

# DRAFT POLICY ON DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF ABLE AND TALENTED PUPILS

Through co-operating with and trusting members of staff and parents we want to ensure that every pupil fulfils his or her potential with regard to their ability and talents. We do this by offering opportunities, support and guidance within a positive, broadminded, safe and civilised environment.

## Definition

- The term 'more able' refers to pupils who are academically more able across the curriculum.
- The term 'talented' refers to those who show a special talent in one field or in more specific fields such as sports skills, musical ability as well as leadership and interpersonal skills.

In Wales, approximately 20% of the school population may be considered more able, while the highest 2% may be considered to be exceptional. It is possible for high levels of ability and talent to either develop or decline over time. Some learners will be more able and talented during a particular period in their development and this may not last as they continue to mature.

## Methods of Identification

Several criteria can be used to identify more able and talented pupils and we are committed to collecting as much information in order to do this:

- Information from primary schools about pupils' abilities and talents.
- An opportunity for parents of Year 6 pupils to complete a questionnaire on pupils' talents and interests.
- Data - NFER KS2 and KS3, CAT, Internal KS3 levels, GCSE and AS/A2 results, Fischer Family Trust (FFT) targets.
- Subject specific reference lists.
- The professional opinion of staff.
- Informal comments by parents and external specialists. How do we provide for the pupils?
- A More Able and Talented Pupils Co-ordinator has been appointed to lead and monitor the provision.

- Collaboration with specialist agencies such as NACE.
- Continuous professional development opportunities for staff who are involved in learning and teaching and ways of stretching pupils.
- Raising staff awareness of the need to identify more able and talented pupils and provide a challenging curriculum for them.
- Opportunities to stretch pupils are noted in each department's work plans.
- A register of more able and talented pupils has been drawn up and distributed to all members of staff.
- There is a possibility that some pupils can study additional GCSE and A Level subjects, and do so earlier than other pupils in their school year.
- Encourage pupils to attend university lectures/sessions e.g. STEM, Aberystwyth University.
- Opportunities for more able and talented pupils to work together in specialist workshops such as Writing Squads, BBC News Report, Transitional Workshops with primary schools.
- Pupils are encouraged to attend clubs, local and national events, competitions and residential courses.
- Mentoring and pastoral care sessions with their personal tutor.
- The formulation of Individual Educational Plans for exceptional pupils along with regular mentoring.
- Undertaking assessments, tracking progress and identifying underachievement in accordance with the school's Assessment for Learning Policy.
- Annual awards ceremonies to celebrate successes.
- We provide very good revision seminars and packages that are designed specifically for more able pupils such as GCSE A/A\* workshops. We also arrange mock interviews for pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 by experts in the fields where individual pupils show ability or talent. We offer additional support for Oxbridge candidates.

## **MAT Library**

The school has established a library containing Welsh and English language books for the More Able and Talented pupils. Pupils on the MAT register will come to borrow or return books during their Welsh and English lessons and during the morning break or lunch time period. A record is kept of all the books that the pupils borrow. Reading can be one of the most pleasurable leisure activities for children generally and more so for More Able and Talented individuals. The selection is sure to appeal, although sometimes more guidance will be needed to find the books most suited to their abilities and interests.

## **Questionnaires**

The child's voice is very important. Individual and class questionnaires are used to self-evaluate and gain information about how each child learns. Children benefit by assuming control of their education. Teachers benefit from learning about the way children like to learn.

## **TRANSITION**

We always ensure that the pupils who are on the More Able and Talented register are recognised early to ensure an effective transition. A specific form is provided by the school in May so that the strengths of the More Able and Talented pupil can be noted in order to facilitate effective transition and consistency in provision. The forms are completed jointly by the year 7 tutor and the primary school. A meeting is arranged between the head of the primary school, Year 7 tutor and the MAT Co-ordinator at the beginning of June in order to discuss MAT pupils.

## **SECTION 4 Strategic Provisions: ENHANCE AND EXTEND**

- **Enhance:** ensure that the content of the curriculum is rich in quality
- **Extend:** ensure that the content of the curriculum extends and expands understanding and experience

Teachers will ensure that More Able and Talented pupils are appropriately challenged, and modify the amount, scope, and content of the tasks they are given. The pupils will have opportunities to read, write and talk about their work and to participate in discussions or work with other pupils. Teachers will set targets and track progress in consultation with the MAT Co-ordinator using a range of observations and internal and statutory tests.

Some pupils will be supported in the classroom and a small number will be taken out of classroom for more assistance in other areas e.g. language and maths groups.

### **The Curriculum**

There is not a specific curriculum for More Able and Talented children because their needs are very individual. The emphasis is on developing work based on targets in order to:

- meet the needs of individual children;
- build on their individual strengths;
- encourage development in areas which need support.

For every pupil the school curriculum is well structured, incorporates differentiation and creates an environment within which they can flourish. However, it is essential to remember that More Able and Talented children can be many years ahead of their peers academically whilst still developing according to their chronological age emotionally and socially.

### **Guidance for Parents**

#### **How can parents support their child?**

- Discuss a variety of topics with your child every day.
- Support your child with organisation and time management by making effective use of the homework diary.
- Encourage your child to try new activities by joining the vast amount of extra-curricular activities that are offered in the school.
- Enrich your child's experiences by providing a range of new experiences e.g. visit art galleries, museums and sport centres.
- Inspire interest by encouraging your child to make use of resources at home e.g. internet, books, maps, watch programmes and films.
- Provide opportunities for your child to meet with children who have similar interests such as joining local clubs.
- Encourage your child, when the opportunity arises, to participate in workshops, master classes and university lectures.
- Communicate with the school if you have any questions or concerns.
- Ensure that your child has time to relax, enjoy and has leisure time!

## How do I get further information?

You can improve your knowledge and understanding on the provision for more able and talented students in Wales by visiting some of the following websites.

- <http://www.nace.co.uk/> - National Association for Able Children in Education and there is a NACE Cymru area which explains the provision in Wales.
- Documents on the Welsh Assembly Government's website:  
<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/090915curriculumopportunityen.pdf>  
<http://wales.gov.uk/pubs/circulars/2008/meetingthechallenge/meetingthechallenge.pdf?lang=en>
- <http://www.nagcbrtain.org.uk/> - useful advice for parents and information on national networks which is more specific for schools in England.
- <http://www.aquila.co.uk/> - fun magazine for pupils age 8-13 years.
- <http://www.mensa.org.uk/>
- <http://www.tomorrowsachievers.co.uk/> - specialist master classes in England.