

OUSEDALE SCHOOL

GIFTED AND TALENTED POLICY

1.0 Rationale

- 1.1 We are committed to providing an environment which encourages all students to maximise their potential, including those students who are gifted and talented.
- 1.2 All students are individuals with their own special needs and requirements. We need to identify Gifted and Talented students in order to offer support and challenging learning opportunities. Strategies need to be devised and implemented to meet the needs of these students.

2.0 Aims

- 2.1 Recognise the needs of Gifted and Talented students, within a framework of equal opportunity for all students.
- 2.2 Support and motivate Gifted and Talented students to achieve their best.
- 2.3 Promote and develop a culture of excellence that will ultimately raise achievement across the school.
- 2.4 Provide opportunities for Gifted and Talented students to work at higher cognitive levels and/or develop specific skills or talents.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 'Gifted' students are students whose ability is developed to a level significantly ahead of their year group or who have the **potential** to develop such ability, although they may be underachieving.
- 3.2 'Talented' students are students with exceptional abilities in one or more of the following subject areas: Music, Drama, Art and Physical Education.

4.0 Identification

- 4.1 'Gifted' students are identified using a variety of processes and methods, including:

- CAT Data;
- Performance in internal and external examinations;
- Teacher referral based on:
 - subject tests, exams and coursework;
 - continuous assessment;
 - independent study;
 - contributions to class discussions.

4.2 A student will be added to the gifted register if referred by teachers from two or more subject areas.

4.3 'Talented' students are identified through teacher referral based on:

- classroom performance;
- performance in extracurricular activities.

5.0 Provision

5.1 Enrichment:

Enrichment relates to breadth of study and experience. It involves offering learners a wide variety of opportunities, both within and outside the curriculum, and exposing them to experiences not usually encountered as part of the standard curriculum.

At Ousedale School we offer enrichment opportunities for Gifted students through the Sharper Minds Programme. This is a series of after-school sessions which offer a range of experiences beyond the curriculum, available to all students on the Gifted Register.

The Art, Music, Drama and PE departments offer enrichment opportunities for Talented students through specialist sessions run at intervals during curriculum time and through after-school activities and clubs.

Other Departments also run enrichment sessions focussing more specifically on related skills and subject matter and catering more broadly to the most able and interested students in that curriculum area.

5.2 Extension:

Extension involves students following the standard curriculum but developing a deeper understanding through encountering more complex resources and materials, tackling more challenging questions and tasks, demonstrating higher levels of thinking, and presenting increasingly sophisticated responses.

Class teachers are responsible for offering extension opportunities to Gifted and Talented students and formally planning for these opportunities in the long, medium and short term.

At a departmental level, Gifted and Talented provision is a focal area in each department's Development Plan and departments set targets relating to improving the provision of extension and enrichment activities designed to meet the needs of Gifted and Talented students.

5.3 Acceleration:

Involves fast tracking students with a gift in one or more subject area. The Deputy Head Curriculum will be responsible for deciding if any student is accelerated. The decision will be based on the ability of each student and whether there is an appropriate progression route, which does not necessarily involve sitting more qualifications at a higher level, following early entry.

6.0 The role of the Gifted and Talented Coordinator

- 6.1 Act as the 'champion' of Gifted and Talented students by creating and sustaining positive attitudes towards them, establishing a shared understanding of their academic, social and emotional needs and helping to ensure that they receive the right blend of challenge and support.
- 6.2 Implement the Gifted and Talented Policy.
- 6.3 Hold and allocate the school budget for addressing these issues, deploying staff and other resources as necessary, and
- 6.4 Manage the Gifted and Talented Register, ensuring that is kept up-to-date and students are accurately identified on SIMs and SARs.
- 6.5 Encourage all eligible students to register with the Young Gifted and Talented Learner Academy, and to support students and parents in the positive exploitation of this resource.
- 6.6 Organise and manage the Sharper Mind Programme and other potential enrichment opportunities.
- 6.7 Support departments in their provision of enrichment opportunities for Talented students.
- 6.8 Design and implement effective systems for monitoring and evaluating Ousedale School's Gifted and Talented provision.
- 6.9 Support staff and provide them with guidance in meeting the needs of Gifted and Talented students.

7.0 Monitoring and evaluation

- 7.1 Classroom provision for the Gifted and Talented students is monitored by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator as part of an ongoing cycle of lesson observations and work sampling.
- 7.2 Individual progress of students on the Gifted Register is tracked through Progress Reviews, Reports, internal and external examination results and the completion of Gifted Student Causing Concern referral sheets.
- 7.3 Gifted & Talented Co-ordinator to offer opportunities for regular, informal discussion instigated by Gifted & Talented students and their parents for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

- 7.4 The Curriculum Committee, on behalf of the Governing Body, will monitor and review the policy on an annual basis.

Adopted by Full Governing Body March 2008