

Hurworth School

Setting Policy

Accepted by: Governing Body – February 2008

Senior Leadership Team Lead Reviewer: Kevin Pilbeam

Review Cycle: 2 Years

Date for Review: February 2010

Students on entry are placed into a teaching set according to Primary information. Movement between groups is actively sought and encouraged in order to improve student motivation.

Tutor groups are mixed ability. Regardless of the band students will remain in the same tutor group where appropriate.

Students develop at different rates; in order to give them support when they most need it and encourage the highest levels of attainment, teaching groups will be banded according to student ability. There are five groups (1 – 5) in the lower school (with the exception of D &T which has 6) and 6 groups (1 - 6) in the upper school. It is important to understand that while a student may be one of the top students in their primary school class, once the students from all the schools come together there may be a number who are attaining higher standards.

Year 7 Teaching Sets

SAT scores and other KS2 information will be used to allocate students to bands and teaching sets. This is completed by the head teacher and students are informed of their sets on the first day in September.

There is a formal review of year 7 teaching sets in October of that year. This is coordinated by Lisa Gawthorpe. This process elicits all teachers' opinions of each student and then makes collaborative decisions. Students who do move set are informed by the Head of English, Maths or Science and this information is also communicated to parents immediately on the decision being made.

Lower School Setting

Each term all teaching sets are formally reviewed using the process outlined above. In all cases an educational reason is given for the movement of a student. No student will be moved sets for behaviour issues alone. At the end of year 8 particular attention is given to students progress towards their SAT targets and as a result students entering year 9 are placed into sets according to their most dominant current standard of attainment in core subject. They can then receive lessons that are targeted specifically at their ability and current working level. We believe by narrowing the bands of differentiation teaching and learning is more effective and has a positive effect upon attainment.

Upper School Setting

When students enter Key Stage 4 they are placed into 6 sets for their core subjects. This is based upon prior attainment and knowledge of student performance and published targets. These are not reviewed formally every term. Individual cases are reviewed as and when it is deemed necessary. Again Lisa Gawthorpe coordinates this process. Option choices within Key stage 4 are organised on a mixed ability basis unless there is more than one class being taught in the same subject simultaneously then there may be streaming within individual departments. This is at the discretion of heads of department in conjunction with SMT.