



OUR POLICY ON TUTOR GROUPS

We understand that moving to a large secondary school is a significant change, and that for some children, one of the anxieties about starting their new school is finding out which tutor group they will be in and who they will be with. The Year 7 team and I take great care when forming tutor groups, carefully considering a range of factors to ensure the best possible start for each child.

It is important to balance tutor groups in terms of sex, 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 up to ten 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.

As you may be aware each tutor group is connected to a house (Cotswold, Mendip, Sedgemoor and Quantock), as part of our wider pastoral system. Wherever possible, we will place new students in the same house as their older sibling(s).

We will always prioritise placing your child with one named friend first so that they have a friendly face within their tutor group. However, should you state a preference for a specific language this will be the main factor we will use and could mean your child is not placed in a tutor group with a named friend.

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.

While we will always do our best to take your preferences into account, we may not be able to meet them all. Our shared goal, like yours, is for every child to feel happy and achieve success at Backwell, and we greatly appreciate your support in helping us work towards this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Penny'.

Mr Will Penny
Headteacher