



Grouping Policy

In conjunction with line managers, the Assistant Headteacher responsible for the Curriculum and the Headteacher, departments are able to negotiate and control grouping policy to best suit their particular needs.

Intake

The intake into Year Nine at Westwood College is fully comprehensive in nature and while over-subscribed, ability has no part to play in the eligibility criteria applied by the Local Authority when allocating places.

The Sixth Form has an open access entry policy, the only factor determining acceptance on to Level 3 courses being minimum attainment levels of 5 GCSE passes, preferably with strong passes in the subjects they are to study.

Year 9

Students are carefully divided into 2 mixed ability populations. Each of these ½ year bands is generally then split into 4 mixed ability teaching sets for most of their classes. However as numbers of students fluctuate there are some year groups with only three sets in one half of the year. English, Maths, Languages and Science are blocked in half year blocks and teach in groups set by ability.

Year 10 and 11

The core subjects are organised around the same half year populations as Y9. As in Y9, Maths, English and Science generally have 4 hierarchical groups in each half of the year.

In the option blocks, grouping is determined by the team of departments in each block. It is sometimes possible to loosely set by ability in languages and the humanities, but in order to meet student choices there is generally a spread of ability in most teaching groups.

Years 12 and 13

Groupings are arranged by student choice and the need to maximise the use of resources. No groups are determined solely by ability.

ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNORS ON: March 2022

POLICY REVIEW DATE: March 2024