

RIVERSDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gifted and Talented Policy



Introduction

1.1 We believe in providing the best possible provision for pupils of all abilities. We plan our teaching and learning so that each child can aspire to the highest level of personal achievement. The purpose of this policy is to help to ensure that we recognise and support the needs of those children in our school who have been identified as 'gifted' and/or 'talented' according to national guidelines.

1.2 In the national guidelines, the terms are distinguished as follows:

- 'gifted' refers to a child who has a broad range of achievement at a level well above average, typically in the more academic subjects;
- 'talented' refers to a child who excels in one or more specific fields, typically those that call for performance skills, such as sport or music, but who does not necessarily perform at a high level across all areas of learning.

1.3 Approximately 10 per cent of the children in our school will be considered as gifted and/or talented. Provision will be made for these children within the normal class teaching, but sometimes we will provide enrichment or extension activities to promote their skills and talents still further.

1.4 While we recognise and cater for these particular categories of children in our school, at the same time, we respect the right of all children, irrespective of differences in ability, to access various areas of learning, both for their self-fulfilment, and for their eventual development into active and responsible adults. In our mission statement, we declare accordingly that we value the individuality of all our children.

Aims and Objectives

2.1 Our aims are to:

- ensure that we recognise and support the needs of all our children;
- enable children to develop to their full potential;
- offer children opportunities to generate their own learning;
- ensure that we challenge and extend the children through the work that we set them;
- encourage children to think and work independently.

Identification of Gifted and Talented Children

3.1 We use a range of strategies to identify gifted and talented children. The identification process is ongoing, and begins when the child joins our school. Each child's pre-school record gives details of achievements and interests in particular areas. Discussions with parents and carers enable us to add further details to these records.

3.2 Children undergo baseline assessment within the first half-term of joining our reception class. This gives information about their developing skills and aptitudes across several areas of learning. We discuss each child's Foundation Stage profile with the parent, and use this information when planning for individual needs.

3.3 As the children progress through the school, we test them regularly to ensure that they are making the sort of progress that we are expecting of them in their personal targets.

3.4 The children undertake national tests in Year 2. We compare the information from these tests with a range of national and Local Authority data, in order to inform future planning.

3.5 Each teacher regularly reviews the children's progress and records this in the School Progress Profile. Teachers discuss the children's progress with parents and carers at the termly class parents' evenings, and report annually on each child's progress in July.

Aptitude in English and Mathematics

4.1 Gifted children in English are identified when they:

- demonstrate relatively high levels of fluency and originality in their conversation;

- use research skills effectively to synthesise information;
- enjoy reading, and respond to a range of texts at an advanced level;
- use a wide vocabulary, and enjoy working with words;
- see issues from a broad range of perspectives;
- use advanced skills when engaged in discussion.

4.2 Gifted children in mathematics are identified when they:

- explore a broad range of strategies for solving a problem;
- are curious when working with numbers and investigating problems;
- see solutions quickly, without needing to try all the options;
- look beyond the question in order to hypothesise and explain;
- work flexibly, and establish their own strategies;
- enjoy manipulating numbers.

Teaching and Learning

5.1 Our teachers plan carefully to meet the learning needs of all our children. We give all children the opportunity to show what they know, understand and can do, and we achieve this in a variety of ways when planning for children's learning, such as by providing:

- a common activity that allows the children to respond at their own levels;
- an enrichment activity that broadens a child's learning in a particular skill or knowledge area;
- an individual activity within a common theme that reflects a depth of understanding and higher level of attainment;
- the opportunity for children to progress through their work at their own rate of learning.

5.2 Children are familiarised with a variety of skills for independence and resilience as they move through the school. These strategies can be used by all children, but give due scope to higher achievers.

5.3 We offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children. These activities offer higher achievers the opportunity to extend their learning in a range of activities. Opportunities include a wide range of clubs.

5.4 Learning is also enriched through regular homework activities linked to the work being undertaken in classes. This offers teachers a further opportunity to set work at the level of individual children.

5.5 The children will also have the opportunity to experience a range of educational visits that further enrich and develop learning.

Management Strategies

6.1 There is a nominated teacher who coordinates the provision and practice within the school for gifted and talented children). The coordinator's role includes:

- running a register of gifted and talented pupils, and keeping it up to date;
- monitoring teachers' planning to ensure that suitable tasks and activities are being undertaken across all curriculum areas by the higher achievers;
- regularly reviewing the teaching arrangements for these particular children;
- monitoring their progress through termly discussions with teachers;
- supporting staff in the identification of these children;
- liaising with parents and carers, governors and the LA on related issues.

Monitoring and Review

7.1 The governor with responsibility for inclusion issues monitors the school provision for gifted and talented pupils. The governor will work with the school's gifted and talented coordinator in support of the school's efforts to help these pupils to reach their full potential.

7.2 The coordinator for our provision for gifted and talented pupils provides feedback to the governing body on an annual basis. The monitoring includes feedback from parents/carers and children, as well as regular classroom observations of teaching and learning, and termly evaluations of children's written work.

7.3 The coordinator collects samples of work from the higher achievers, in order to demonstrate the standards that they are achieving. We use these examples to inform the next steps for these children.