



St Bartholomew's School Parents' Handbook

Teaching groups, class sizes and grouping by ability

All students are allocated to a House-based Tutor group. Each group includes students from a variety of primary schools with different interests, abilities and skills.

Class sizes are usually 27 or less. The average class size in Years 7-11 is 24.

The Tutor group is also the teaching group at the start of Year 7. Where it is considered desirable, students are grouped by ability, usually through broad banding.

It is possible to be in a faster moving group for one subject than for another. This reflects students' different abilities in different subjects.

Banding or setting currently takes place as follows:



	Subject	Timing
Year 7	Mathematics Languages	September January
Year 8	English Science	September September
Year 9	Separate Physics, Chemistry and Biology courses are introduced in Science, leading to two GCSEs in Combined Science or three GCSEs in Separate Science.	
Years 10 and 11	At this stage courses are designed to lead to GCSE examinations.	

The Personal Development Programme

A Personal Development Programme operates to provide students with personal, social, moral, citizenship, health education and careers. These lessons will be delivered by the tutor and take place in the middle of the day.