



KENILWORTH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM SETTING POLICY

NOVEMBER 2013

POLICY DETAILS

Date of policy: November 2013

Date of review: November 2013

Date of next review: November 2014

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

Matthew Snape (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 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 taught in mixed ability first half term then sets based on assessed work within school - 4 groups. Year 8 are set in 4 ability groups. Year 9 are set in 5 ability groups.

KS4 – Years 10 and 11 are set in 6 ability groups.

MATHEMATICS

KS3 – In Years 7 and 8 students are set within 4 ability groups (the year group is taught in thirds). In Year 9 students are set within 5 ability groups (Year group is split in half – North and South).

SCIENCE

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

KS4 – Students in Years 10 and 11 are taught in ability sets.

HUMANITIES (GEOGRAPHY, R.E, HISTORY)

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

ICT

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

BUSINESS STUDIES

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

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 (top sets in Year 8 are also taught Latin).

French KS4 – Students are taught in ability sets.

Spanish / German KS3 – Students are taught in mixed ability to begin with and then set according to ability later in the year.

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

EXPRESSIVE ARTS (MUSIC, DRAMA, ART)

Students are taught in mixed ability sets in KS3 and KS4

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

KS3 – Students are taught in mixed ability in Year 7. 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 mixed ability and are able to pick their sporting options.

KS4 – GCSE – In Year 10 students are taught in mixed ability groups, they are then put into ability sets in Year 11.

PROCEDURES AND TIMINGS FOR SET CHANGES

During the course of the year youngsters are assessed by their subject teachers. These assessments often called key assessment tasks, 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 youngster 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 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 changes can be made at other points during the year. These must be discussed with the Deputy Head.