

Advantages of mixed ability groups

- 1 There are less 'sink' groups in schools.
- 2 Different teaching styles are opened up, moving away from didactic methods.
- 3 There is potentially less negative labelling of students.
- 4 Teachers have contact with a wide range of students.
- 5 This form of teaching makes for diagnostic teaching.
- 6 Troublesome students are 'diluted' through the school.
- 7 A sense of community can be developed in the school (though, it must be said, this is under threat as schools have an open-access policy, moving them away from being neighbourhood and community schools).
- 8 There is a wide social mix in classrooms.
- 9 Students' self-esteem and motivation are promoted.
- 10 Equality of opportunity and outcome are furthered.
- 11 Mutual respect, support, understanding and tolerance are developed between students.
- 12 The classroom reflects the social mix of the world outside school.
- 13 Teachers develop new teaching skills.
- 14 Competition is replaced by co-operation.
- 15 The pastoral aspects of schooling take on increasing significance.
- 16 The errors of selection are avoided (e.g. where students are incorrectly assigned to bands, streams or tracks).