

Longridge High School

ABILITY GROUPINGS 2020-21

KEY STAGE 3: YEARS 7, 8 and 9

An introduction

Normal Procedure for Ability Setting

Pupils are taught in groups according to their ability from the start of Year 7. We have excellent relationships with all our feeder primary schools who pass on detailed information about pupils' abilities in Key Stage 2. We initially group pupils according to their KS2 test scores, taking into account the information we receive from our primary schools. After pupils have settled in, they take a Cognitive Ability Test (CAT test) which highlights a number of aspects (verbal, non-verbal, spatial/mathematical) of their current ability and potential. We also test the reading and spelling ages of all our pupils. This is of direct relevance for language-based subjects such as English, History, Geography and Religious Education as well as being invaluable with regard to the work we do with pupils who require Literacy support and our SEN (Special Educational Needs) pupils. Regular assessments and formal examinations throughout the year also help us to review our setting arrangements and make any necessary adjustments.

From September 2020

Changes to ability groupings as a result of Covid-19

As a precaution and to minimise risk of transmission, we have had to change our approach to teaching ability groupings in KS3. This is to alleviate the movement of pupils to different groupings and to allow the school to monitor the impact and tracking of any confirmed positive cases. It has also led to minimal disruption to learning where pupils have been asked to self-isolate due to a positive case being confirmed. All pupils follow a strict seating plan to minimise risk of infection and transmission.

Year 7 setting information 2020-21

September – November 2020

Pupils were taught in mixed ability form tutor groups for all subjects. This was to allow for the school's baseline testing approach to be completed as well as providing a smooth and supportive transition process from primary to secondary school.

From November 2020, Year 7 pupils are taught in their Maths' teaching groups for all subjects.

This approach will continue until further notice as outlined in the school's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

Year 8 Setting Information 2020-21

September – November 2020

Year 8 pupils were taught in their Maths' teaching groups for all subjects.

From November, we introduced a more flexible approach to grouping. Pupils are in English and Science groupings and follow their Maths' teaching groups for all other subjects.

This approach will continue until further notice as outlined in the school's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

Year 9 Setting Information 2020-21

September – November 2020

Year 9 pupils were taught in their Maths' teaching groups for all subjects.

From November, we introduced a more flexible approach to grouping. Pupils are in English and Science groupings and follow their Maths' teaching groups for all other subjects.

This approach will continue until further notice as outlined in the school's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.