

GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS

Policy Rationale

Tytherington High school aims to provide an inclusive learning community in which all pupils are encouraged to achieve excellence and personal fulfilment. In line with this mission statement and the school motto '*achievement for all*', our school aims to provide opportunities and provision for Gifted and Talented pupils, so that all students are enabled to reach their full potential.

In order to accomplish this, Tytherington High school recognises and promotes the achievements of Gifted and Talented pupils, thus encouraging a culture where success is celebrated.

Definitions

The Department for Education and Skills defines 'gifted' pupils as those who have exceptional abilities in one or more academic subject. 'Talented' pupils are defined as those who have exceptional abilities in the creative/expressive arts and/or sport. In addition, the Department for Education and Skills suggests that schools should identify the top 5-10% of each year as Gifted and Talented, regardless of the general ability of the school.

Further guidance in terms of identification and provision can be found in the national quality standards from the Department for Education and Skills.

It is important to recognise that able pupils are not always easily identified since ability may be masked by certain factors such as behavioural problems, learning disabilities or having English as a second language. Tytherington High School is committed to providing equal opportunities and so it is vital we are all aware of these masking factors.

Aims and procedures: Identification and provision

In seeking to provide an inclusive learning environment which meets the diverse needs of Gifted and Talented pupils, Tytherington High School endeavours to do the following:

- To identify Gifted and Talented pupils across the curriculum recognising that able pupils are not always easily identified. In order to identify G+T pupils, several sources of evidence can be referred to: CATS scores, SATS levels, internal test scores and teacher recommendations.
- To maintain an up to date register of the Gifted and Talented pupils within the school. This will be updated regularly by the Gifted and Talented coordinator, by liaising with departments across the curriculum, thus allowing pupils to be added to or removed from the register.
- To celebrate achievement and endeavour to promote an environment where success is respected and celebrated. By publicising the Gifted and Talented provision within the school we hope to achieve this aim.
- To provide an enjoyable and challenging curriculum in which able pupils are provided for and given opportunities to reach their full potential. In order to achieve this staff use a wide range of methods including; differentiation, setting according to ability, and

extension opportunities within lessons. In addition, the new year seven curriculum will provide the school with opportunities to explore different learning pathways for Gifted and Talented pupils. The learning to learn programme in year seven also encourages independent learning amongst all pupils including Gifted and Talented pupils.

- To provide enrichment opportunities outside of the curriculum. These opportunities allow able pupils to learn and develop both independently and together, often with able students from other local schools. Examples of such activities and events include clubs, YG + T nominations, mentoring, the year seven summer school, funding for the able pupils' course, school visits, out of school lessons/tutoring and challenge days.
- To support staff in the identification of and provision for able pupils.
- To meet regularly with colleagues from the Macclesfield cluster schools to share best practice and develop enrichment opportunities for students.
- To monitor the success of the Gifted and Talented programme at Tytherington High School by developing effective partnerships between staff, pupils, local schools and parents. Opportunities to monitor the programme include regularly analysing the monitoring grades and reports of pupils on the Gifted and Talented register and using this information to support pupils where necessary.
- To support staff in the identification of able pupils.
- To support and guide staff in the provision for Gifted and Talented pupils within the classroom. The new Gifted and Talented lead teacher (Catherine Hulme) role will provide more opportunities for this provision.