



St. John Fisher

CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

GRAMMAR STREAM POLICY

The Mission Statement:

'St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School inspires students, spiritually and educationally, forming them through Faith so they can achieve their aspirations and contribute to their community.'

<i>Date of Review:</i>	May 2024
<i>Date of Ratification:</i>	July 2024
<i>Date of Next Review:</i>	September 2025
<i>Chair of Governors:</i>	Mr. O. McColgan
<i>Policy Approving Body:</i>	Quality of Education
<i>Policy Owner:</i>	Mr D Sogbetun
<i>Statutorily Published on Website:</i>	No

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INTRODUCTION

At St John Fisher we have many high performing students who want to be challenged academically and in September 2020 we stated a “Grammar Stream” from Year 7. As this year group moves through the school the Grammar Stream provision will continue. By the year 2024 there will be a Grammar Stream present in Years 7 through Year 11. The Grammar stream aim to prepare well-rounded individuals, who are successful in their academic studies throughout their lives, and who are equipped to lead others and give back to society.

RATIONALE

We wish to provide a challenging and bespoke academic and cultural education to children who are capable of attending Grammar school, but would prefer to be educated in a Catholic, comprehensive and inclusive setting.

Research indicates that setting or streaming has a positive impact for higher attaining pupils and a small negative impact for middle and lower attaining pupils (EEF, 2018). By applying an approach that creates a grammar stream for the most highly attaining students, and a different approach for other students, the positive impact of setting and streaming can be maximised, and the negative effects mitigated for.

A robust, highly academic curriculum delivered through an outstanding comprehensive educational context is the aim of the programme. Students from all backgrounds are welcome to apply and be a part of the Grammar Stream at SJF. The unique difference between this and the local grammar school offer is movement into and out of the Grammar Stream is fluid. Students can move in or out depending on progress and performance, making the grammar stream a ‘reality for all’ and encouraging real social mobility.

WHAT WE WILL OFFER STUDENTS

- Bespoke Schemes of Learning (SoL) created to challenge and extend high attaining students
- Grammar stream specific extracurricular programme
- A grammar stream pathway at Key Stage 4 which offers students the opportunity to study for two extra GCSEs (Triple Science and a language) in addition to their standard Options choices
- Russell Group University / academic careers access plan
- Grammar stream extracurricular programme (including debating society) with individual support for Oxbridge applicants

ENTRY INTO GRAMMAR AT THE START OF YEAR 7

- An application to the Grammar Stream will be made by parents as part of the admissions and transition process to the school. (Please see arrangements for entry in the current year under “ENTRY 2023”)
- Students who are considered capable of entering the grammar stream, but have not applied, can complete a catch-up test during the first week back after summer holidays. We only reserve four spaces.
- Entry to the Grammar Stream will be based on:
 - 1) Passing the SJF Grammar Stream test comprising Verbal Reasoning, English and Mathematics and extended writing (based on the Kent 11+ test)
- Entry into the Grammar stream will be dependent on passing these tests

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- The capacity of the Grammar Stream will be limited to between 30 and 32 students.
- In the event that the number of applicants who have passed the test exceeds the capacity of the Grammar Stream, the rank order of test scores obtained will be used to assign pupils.
- The multiple-choice portions of these tests will be marked by support staff and the written assessment by the English Curriculum team.
- Children with SEND will be identified as part of transition work. Where children/parents/carers claim they are entitled to particular provisions e.g. extra time, confirmation will be sought from primary schools.
- The final decision over entry into the Grammar Stream will be made by the Deputy Head Teacher (curriculum).

ENTRY 2023

- An application to the Grammar Stream will be made by parents/carers by Easter break.
- Students who have applied to the Grammar Stream will sit the SJF test in August (during summer break).
- All entries for the academic year will be based on the SJF test rather than LA 11+ examinations
- In the first three weeks of the school year all students will be taught in mixed ability form groups to give us time to notify parents and make the necessary amendments to timetables.

As part of our commitment to social justice, we will review the class list for the grammar stream at each data window to check that the right students are in the group and we will notify parents/carers if they are at risk of losing their place. The mechanism for removing students from the Grammar Stream is as follows:

REMOVAL FROM THE GRAMMAR STREAM

- Changes to student places in the Grammar Stream will be decided following each of the two data windows each academic year.
- Changes will be based on assessment data inputted by subject teachers.
- A single average of the assessment data created by all subject teachers for each SJF student will be created.
- These average assessment scores will be placed into rank order.
- A Grammar Stream student obtaining a Ranked Order Average (ROA) of between 1-30 will automatically retain their place
- A Grammar Stream student obtaining a Ranked Order Average (ROA) of between 31-40 will take part in a meeting involving parents/carers and school staff. Mitigating events (such as illness/bereavement) will be considered, as will the student's overall commitment to the Grammar Stream (demonstrated through involvement in extracurricular clubs, volunteering in school events and performance in previous assessments).
- A student who has a ROA of more than 40 will automatically leave the Grammar Stream.
- The final decision over changes to the Grammar Stream will lie with the Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum).

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ENTRY INTO GRAMMAR STREAM IN OTHER YEAR GROUPS

- A student (not currently in the Grammar Stream) will be offered a place in the grammar stream if:
 - They obtain a ROA of 30 or higher in their end of year assessments
 - There are less than 32 students in the Grammar Stream
- The final decision over entry into the Grammar Stream will be made by the Deputy Head Teacher (curriculum).

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF GOVERNORS

- Governors will review this policy every two years.
- As part of the QOE committee, governors will question and analyse the efficacy of the Grammar Stream Programme in terms of:
 - Student Outcomes
 - Student Wellbeing
 - Grammar Stream Curriculum offer
 - Grammar Stream Extra-curricular offer

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF SCHOOL LEADERS

- Devising, organising and planning for the administration of the SJF test.
- Planning and monitoring of curriculum offer to ensure that students receive an appropriately robust academic curriculum that prepares them for higher education and professions
- Planning and monitoring of extracurricular offer to ensure that students receive opportunities to develop personally, access appropriate higher education and give back to society
- Monitoring of SoL to ensure sufficient stretch and challenge is present and that the SoL prepare students for higher education and professions.
- To provide opportunities for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) around: curriculum design, subject knowledge, pedagogy and stretch and challenge of high attainers.
- Monitoring the quality of Teaching and Learning in the Grammar Stream to ensure that sufficient stretch and challenge is present to allow students to achieve excellent outcomes and access appropriate higher education and give back to society
- Regular engagement with all stakeholders, including students, to ensure students wellbeing and success.
- Monitoring of assessment data to ensure that students are receiving an appropriately challenging education and that the correct students are in the Grammar Stream

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF CURRICULUM AND SUBJECT LEADERS

- Assisting in administering and marking the SJF test
- Creation and monitoring of SoL to ensure sufficient stretch and challenge is present and that the SoL prepare students for higher education and professions.
- To support and provide opportunities for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) around: curriculum design, subject knowledge, pedagogy and stretch and challenge of high attainers.
- Monitoring the quality of Teaching and Learning in the Grammar Stream to ensure that sufficient stretch and challenge is present to allow students to achieve excellent outcomes and access appropriate higher education and give back to society
- Regular engagement with all stakeholders, including students, to ensure students wellbeing and success.

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- Monitoring of assessment data to ensure that students are receiving an appropriately challenging education

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF TEACHERS

- Assisting in administering and marking the SJF test
- To support in the creation and monitoring of SoL to ensure sufficient stretch and challenge is present and that the SoL prepare students for higher education and professions.
- To fully engage in and take responsibility for their own CPD around: curriculum design, subject knowledge, pedagogy and stretch and challenge of high attainers.
- To plan and teach challenging lessons that will allow students to achieve successful examination outcomes, prepare them for higher education and give them the ability to give back to society.
- To take part in reviews, including reviews of teaching and learning, and to act upon advice and feedback.
- To support, take part in, and run an extracurricular offer to ensure that students receive opportunities to develop personally, access appropriate higher education and give back to society

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF SUPPORT STAFF INCLUDING LSAS & HLTAS, EXAMS OFFICER AND DATA TEAM

- Assisting in administering and marking the SJF test
- Collation of SJF test scores and creation of ROAs based on these scores.
- Creation of ROAs for each data window as part of normal assessment procedures.
- Supporting and liaising with teachers to ensure all students in the Grammar Stream receive sufficient stretch and challenge that will allow them to achieve successful examination outcomes, prepare them for higher education and give them the ability to give back to society.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS?

- Remain amongst the highest-attaining students in formal assessments throughout Years 7-13
- Be active in school activities
- Participate in extra-curricular activities
- Offer leadership to others and be positive role-models
- Maintain high attendance levels
- Aspire to attend a top university