



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued

Gifted Learners and Talented Pupils Policy

Compiled by	Head of Juniors
Approved by	SLT
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Gifted Learners and Talented Pupils Policy

INTRODUCTION

Ditcham Park School recognises that some pupils may have a particular aptitude or ability in certain subjects that sets them apart from their peers. We seek to provide for these Gifted Learners and Talented Pupils both through our mainstream curriculum and by the wide variety of clubs, activities and enrichment activities available in school.

At Ditcham Park School, all staff are committed to ensuring that all pupils are supported to fulfil their potential. We recognise that pupils of all abilities, including most able pupils, are entitled to stretch and challenge. This policy guides the way in which this happens at our school.

AIMS

Through the policy we aim to:

- ensure that we recognise and support the needs of most able pupils (referred to in the policy as 'gifted learners and talented pupils')
- provide gifted learners and talented pupils with the chance to develop to their full potential
- ensure that we challenge and extend gifted learners and talented pupils through the work that we set them
- encourage gifted learners and talented pupils to develop independent thinking and learning skills.

In England, the Department for Education (DfE) distinguishes between gifted learners and talented pupils:

- Gifted learners are those who have particular academic abilities
- Talented pupils are those who have particular abilities in the creative arts (Such as music, art and design, drama, dance) or PE

Gifted learners and talented pupils are those who attain, or have the potential to attain a standard substantially higher than other children of their age. Gifted children will generally excel, or have the potential to excel, in one or more of the following areas:

- general intellectual ability
- highly curious
- specific subject(s), e.g. maths or languages
- physical education
- the visual or performing arts



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We use a range of strategies to identify gifted learners and talented pupils, including teacher observation, the use of standardised test data and assessment information (standardised scores over 130), work scrutiny, teacher nomination (using professional judgement) discussion with pupils and parents, success in teams and competitions, problem solving ability or response to open ended tasks and the speed by which they consistently acquire new skills.

For our younger pupils, we recognise that the earlier development of articulate language skills and the understanding of more complex language structures, (often in response to differentiated questioning), and an 'outside the box' approach to problem solving through play, can be a key factor in the identification process.

Classroom Provision

In our classroom-based provision our goal is to ensure that:

- all teachers have high expectations
- all teachers design tasks that take account of prior knowledge, skills and understanding
- lessons offer planned extension opportunities or challenging open-ended tasks
- lessons provide opportunities for pupils to carry out independent learning
- all teachers use assessment data and monitoring of pupil progress to inform their planning

Whole School Provision

This takes place using a variety of methods, including setting, specialist teaching and extra-curricular activities. For example:

- Lunch time and after school clubs offering various activities
- School competitions both locally and nationally eg. ISA Sports tournaments, ISA Arts and Music competitions, UKMT Senior and Junior Maths Challenge, Go4SET, English Speaking Union Debate and Shakespeare By Heart competitions
- Sports matches and tournaments against other schools
- Choir, performance platforms and other instrumental groups
- Drama productions
- Guest speakers
- Enrichment weeks, for example STEM week
- Scholarships for academic, music, art, drama and sport
- Visits/workshops from poets, writers, artists, musicians etc.
- Use of subject specialists in daily teaching
- Enrichment opportunities during the school year to include wide ranging trips
- Valuing out of school achievements via the school reward policies and through celebration assemblies.



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Out of School Provision

We aim to provide gifted and talented pupils with opportunities to extend their abilities and develop their interests outside school. This takes place via, for example, facilitating entrance to national competitions in subject-related areas, and organising out-of-school enrichment activities and visits.

MONITORING OUR GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS

We keep a register of our gifted learners and talented pupils that is updated in line with the assessment cycle. Monitoring activities include:

- Regular monitoring of teacher planning and provision
- Comparison of age standardised scores each year
- Academic progress meetings
- Lesson observations and learning walks

At Ditcham Park School, we regard all of our pupils as unique and individual, each with their own special gifts and talents. Therefore the wider curricular opportunities that identified Gifted Learners and Talented Pupils can follow are generally available for all of our children without restriction or selection.

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