

The De Montfort School

Setting Policy

Version Control

Policy author:	Claire Watson
Policy approved by:	Headteacher
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Version	Date	Details
1.0	June 2021	Creation of the policy
2.0	November 2021	Update regarding Year 6 setting

The way we group students within academic structures at The De Montfort School is vital. Ensuring students are placed in appropriate groups helps to support students achieve their very best. This policy below outlines how groups are constructed, arranged and when movement between groups can occur.

Aims

To ensure students receive the best possible learning opportunities in an environment where they are challenged to achieve their very best.

Tutor grouping

Tutor groups are constructed carefully in consultation with teachers and heads of learning to ensure that they are balanced and meet the needs of all students.

Most students are taught where appropriate and possible, in ability groups. In a minority of subjects, ability grouping is not always desirable and we therefore either construct mixed ability groups from across a range of tutor groups or teach in tutor groups.

- In Year 6 students are taught in mixed ability tutor groups for all subjects.
- In Years 7 and 8 students are taught in sets for English and maths. English setting also determines which groups pupils are in for French, History, Geography, Philosophy, Art and Drama. Maths setting also determines which groups pupils are taught in for Science. For Computing, Design Technology, Food and Music pupils are taught in smaller mixed ability groups.
- In Years 9, 10 and 11 students are taught in sets for English, maths and science. PE and PRSE are taught in mixed ability groups. Mixed ability teaching takes place at key stage 4 in options subjects.

Ability grouping for teaching sets

Ability groups are constructed carefully and may be different depending on the subject. Staff involved in creating the groups will use the following information:

- Recommendations from primary colleagues and Year 5 assessment data (Year 6 only)
- Performance data from in-school assessments

(Please note that we will use primary data as part of the setting process for Year 6 initially. However, after the first term more use is made of in-school assessment data to inform teaching sets and any changes made within these).

Each year group is also organised into one or more bands. In years 6, 7 and 8 pupils are organised into one band. In Years 9 and 10 pupils are streamed into 2 bands, X and Y, based on prior attainment in Maths, English and Science. As the school grows, it will be our intention to move away from this system to have mixed ability bands. In Year 11, pupils are organised into one band, band X, in which there are 6 different sets for English, Maths and Science.

Procedures and timings for set changes

Students in ability groups can move up or down sets following their performance in assessments and should be considered every half term. If a teacher feels that a student should move sets then they will first of all discuss this with their head of faculty. If the head of department agrees with the proposed change then they must discuss the decision with the curriculum deputy who is the only member of staff who can make the appropriate changes to student timetables and class lists. Parents/carers should be contacted in advance of the set move. Following a student moving up or down ability groups, parents/carers can contact the school if they wish to discuss the change/s. Students in mixed ability groups do not change groups throughout the year.

NOTE: There must also be discussion and agreement between subjects if they are blocked together before any moves can be made. Decisions made by English, maths and science will take precedent over all other subjects.