when forming practical classes, principals also take into account advice that:

“no class need exceed 20 students” for industrial technology classes (includes automotive, building and construction, ceramics, electronics, engineering, farm maintenance, leather, metal, multimedia/photography, polymers and timber)

“no class need exceed 22 students” for technology (mandatory) in years 7–8 or design and technology (elective) years 7–10

“no class need exceed 24 students” for food technology years 7–10 or textiles technology years 7–10.

Years 11–12

The staffing agreement states “no class need exceed 24 students”.

There is no separate advice for practical or vocational education in schools classes.

Concerns have been raised that class sizes too large for the course being taught will put the health and safety of students and teachers at risk. If you believe that there is a work health and safety issue relating to class sizes at your school, you should take the matter up at the school level, in the first instance, as a work health and safety issue. If you then need assistance you should contact Federation. The staffing agreement also says: “In the case of vocational education principals also take account of work health and safety issues when forming classes”. And the Department of Education has a general responsibility to meet all work health and safety legislative obligations.

INFORMATION LEAFLET

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