

Able, Gifted and Talented Children Policy

1 Introduction

In our school we aim to provide a curriculum that is appropriate to the needs, abilities and aptitudes of all our children. We plan our teaching and learning in such a way that we enable each child to reach for the highest level of personal achievement. Through the school's Visible Learning programme, we endeavour to grow independent, self-motivated learners who embody these key learning dispositions: Resilience, Reflection, Resourcefulness and working together. This policy helps to ensure that we recognise and support the needs of those children in our school who have been identified as 'able', 'gifted' and 'talented' according to national guidelines.

Article 28

You have the right to a good quality education.

You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

1.2 In these guidelines the term 'gifted' refers to a child who has a broad range of achievement at a very high level. Those children who are gifted often have very well-developed learning skills. The term 'talented' refers to a child who excels in one or more specific fields, such as sport or music, but who does not perform at a high level across all areas of learning. In our school, however, we use the terms 'very able' and 'more able' for children who, at a national level, are referred to as 'gifted' and 'talented'.

1.3 We respect the right of all children in our school, irrespective of differences in ability, to access a number of areas of learning, and to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes that are necessary for their self-fulfilment and eventual development into active and responsible adults.

1.4 The mission statement of our school acknowledges the value of individuals. The aims of our school make specific reference to teaching and learning that takes into account the needs of all children. They also identify the commitment to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. This policy guides the way in which this happens for our more able and very able children.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure that we recognise and support the needs of our children;
- enable children to develop to their full potential;
- offer children opportunities to generate their own learning;
- ensure that we challenge and extend the children through the work that we set them;
- encourage children to think and work independently.

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment

3 Identification of more able and very able children

3.1 We use a range of strategies to identify more able and very able children. The identification process is ongoing and begins when the child joins our school. Each child's pre-school record gives details of their achievements and interests in particular areas. Discussions with parents and carers enable us to add further details to these records.

3.2 Children are assessed throughout the year using the Foundation Stage Profile (EYFS) in the reception class. This gives information about their developing skills and aptitudes across several areas of learning. We discuss each child's Foundation Stage Profile with the parent, and use this information when planning for individual needs.

3.3 As the children progress through the school, we test them regularly to ensure that they are making the sort of progress that we are expecting of them in their personal targets. We identify them as more able and very able children when they achieve high levels of attainment across the curriculum, or in particular skills or aspects of subjects.

3.4 The children undertake national tests in Year 2. Teachers also make regular assessments of each child's progress in all subjects of the National Curriculum. The school's assessment tool is used to assess children in Mathematics and Literacy. We compare the information from these tests with a range of national and LEA data, in order to ensure that each child is making appropriate progress.

3.5 Each teacher regularly reviews the children's progress. The contribution of support staff, including translators is also noted. Teachers discuss the children's progress with parents at the termly consultation evenings, and report annually on each child's progress in July.

3.6 Those children who have been identified by their teacher as 'Able, Gifted & Talented' are entered onto a register. The register is reviewed and revised frequently.

4 Aptitudes in English and mathematics

4.1 More able and very able children in English are identified when they:

- demonstrate high levels of fluency and originality in their conversation;
- use research skills effectively to synthesise information;
- enjoy reading and respond to a range of texts at an advanced level;
- use a wide vocabulary and enjoy working with words;
- see issues from a range of perspectives;
- possess a creative and productive mind and use advanced skills when engaged in discussion.

4.2 More able and very able children in mathematics are identified when they:

- explore a range of strategies for solving a problems;
- are naturally curious when working with numbers and investigating problems;
- see solutions quickly without needing to try a range of options;
- look beyond the question in order to hypothesise and explain;
- work flexibly and establish their own strategies;
- enjoy manipulating numbers in a variety of ways.

5 Teaching and learning style

5.1 Teachers in our school plan carefully to meet the learning needs of all our children. We give all children the opportunity to show what they know, understand and can do, and we achieve this in a variety of ways when planning for children's learning by providing:

- a common activity that allows the children to respond at their own level;
- an enrichment activity that broadens a child's learning in a particular skill or knowledge area;
- an individual activity within a common theme that reflects a greater depth of understanding and higher level of attainment;
- the opportunity for children to progress through their work at their own rate of learning.

5.2 Teachers use a variety of teaching and learning strategies to meet the needs of the more able and very able learner.

5.3 We offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children. These activities offer more able and very able children the opportunity to further extend their learning in a range of activities. Opportunities include a range of sporting and creative clubs. The AG&T co-ordinator also works with identified children from year 1 and 2 on the school newspaper in a Publishing club.

5.4 Learning is also enriched through regular homework activities linked to the work being undertaken in classes. Children in year 1 and 2 have learning logs which is part of the schools personalised learning and Building Learning Power programme.

5.5 The children will also have the opportunity to experience a range of educational visits that further enrich and develop learning.

6 Management strategies

- **6.1** All subject leaders along with the A,G&T co-ordinator and the Head-teacher co-ordinate the provision and practice within the school for more able and very able children by:
 - monitoring teachers' planning to ensure that suitable tasks and activities are being undertaken by more able and very able children across their curriculum areas;
 - regularly reviewing the teaching arrangements for more able and very able children;
 - monitoring the progress of more able and very able children through termly reviews of their Individual Education Plans (IEPs);
 - supporting staff in the identification of more able and very able children;
 - providing advice and support to staff on teaching and learning strategies for more able and very able children;
 - liaising with parents, governors and LEA officers on issues related to more able and very able children.

6.2 The Head-teacher liaises with all teachers and uses assessment information to ensure that the more able and very able register is maintained and kept up to date.

6.3 This policy on more able and very able children is regularly monitored and gives feedback to the governing body. The monitoring includes feedback from parents and children, as well as regular classroom observations of teaching and learning, and termly evaluations of children's written work.

6.4 The subject leaders collect samples of work from more able and very able children, in order to demonstrate the standards that they are achieving. These examples are used to inform the process of identification of more able and very able children

Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery School

Signed: *S.Yianni*
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