



TEACHING GROUPS POLICY

Date Agreed by LGB [TBA]

Review Date [July 2023]

This policy outlines our approach to teaching groups and gives information regarding

1. How groups are constructed
2. When movement between groups will occur
3. Actions that must occur before changes to a student's teaching group are made

At Cleeve Park School, the majority of subjects will be taught in **mixed ability teaching groups**. The only exception to this will be in Mathematics, Science and French in year 9. This is due to the tiered assessments that take place at GCSE in year 11. These groups will be referred to as **set groups**.

Rationale behind selection of all teaching groups

- All students are taught in a learning group which enables them to learn the necessary content/skills to **meet or exceed their FFT target grade**
- Teaching staff are able to plan the best possible learning experiences taking in account the range of ability and prior attainment.

Criteria used to determine set groups

Staff involved in creating set teaching groups will use the following information:

1. Prior attainment data, including SAT results
2. Performance data from in-school assessments and end of year examinations (may include GL assessment data)
3. Students' end of KS4 targets based on FFT
4. Professional judgement of classroom teacher (in agreement with head of department)

Any decision made must be justified using at least three of the listed criteria. If less than two of these conditions are met, the final decision can only be made after consultation with the KS3 or KS4 assessment lead

How mixed ability groups are determined

Subjects with the ability to determine the mixed ability groupings in their subject must:

1. Still be aware and use prior attainment data, including SAT results, performance data from in-school assessments and students' end of KS4 targets based on FFT
2. Proportion of students falling into high, middle and low ability category must be mixed and balanced across all classes
3. Proportion of PP and SEN must be proportional across all classes

Any decision made which factors in behaviour for learning must still factor in the points listed above

Key stage 3

When Year 7 join CPS in September, they will be placed in one of two year group halves - X and Y. Each half of the year group will be mixed and evenly balanced in terms of ability as much as possible. There should be no significant difference in ability between the two halves

Initially all classes including Maths and Science will be taught in mixed ability groups. However Maths will begin to put students in set groups when in school assessment data becomes available. The first instance of setting will occur in term 2 as outlined in the table below.

In year 8 and 9, all subjects in KS3 will be taught in mixed ability groupings except Maths and Science.

	Maths	Science	Other subjects
Year 7	Mixed ability in term 1 Set ability grouping from term 2	Mixed ability	Mixed ability
Year 8	Set ability grouping	Set ability grouping	Mixed ability
Year 9	Set ability grouping	Set ability grouping	Mixed ability except French

Key stage 4

Setting in Mathematics and Science will continue as in Key stage 3. In all other subjects, heads of department must carefully select which class to place each student, **factoring the range of ability of students opting for the subject and FFT target grades**. If a subject is unable to make changes to a teaching group, FFT target grades must still be acknowledged.

Key stage 5

All classes in KS5 are considered mixed ability but still will be taught in a way that enables **all** students to excel regardless of prior attainment. As students at this stage have opted for the subjects they wish to study, smaller class sizes prohibit the use of setting

Timings of set group changes

There are three possible opportunities for changes in sets to occur during the academic year. These are after each 'Assessment Point' where current grades are collated - Term 2, term 4 and term 6.

Supporting documentation

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/setting-or-streaming/>