



KENILWORTH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

DETERMINING TEACHING GROUPS

POLICY

NOVEMBER 2017

POLICY DETAILS

Date of policy: November 2017

Date of next review: November 2018

Member of staff responsible for overseeing that this policy is implemented and regularly reviewed:

Paul Hoverd (Deputy Headteacher)

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AIMS

To ensure students receive the best possible learning opportunities in an environment where they can be challenged to achieve their very best.

To ensure teaching staff are able to plan the best possible personalised learning experiences for all students.

TUTOR GROUPING

Tutor groups at Kenilworth School are mixed ability. They are constructed carefully in consultation with many stakeholders to ensure that they are balanced.

Teaching in tutor or mixed ability groups can often be useful, in particular in years 7 and 8 to aid the transition to secondary education and in subjects where there is frequent discourse of opinion. In certain subjects, however, including the core, we believe that young people should be taught where appropriate and if possible, in ability groups.

ABILITY GROUPING FOR TEACHING SETS

Ability groups are constructed carefully and may be different depending on the subject. Staff involved in creating the groups will use the following information:

1. Performance data including SAT results, Cognitive Attainment Test results, etc.
2. Performance data from in-school assessments.
3. Professional judgement
4. Recommendations from primary colleagues

SUBJECT SETTING ARRANGEMENTS

ENGLISH

KS3 – Year 7, 8 and 9 are taught in thirds – each third is set by ability – there are four ability sets in each third.

KS4 - In Years 10 and 11 students are set within ability groups (year group is split in half – North and South). In Year 10 there are 6 ability groups / In Year 11 there are 6 ability groups.

MATHEMATICS

KS3 – Year 7,8 and 9 are taught in thirds – each third is set by ability – there are four ability sets in each third.

KS4 – In Years 10 and 11 students are set within ability groups (year group is split in half – North and South). In Year 10 there are 7 ability groups / In Year 11 there are 6 ability groups.

SCIENCE

KS3 – Years 7 is taught in mixed ability groups. In Year 8 and 9 students are taught in ability sets.

KS4 – Students in Years 10 and 11 are taught in ability sets with the top two sets studying the separate Sciences.

HUMANITIES (GEOGRAPHY, R.E, HISTORY)

Students are taught in mixed ability classes in KS3 and KS4.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students are taught in mixed ability classes in KS3 and KS4 (option block)

CITIZENSHIP

Students are taught according to their Science sets.

BUSINESS STUDIES

KS4 Years 10 and 11 are taught in mixed ability groups.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS (MUSIC, DRAMA, ART)

Students are taught in mixed ability sets in KS3 and KS4

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French KS3 – In Year 7 students are taught in mixed ability classes. Students are set according to ability in Years 8 and 9.

French KS4 – Where the option block allows, students are set according to ability.

Spanish / German KS3 – Students are taught in ability groups for Years 8 and 9.

Spanish / German KS4 – Students are set according to their ability and predicted grades.

Latin - Top language sets in Year 8 and 9 are taught Latin.

PSYCHOLOGY

Students are taught in mixed ability sets in KS4

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

KS3 – In Year 7 male pupils are taught in mixed ability groups for indoor lessons and sporting ability groups for outdoor lessons. Year 7 females are taught in mixed ability sets. In Years 8 and 9 students are set according to their sporting ability.

KS4 – Year 10 Core PE – set on sporting ability. Year 11 Core PE – students are set on sporting ability.

KS4 – GCSE – In Year 10 and students are taught in mixed ability groups.

PROCEDURES AND TIMINGS FOR SET CHANGES

During the course of the year, students are assessed by their subject teachers. These assessments help teachers make judgements about progress being made. They are also used to help make decisions about changes in ability groupings. At Kenilworth School there are three possible opportunities for changes in sets during the academic year. If a teacher feels that a pupil should move groups then they should first of all discuss it with their head of department. *If the head of department agrees with the proposed change then they must discuss the decision with the Deputy Head (Curriculum) who is the only member of staff who can make the appropriate changes to student timetables and class lists.*

NOTE: There must also be discussion and agreement between subjects if they are blocked together before any moves can be made.

TIMES WHEN CHANGES TO SETS WILL BE CONSIDERED:

1. At the end of the Autumn Term (December for January)
2. At the end of the Spring Term (March for April)
3. At the end of the Summer Term (July for September)

In exceptional circumstances individual or whole teaching group changes can be made at other points during the year at the Head Teachers discretion. These must be discussed initially with the Deputy Head.