



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College
May God's love be our guide 

Procedure for Student Teaching Groups

This policy was approved by the Leadership in April 2024

This policy will be reviewed annually, on or before September 2025

The placing of pupil into a group is to ensure all pupils achieve their potential and follows the schools mission that “...achievement is for all”.

Procedure of allocation of Students into Teaching Groups

The placement of pupils in teaching groups is the responsibility of Senior Leaders and Middle Leaders at Blessed Thomas Holford. The information used to determine the groups of a pupils is Prior Attainment at Key Stage 2 in English & Maths, Reading Ages for pupils and initial baseline assessment data. The placement of pupils is reviewed termly.

The published admission number (PAN) for a year group is 290. Each year group will be split into parallel halves of 145 students per year group. These will be referred to as Band X and Y. There are 6 form groups in each band of 24/25 meaning there are 12 forms per year group.

Key Stage 3 at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College refers to Year 7, 8 and 9.

Subject	Form Group	Ability Groups based on prior attainment	Small groups due to practical subject (approximately 24 per class)
RE	✓		
English		✓	
Maths		✓	
Science		✓	
Art	✓		
Computing	✓		
Design Technology Food & Nutrition			✓
French	✓		
Geography	✓		
History	✓		
Music	✓		
PE			✓
Spanish	✓		

Request for pupils to move group should be made by Heads of Department to the Deputy Headteacher of Quality of Education and Assistant Headteacher for Impact. Staff will need to provide information about the steps taken by the class teacher and Head of Department if a student is to move down an ability group.

Key Stage 4 at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College refers to students in Year 10 and 11.

Subject	Ability Groups based on prior attainment	Small groups due to practical subject (approximately 24 per class)
RE	✓	
English	✓	
Maths	✓	
Science	✓	
PE		✓

Pupils will be based in mixed ability groups for their option subjects based on the choices they have made in March of Year 9.

Naming of the Groups

The naming of classes will be based on THOMAS initials. This is to raise aspiration of achievement for all staff and pupils.

T	H	O	M	A	S
Students who have the highest prior attainment					Students who have the lowest prior attainment