



The  
**Appleton**  
School

## Grouping Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body on	05/03/2024
Signature Chair of Governors	<i>Clittle</i>
Next Review Date	

January 2024

## Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3(KS3), Year 9 students are divided into two equivalent bands, X half who study French as their Modern Foreign Language, and Y half who study German as their Modern Foreign Language. In Years 7 and 8, students only study French this academic year, **top set students will also learn German as an additional subject.**

In Years 8 and 9, each of these bands is divided into five teaching sets for the majority of subjects, English, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Language, Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Art, Music, Drama, CAPE and Computing. In Design and Technology, **students are taught in mixed ability classes and** are divided into 3 teaching sets of 20 students. PE is set at the end of the first half term in Year 7 and is taught in single sex groups by the PE Department. In Year 7, there are 5 sets in X half and 4 sets in Y half.

Students are allocated to English and Mathematics sets according to information gathered from Primary schools, SAT's scores, CAT's tests and internal assessments at the end of the first half term in Year 7. All the other subjects are allocated based on the average of their KS2 Reading and Mathematics SAT's scores in Year 7 and from CAT's tests initially.

The setting of students is reviewed after the completion of a set of internal exams throughout Key Stage 3. Students choose their options for Key Stage 4 in Year 9.

## Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 (KS4), Years 10 and 11 students continue to be placed in the same two bands. English, Mathematics, Science are set within each band. Option subjects are taught across the whole year group and are not usually set according to ability. PE is usually taught in single sex groups across the half band.

Set changes for all Key Stage 4 groups in core subjects can be made at any time and are decided by Core Curriculum Leaders in consultation with subject teachers, pastoral Year Managers and the Deputy Head.

## Setting by Ability

The Appleton School sets in Year 7 through to Year 11. Ability grouping refers to the grouping of students based on their academic abilities, aptitude and achievements. Learning is tailored according to the similar learning style and abilities of each year group. Teachers can set the pace of teaching students of similar academic abilities. This reduces the possibility of some students having to wait or rush through a concept. Ability groupings gives the teacher the opportunity to tailor the method of teaching as well as the content of the curriculum for grouped students. Teachers may also have the opportunity to offer guidance and support to students who may not be making the expected progress. The school will review it's setting by ability policy annually.