

Setting Policy



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: September 2020

Rationale

The academic organisation of 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 in the 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 (this is year group size dependent). 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 each year. Pupils are sorted into three or four 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 groups except English, set from R12 and Science, where setting is introduced in R14. Setting is based on CAT (Cognitive Ability Test) data, internal assessment data, where available, and in the case of Mathematics, an assessment sat in the first few weeks of the Advent Term.

In Mathematics, R12 pupils are initially taught in their form groups but are set during the Lent term. There is little movement in these groups in to R13. In R14, pupils are set based on expected tier of entry for GCSE, with the expectation that all pupils in Higher groups will sit their GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Numeracy examinations at the end of R15. Parents are contacted via letter when plans have been made.

In R15, setting continues in 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 then 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 telephone if a set move is thought to be necessary.