

More Able and Talented Policy



KEY FACTS:

- We believe in providing the best possible provision for pupils of all abilities.
- We plan our teaching and learning so that each child can aspire to the highest level of personal achievement.
- The purpose of this policy is to help ensure that we recognise and support the needs of those children in our school who have been identified as 'more able' and/or 'talented' according to national guidelines.

1 Introduction

1.1 In the national guidelines the terms are distinguished as follows:

- ‘more able’ refers to a child who has a broad range of achievement at a level well above average, typically in the more academic subjects;
- ‘talented’ refers to a child who excels in one or more specific fields, typically those that call for performance skills, such as sport or music, but who does not necessarily perform at a high level across all areas of learning.

1.2 Approximately 10 per cent of the children in our school will be considered as more able and/or talented. Provision will be made for these children within the normal class teaching, but sometimes we will provide enrichment or extension activities to promote their skills and talents still further.

1.3 While we recognise and cater for these particular categories of children in our school, at the same time we respect the right of *all* children, irrespective of differences in ability, to access various areas of learning, both for their self-fulfilment, and for their eventual development into active and responsible adults. In our mission statement we declare accordingly that we value the individuality of all our children.

2 Aims

2.1 Our aims are to:

- To teach children within a culture of high expectation and challenge enabling the child to achieve their best
- To teach them to be good choosers, skilful problem solvers and powerful learners
- To give them the confidence to question and to search for answers
- To understand that without mistakes we don't learn and so encourage them to take risks
- To build the skills, knowledge and understanding required for making sense of the world around them
- To learn to work collaboratively as well as independently
- To be caring and respectful of those around them
- To help them to recognise that learning is lifelong

3 Identification of gifted and talented children

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

3.2 Children undergo baseline assessment within the first half-term of joining our Foundation 2 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 termly to ensure that they are making the sort of progress that we are expecting of them in their personal targets.

3.4 Teachers make regular assessments of each child's progress in all subjects of the National Curriculum (2014). We compare the information from these tests with a range of national expectations in order to ensure that each child is making appropriate progress.

3.5 Each teacher regularly reviews the children's progress and records this in the child's Assessment Folder. Teachers discuss the children's progress with parents at the termly consultation evenings, and report annually on each child's progress in July.

4 Aptitudes in English and mathematics

4.1 More Able children in English are identified when they:

- demonstrate relatively high levels of fluency and originality in their conversation;
- use research skills more effectively to synthesise information;
- enjoy reading, and respond to a range of texts at a more advanced level;
- use a wider vocabulary, and enjoy working with words;
- see issues from a broader range of perspectives;
- use more-advanced skills when engaged in discussion.

4.2 More Able children in mathematics are identified when they:

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

5 Teaching and learning style

5.1 Our teachers 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, such as 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 Children are familiarised with a variety of organisational strategies as they move through the school. These strategies can be used by all children, but give due scope to higher achievers.

5.3 We offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children. These activities offer higher achievers the opportunity to further extend their learning in a range of activities. Opportunities include a range of sporting and musical clubs, and after-school clubs ex: puzzle club, science club.

5.4 Learning is also enriched through regular homework activities linked to the work being undertaken in classes. This offers teachers a further opportunity to set work at the level of individual children.

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 The Headteacher coordinates the provision and practice within the school for more able children. The role includes:

- monitoring teachers' planning to ensure that suitable tasks and activities are being undertaken across all curriculum areas by the higher achievers;
- regularly reviewing the teaching arrangements for these particular children;
- monitoring their progress through termly discussions with teachers;
- supporting staff in the identification of these children;
- providing advice and support to staff on teaching and learning strategies;
- liaising with parents on related issues.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1 The inclusion coordinator collects samples of work from the higher achievers, in order to demonstrate the standards that they are achieving. We use these examples to inform the process of identifying the more able.

7.2 This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.