



Bryntirion Cluster Policy for More Able and Talented Children

Aims

Our cluster aims state that we:

- *help our pupils to develop their skills and abilities intellectually, emotionally and socially;*
- *provide teaching which makes learning challenging, engaging and enables pupils to reach their potential*
- *to raise the aspirations of all pupils*
- *to promote high expectations of achievement*
- *to develop greater enterprise, self-reliance and independence*

This policy is an integral part of the cluster's broader development of maximum inclusion of educational opportunity for all pupils and states our commitment to providing an environment in which all pupils are enabled to realise their potential, and this clearly includes pupils who display some form of gift or talent in a particular area.

Definitions

A **more able** pupil is one who is in the top 5-10% of the pupil population. (DfES definition). A more able pupil is one who 'has the capacity for, or demonstrates high levels of performance in an **academic** area.

A **talented** pupil is one who is in the top 5-10% of those with a domain specific ability in a **non-academic** area:

- Physical talent
- Visual / performing abilities
- Mechanical ingenuity
- Outstanding leadership and social awareness
- Creativity

Identification of the more able and talented

Before identifying any child gifted in a particular area, we aim to ensure that all children have had the opportunity to learn and succeed in this area. This makes the identification process fair.

A gifted or talented pupil should be identified using a variety of methods. The specific procedure will vary according to subject area but will include elements of the following:

- Teacher nomination
- Assessment results
- Peer nomination
- Parental nomination
- Specialist teacher identification
- Self-nomination

It is worth remembering that gifted pupils can be:

- Good all-rounders
- High achievers in one area
- Of high ability but with low motivation
- Of good verbal ability but poor writing skills
- Very able but with a short attention span
- Very able with poor social skills
- Keen to disguise their abilities

Everyone in school has a responsibility to recognise and value pupils' abilities. We are aware that:

- Unnecessary repetition of work is de-motivating and de-motivated pupils will not always demonstrate potential

- There is sometimes peer pressure to under-achieve
- Gifted pupils are not always easier to reach than other pupils

We will ensure that our more able and talented pupils are highlighted on transition between Key Stages, and information regarding these pupils is transferred appropriately so that pupils do not 'slip through the net'.

School based provision for more able and talented.

Opportunities for extension and enrichment are built into all our schemes of work, and individual schools will address the needs of their own more able and talented students.

We aim to:

- Maintain an ethos where it is OK to be bright.
- Encourage all pupils to be independent learners.
- Recognise achievement.
- Be aware of the effects of ethnicity, bilingualism, gender and social circumstances on learning and high achievement.
- Provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and clubs.
- Always provide work at an appropriate level.
- Provide opportunities for all pupils to work with like minded peers.

Types of provision:

Classroom differentiation

- High expectations of all teachers.
- Tasks designed to take account of levels of existing knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Planned extension opportunities or open-ended tasks.
- Access to higher tier assessments.

School based provision.

This varies according to subject area and is covered using a range of methods:

- School clubs
- School societies/councils
- Fast tracking groups
- Enrichment opportunities
- Opportunities for performance
- Artists in residence
- Specialist teaching
- Partnerships with other schools

Cluster initiatives for more able and talented pupils

As a cluster we will strive to work collaboratively to plan exciting and innovative experiences to address the needs of our more able and talented pupils in a wide variety of areas.

While some of these ideas may draw on the expertise of some of our teachers, we recognise that we have a wealth of experienced and talented individuals within our cluster of schools and we will try to promote an ethos where all adults feel encouraged to offer relevant, interesting and exciting experiences for our more able and talented pupils.

Some experiences may require the need of a certain facility that can be shared by schools.

Examples of the type of activities that can be planned for our more able and talented pupils may include opportunities such as-

* Professional coaching and access to sporting professionals.

* Opportunities for cluster musicians to meet to share a range of gifts and talents across the key stages

* More able children in English to work with professional storytellers, poets, journalists etc.

* Access to subject specialists within the Comprehensive school.

* Opportunities for Key Stage 3 and 4 students to show initiative and leadership qualities by providing events and activities for younger children in the cluster. (Sporting events, mini enterprise etc.)

This list provides only a few ideas and we understand that there is scope for a whole range of activities that draw on the wealth of expertise and enthusiasm of staff within our cluster.

Bryntirion Cluster

