

## Gifted and Talented Policy

Sherborne Prep celebrates the diversity of talents and abilities amongst its pupils. While raw academic ability can and should be met within the classroom, (and the school recognises that some pupils possess talents and abilities that need to be met as part of ensuring 'suitable educational opportunities for all pupils rather than as a separate activity' - Eyre and Lowe), the school does offer extra provision through a range of outside activities, workshops and courses to develop exceptional talents.

Gifted and Talented pupils are broadly defined as those who show an exceptional ability. This might be in a curriculum area such as mathematics, music, art or sport or less easily acknowledged talents such as leadership, creative arts or pursuits, imagination or social maturity.

In academic subjects, additional needs are largely met by differentiation which enables pupils to be extended not by doing more work (a common historic fault with talented children) but by challenging them through different approaches to learning (debate, discussion, different ways of presenting material, modelling etc) to help them become more independent, to extend their understanding, to better utilise their creativity and to extend their knowledge and skills.

As well, there are various extension activities, some emanating from class-work such as:

- + The Powys Lectures which provide intellectual stimulation on a diverse range of topics and subjects
- + Extension classes in drama, music and art targeted mainly (but not exclusively) at scholarship pupils (ie for those identified with specific abilities in all three areas)
- + Extra language classes to offer language extension
- + The ability to develop talents through the academic route. For instance, pupils with diverse language backgrounds or a facility with language have sat and passed GCSE French and Portuguese with A grades in recent years.
- + Design and Technology extension class at Sherborne School
- + Individual meetings with senior staff (G&T tutors)
- + Promotion of the talented athlete / games player into county and national squads providing better training
- + Debating and Public speaking teams to debate against other schools
- + Working with other schools (ie in 2009, pupils recognised as gifted and talented met with other gifted and talented pupils from Sherborne Girls and The Gryphon for an extension day)
- + Links with the Abbey choir

The school keeps a formal register of the top 5% evidenced through observation supported in part by CAT scores and MidYIS for monitoring purposes only. The vast majority of provision is made available to pupils who it is felt would benefit, not just those on the register. For instance, scholarship classes are kept artificially large to allow for children with specific talents, but not always the requisite levels of all-round scholarship required for external examination, so that they might be properly extended. The names of different pupils can be raised at any time. Names can also be raised and discussed at half-termly assessment meetings as different pupils can have different needs at different times which extends the provision of gifted and talented to a larger cohort of pupils.