



Author: SCR
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Non Statutory
Review Frequency – 4 Years

Birchwood High School Grouping and Setting Policy

Aims:

This policy sets out to ensure that the delivery of the curriculum is both effective and efficient in terms of student achievement and value for money

Objectives:

To clarify the way the school groups its students; how students are set or mixed, and the rationale for flexibility and change.

Tutor groups

Tutor groups are established upon entry into Year 7. These are created by the Head of Year 7 in conjunction with a range of key staff members, including our SEN coordinator.

These groups are established using detailed information from primary school visits. The aim is to ensure the groups are balanced in terms of meeting individual student needs.

In general, students will remain in these tutor groups through their time at Birchwood. However, tutor groups are reviewed on a continuous basis by the relevant Head of each year. Movement of students will take place at the discretion of the Head of Year for both academic and wider pastoral reasons.

A similar process takes place when students enter Year 12 to establish effective tutor groups for a student's time in 6th form.

Curriculum Groups

The curriculum is organised into two populations (x & y)

There are 4 classes in each population (5 in the case of PE and Technology).

Types of grouping

- Fine Setting eg Set 1-2-3-4
- Top sets and parallel sets eg. Set 1-2-2-2
- Broad setting eg Set 1-2-2-3
- Mixed attainment eg Set A-B-C-D

- Sets should be reviewed once per term, and based upon attainment, students should be moved accordingly.
- In some cases it may be necessary to consider other factors or benefits when determining appropriate groups.
- For example, students with an inconsistent attitude to learning or disadvantaged students may be placed in different attainment groups if it is deemed beneficial.
- As students enter the school, some subjects set on entry or within the first term. These include the core subjects of Maths Science and MFL. Other subjects opt for more mixed groupings.
- Heads of Faculty are able to determine the type of grouping that they feel maximises achievement in their subject(s), providing they have sought approval from their SLT line manager.
- In all cases, final decisions on appropriate grouping for individual students will always sit with the Head of a relevant Faculty and their SLT link.

In all cases each Faculty will publish their grouping arrangements for the forthcoming academic year on the school website each September.