

Year 7 setting methodology – January 2017

In the following, the term 'standardised' is used. This means that the scores from an assessment are scaled so that the mean is 100 and the spread of the scores is such that roughly two thirds population have scores between 85 and 115.

The data used for the setting is composed of the following elements:

- 1) The scores for the two English and the two science assessments taken in terms 1 and 2 are each standardised. The average of the best three of these scores is then used so that one particularly low mark does not disproportionately affect the setting decision.
- 2) As above for the two history and the two geography assessments where, again, the average of the best three scores is used.
- 4) The standardised score from the Key Stage tests.
- 5) The Standard Assessment Score from the Cognitive Ability Test.

The year group English and science score is double weighted so that each of English and science have the same weighting as the combined humanities (history and geography) score. Therefore twice the English and science score is added to each of the other three scores and the total is divided by 5 to provide an overall score on which the setting is based.

The element from the Key Stage 2 tests has been included as a small number of students with high Key Stage 2 levels have relatively low school assessment scores. The rationale for this is that they may be taking more time to settle in to the school than other students. Where no Key Stage 2 data is available, an estimated score has been used based on students with similar school assessment scores. In each of these cases, the estimated score has not affected the set placement.

Similarly, an element for the CAT scores is included to pick up a small number of students with high CAT scores but relatively low school assessment scores.

The mathematics school assessment scores have not been used as students are setted separately for mathematics. However, the Key Stage 2 SAT scores for mathematics have been used as these tests cover a range of skills which are relevant to the wider curriculum.

As stated in the letters giving the set information for individual students, the sets will be reviewed later during the year and at the end of Year 7. These reviews will only take into account school assessment scores.

The year group is timetabled in two populations (7 A, B, C, D, E are now 7A1 to A5 and 7 F, G, H, J are now 7Z1 to Z4). A few students have been moved from one population to the other in order to ensure that the boundary score between sets is the same in each population. For these students, their mathematics, technology and PE groups have also changed. In these cases, the mathematics set has been retained, e.g. a student in 7Z3 would move to 7A3.

Andrew Harris
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