

What is “Pupil Mobility” and what does it mean?

Pupils at Wavell Junior School come and go much more frequently than at other schools due to the nature of army life (88% of our pupils have a parent serving in the British Army.) This is called “Pupil Mobility”.

For example, between 1st September 2014 and 30th September 2015 we had 161 new children arrive in our school and 122 children leave.

High pupil mobility has a big impact in the classroom; teachers have to quickly work out what a new pupil has learnt in their previous school and what gaps they have in their knowledge, groups within the class have to be reorganised, any additional SEN support has to be put in place, and of course children have to make new friends and get to know their new surroundings.

Children often see a temporary dip in their school performance after a move, as they adjust to their new surroundings and make new friends. Even the children who are not constantly moving can be affected when their close friends move and they are left behind.

High mobility makes teaching more challenging and in other schools it can affect results badly.

The staff at Wavell Juniors are extremely skilled in dealing with the issues associated with high pupil mobility; many of our staff are married to someone serving in the military and several of our staff were ‘military kids’ themselves. They know what it’s like to move around a lot and they work hard to smooth out the problems caused by moving schools.

Despite the impact of high mobility, children at our school make better progress each term with their learning than at the average UK school.

