



OUR POLICY ON TUTOR GROUPS

We understand that moving to a large secondary school is a big change and one source of anxiety for some children coming to their new school is which tutor group they will be in and who they will be with. I, alongside the Year 7 team, take great care in creating our tutor groups by taking a range of factors into consideration.

It is important to balance tutor groups in terms of gender, range of ability and previous schools. Being with someone you know can be important too, although not all children feel this, and we ask Year 6 students to identify three children with whom they like to work and we endeavour to place them with at least one of these students. However, we also listen to the child's primary school and the parents in case this choice is not a desirable one, or in the child's interests in terms of learning and behaviour. If there is a request for a specific Modern Language, this is another factor.

Our pastoral system from Year 8 onwards is a House system and this is a key factor in our students' enjoyment and success at Backwell. Therefore, wherever possible, our policy is that children join the same House as their older siblings as this establishes a strong relationship between the staff linked to the House and the families of students.

We will always prioritise placing your child with one named friend so that have a friendly face within their new tutor group.

Year on year, experience shows that new Year 7 students very quickly make new friends, whilst keeping their old ones, even if not in the same class. Already in Year 7 some subjects are not taught in tutor groups (Maths, PE, Design Technology) and by Year 9 the only time spent as a whole tutor group is tutor-time (registration). We continually monitor, not just academic progress, but also your child's wellbeing in school and take action when necessary.

In spite of our best efforts we cannot guarantee to meet all of your preferences however our aim, like yours, is that every child should be happy and successful at Backwell and we appreciate your support in helping us to achieve this.

Jon Nunes
Headteacher