

# Setting Policy

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**St John's College**

## **SETTING POLICY**

This policy applies to all three sections of the School: the Senior School, Junior School and EYFS (Infants). **Version: August 2017**

This policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body - The Board of Trustees, and was last reviewed in: **August 2017**

## **Rationale**

The academic organisation of the St John's College reflects the needs of all pupils to fulfil their educational potential. The academic, pastoral and co-curricular provision overlap with each other to ensure holistic and individual care for all pupils.

Since many of our pupils are in the top half of the national ability range, it benefits the pupils to be taught most subjects in mixed ability classes in Key Stage 2 and 3. Differentiation is embedded within lesson plans to enable pupils of all abilities to flourish.

Setting in Mathematics is introduced in R9, in English in R12 and Sciences in R14. Setting in these subjects benefits the academically weak by providing practice and support, especially in reinforcing of skills; the academically stronger pupils also benefit by having increasing breadth and scope for independent research and exploration.

## **Infant and Junior Section**

Pupils are in two mixed ability form groups per year group. A balance of girls and boys in each class is taken into account.

All subjects are taught in the form groups until R11 (with the exception of Mathematics which is set from R9).

## **Senior Section**

Between 20 and 30 new pupils join the School in the Senior section. Pupils are sorted into three form groups to achieve a balance of gender, academic, musical and sporting ability and friendship groups.

From R12 to R14, all subjects are taught in these three groups except Mathematics and English, set from R12 and Science, where setting is introduced in R14. Setting is based on CAT (Cognitive Ability Test) data, internal assessment data assessments where available, and in the case of Mathematics, a test sat in the first few weeks of the Advent Term. Parents are informed of the sets by letter.

In R15, setting continues in Mathematics and English. Science is set in R14, however, all pupils study the common Science syllabus in the first year. The results of the R14 internal examinations are used by the Science department to decide which pupils who will be invited to sit the Separate Science qualification. Sets are reviewed at the start of R15.

All Option subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

Setting is kept under frequent review and pupils moved if the need arises. However, frequent moving up and down sets is not advantageous to learning and is avoided. Parents are always consulted by 'phone if a set move is thought to be necessary.