

St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School Gifted and Talented Policy

At St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School our mission is to 'educate the whole child according to the Gospel Values of Christ.'

In doing so we must pay due attention to the needs of all children including those who are gifted and talented.

Rationale

All children attending St. John's are entitled to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. We believe that every individual should have the opportunity to develop and realise their true potential. To ensure that this happens, we aim to consistently provide learning opportunities for our gifted and talented children that offer challenge, intellectual stimulation and an enriched curriculum. We believe that gifted and talented children need as much support guidance and encouragement as the less able.

Aims

- To give all our children the opportunity to achieve the highest of standards.
- To identify gifted and talented children as early as possible.
- To develop the specific skills and talents of each child.
- To recognise each child as an individual and be concerned for the whole child, both socially, emotionally and spiritually as well as intellectually.
- To offer an enrichment to an appropriate education involving activities that are richer, broader and deeper, going beyond the normal curriculum.
- To inform and involve governors about the school's provision for gifted and talented pupils.
- To recognise that gifted and talented pupils may have emotional and/or social problems, or may present themselves as underachievers or children with learning difficulties.
- To provide and make resources available where possible to facilitate children's learning.
- To record and review progress.
- To inform and involve parents.
- To consult and liaise with other agencies where appropriate.

Definitions

We have used the criteria of 10% of any class being gifted and talented.

Abilities we have recognised are:

- high intellectual ability
- specific aptitude in one or more subjects
- creativity
- spirituality
- leadership skills
- ability in creative, artistic and performing arts.
- specific sports abilities.

Aptitude in English is identified when children:

- demonstrate high levels of fluency in conversation.
- use research skills effectively to draw together information.
- read and respond to a range of texts at an advanced level
- see issues from a wide range of perspectives.
- possess a creative and productive mind using analytical skills when engaged in discussion.

Aptitude in Maths is identified when children:

- explore a range of strategies for solving problems.
- see solutions
- work flexibly and establish their own strategies.
- enjoy manipulating number in a variety of ways.
- are able to hypothesise and explain functions.

Identification

Identification is used to ensure effective and suitable provision. By identifying the gifted and talented pupil, teachers can assess needs which should inform the planning of work to ensure appropriate pace, rigour and challenge.

At St. John's we use a variety of methods to identify the gifted and talented children. These include:

- teacher observation, assessment and nomination.
- checklists
- background knowledge of the individual child.
- testing: baseline assessment, SATs, MacMillan reading tests, reading and spelling tests, QCA optional tests.

Effective Learning

Opportunities for effective teaching and learning for the gifted and talented child can take place through:

- an enriched and relevant curriculum
- a stimulating, meaningful environment within and around the school.
- the use of additional teacher support.
- the use of non-teaching adults in group work.
- planned involvement of parents.
- helping children to formulate questions.
- working both co-operatively and independently.
- experiencing success to gain self-esteem and self-confidence
- encouragement to take risks and make mistakes (learning from failure as well as success)

Enrichment and Extension

Extension work can take place through an increase in the depth and breadth of study. Children should be encouraged to:

- use their initiative

- solve problems
- seek alternative answers through the provision of open ended tasks
- make judgements based on confidence in their own ability
- use all relevant skills

Differentiation

The weekly planning should inform those extension activities for the gifted and talented children.

Out of Class Activities

- We offer a range of extra curricular activities for children. These offer gifted and talented pupils the opportunity to further extend their learning in a variety of clubs.
- Learning is also enriched through regular homework activities. This offers a further opportunity to set work at the level of individual children.
- Children have the opportunity to experience a range of educational visits that further enrich and develop learning.

Management Strategies

The SMT and subject co-ordinators track the provision and practice within the school for gifted and talented pupils through:

- looking at teachers planning to ensure suitable tasks and activities are being planned for gifted and talented children across all curriculum areas.
- tracking the progress of gifted and talented children through tracking sheets and test data analysis.
- supporting staff in identification of gifted and talented children and providing advice and support to staff on teaching and learning strategies.
- carrying out regular classroom observations of teaching and learning
- regularly sampling children's work.

June 2005
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