



THE APPLETON SCHOOL

GROUPING

POLICY

Adopted by the Governing Body Date

Signature Chair of Governors

March 2019

Grouping Policy

Aim: To raise standards of educational achievement.

Principles: 1. Decisions based on:

Progress
Attainment

2. Flexible structure for departments.

3. Regular reviews of setting arrangements.

Organisation of Learning

Key Stage 3

Year 7 – 8:

Before students arrive in the school they are placed in a mixed ability form where they remain, with their Form Tutor, for five years. All students are taught in set groups based on ability. These groupings are based on Key Stage 2 Results and the CAT tests.

All students study English, Mathematics, Science and a Modern Foreign Language, with the exception of one set in Years 7 and 8 who study extra Literacy, Numeracy and Performing Arts instead of a language. In Languages, students study either French or German as both have equal status in the school. History, Geography and Religious Studies are taught as 3 separate subjects. Students also experience a wide range of subjects including Art, Music, Food Technology, Systems and Control, Computer-Aided Design and Graphics. All students in Year 7 study Computing, Citizenship and Physical Education. All students in Year 8 study Computing, Business, Citizenship and Physical Education.

Key Stage 4 Years 9 – 11

The 'Transition' Year 9 helps prepare students for their Key Stage 4 Programme of Study. All students start their studies in GCSE English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. In Year 9 students study a core curriculum in Combined Science. At the end of Year 9 students are provided with an opportunity to select separate Sciences. All students continue their studies in Citizenship, Physical Education and Religious Studies.

Currently, all students choose 4 options to start in Year 9, which are set as required. At least one option choice must be selected from the following list of subjects: History, Geography, French or German. At least two further option choices must be selected from a broad range of subjects available in a range of qualifications: GCSE; BTEC; OCR Cambridge Nationals. At the end of Year 11 they will complete their studies and sit their terminal examinations in all their subjects. All students will have the opportunity to gain a minimum of 9 GCSE's. A very small number of students are currently selected to follow an ASDAN course in Year 9 as well.

Key Stage 5

Year 12 marks the beginning of the two year A-Level or BTEC Level 3 examination courses. A broad range of subjects are offered. All students study at least the equivalent of a 3 A Level programme and have enrichment activities every week. All students have the opportunity to undertake a work experience placement which takes place at the end of Year 12.

Most of the lessons are taught in the specialist Sixth Form Block. EPQ is taught in mixed ability groups.