

Banding and Setting at The King's School

Key Stage 3

Students in Key Stage 3 are organised into two parallel bands, X and Y. The two bands contain a broadly comparable range of prior attainment and learning needs.

For English, Maths and Science, students are taught in sets within their band. There are eight classes for each of these subjects, with four in X band and four in Y band. Setting is broadly comparable across the two bands; for example, X1 and Y1 are equivalent sets.

In all other subjects, students are taught in mixed-attainment global groups. There are seven global groups: four in X band and three in Y band. This reflects the different number of students in each band, with approximately 120 students in X band and 90 students in Y band.

There are two variations to this structure:

1. A small number of students in Years 7 and 8 access the Link group, which provides additional, targeted support in English and Maths.
2. Y3 is typically smaller than X3 because there are fewer students in Y band overall. This provides a smaller teaching group for students whose learning needs may be better supported in this environment.

Students will normally remain in the same band throughout Key Stage 3. However, they may move between sets in English, Maths and Science following assessment points and consideration of their progress.

In exceptional circumstances, changes may also be made to a student's band or global group where there is a clear educational or pastoral rationale. Any such changes will be communicated in advance to the student, their parents or carers, and relevant staff.

Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11, students continue to be organised into X and Y bands for English, Maths and Science.

Option subjects are taught across three blocks: A, B and C. These subjects are generally taught in mixed-attainment groups. Where more than one class of the same subject operates within an option block, Curriculum Leaders will determine the most appropriate grouping arrangements.

Changes to banding may take place at the end of Year 9 as students prepare for Key Stage 4.



In Maths and Science, where GCSE examinations have Foundation and Higher tiers, grouping arrangements take account of students' progress and likely examination tier.

Students who are securely on track to study Higher Tier content will typically be placed in X band. X band is organised into four sets.

Y band is also organised into sets and includes students working towards both Foundation and Higher tier examinations. Students may move between Foundation and Higher tier pathways during Years 10 and 11 in response to their progress and the examination tier most likely to enable them to achieve the best possible outcome.