

ATHELSTAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gifted and Talented Children Policy

Introduction

In our school we aim to provide a curriculum that is appropriate to the needs and abilities 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. This policy helps to ensure that we recognise and support the needs of those children in our school who have been identified as 'gifted' and 'talented', according to the national guidelines.

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, and are generally working two years above their chronological age. 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.

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.

The mission statement of our school talks of valuing the individuality of all our children. 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 gifted and talented children.

Aims and Objectives

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.

Identification of gifted and talented children

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 their achievements and interests in particular areas. Discussions with parents and carers enable us to add further details to these records.

Children undergo Early Years Profile Assessments throughout our Reception class. This gives information about their developing skills and aptitude, across several areas of learning. We discuss each child's profile assessment information with the parent, and use this information when planning for individual needs.

As the children progress through the school, we assess 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 gifted and talented when they achieve high levels of attainment across the curriculum, or in particular skills or aspects of subjects.

Aptitudes in English and Mathematics

Gifted 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.

Gifted children in Mathematics are identified when they;

- explore a range of strategies for solving a problem;
- 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.

Teaching and learning style

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. 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.

Children meet a variety of organisational strategies as they move through school. Each strategy supports all children in their learning, but gives due regard to the more able and very able learner.

We set targets for English and Mathematics, and within these areas we teach the children in ability groups. Teachers regularly review the progress of children, and children move between groups as appropriate. This enables teachers to plan work that reflects the narrow band of ability in each group.

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children. These activities offer all our children the opportunity to further extend their learning in a range of activities. Opportunities include a range of mathematics clubs, sporting clubs, musical clubs and the arts.

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.

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

Management Strategies

The Gifted and Talented Coordinator ensures the provision and practice within the school for gifted and talented children. The co-ordinator's role includes;

- ensuring that the gifted and talented register is up to date;
- monitoring children's work, to ensure that suitable tasks and activities are being undertaken by gifted and talented children across all curriculum areas;
- regularly reviewing the teaching arrangements for more able and very able children;
- monitoring the progress of gifted and talented children, through discussions with teachers;
- supporting staff in the identification of gifted and talented children;
- providing advice and support to staff on teaching and learning strategies for gifted and talented children;
- liaising with parents, Governors and LEA officers on issues related to gifted and talented children.

The Gifted and Talented Coordinator monitors this policy on an annual basis, and gives feedback to the Governing Body. The monitoring includes feedback from parents and children, as well as annual classroom observations of teaching and learning, and termly evaluations of children's written work.

The Gifted and Talented Coordinator collects samples of work from gifted and talented children, in order to demonstrate the standards that they are achieving. We use these examples to inform the process of identification of gifted and talented children.

The Gifted and Talented Coordinator is Pam Barber

The responsible person is the Head Teacher