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# **ANNANDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS**

(Revised July 2012)

## **Rationale**

Gifted and talented students are found in all communities regardless of their ethnic, cultural or socio-economic backgrounds. The gifted population may include students who are underachieving, who have disabilities or who have learning difficulties.

The New South Wales Government aims to identify gifted and talented students and to maximise their learning outcomes in all public schools. This policy applies to all staff employed in State Office, regions, NSW public schools, their school communities and all students who attend public schools.

Consequently, Annandale Public School has the responsibility to maximise learning outcomes for students identified as gifted and talented.

The school's aim is that all students should have every opportunity to fulfil their potential. Students identified as gifted and/or talented have needs that should be addressed including intellectual, social and emotional needs.

## **Definitions**

Gifted and talented students need to be identified and to be given appropriate learning experiences to develop their potential and satisfy their social, emotional and learning needs.

**Gifted students** are those whose **potential** is distinctly above average for their age in one of the following domains; intellectual, creative, social and physical. (Gagne, 2003)

**Talented students** are those whose skills and achievements are distinctly above average for their age as a result of application to training and practice in one or more areas of human performance.

**Underachievement** is defined as a discrepancy between a student's school performance and some index of the student's natural ability. If students are not working to their potential in school they are underachieving. Many factors may contribute to underachievement. Some students may deliberately underachieve for peer acceptance. Underachievement can be compounded by inadequate identification procedures.

## **Policy Statement**

### **Responsibilities**

#### **The Principal**

At Annandale Public School the principal, in consultation with teachers, educational professionals, parents and other appropriate personnel has the prime responsibility for decisions in relation to the education of gifted and talented students.

In consultation and collaboration with the Learning Support Team and the coordinator for gifted and talented education, staff and the school community the principal will:-

- Develop school policy
- Develop and implement programs for identifying gifted and talented students at Annandale Public School
- Regularly evaluate programs for gifted and talented students
- Provide professional learning in gifted education for staff
- Disseminate information on gifted education to staff and the wider school community

## Teachers

Teachers at Annandale Public School, with support, have the responsibility to:-

- Identify the gifted and talented students in their class
- Select and implement a variety of teaching strategies for inclusion in programs for the range of gifted and talented students

## The School Community

The Annandale School Community has the responsibility to:-

- Identify gifted and talented students
- Foster collaborative home-school partnerships to support gifted and talented students
- Provide a range of opportunities and to monitor and evaluate programs for its gifted and talented students.

## **Identification**

At Annandale Public School a number of strategies will be used to identify gifted and talented students. The identification procedure must be school-wide, be culturally fair, use multiple criteria and recognise that there are various fields of giftedness and talent. Referrals should be made through the Learning Support Team.

Gifted and talented students will be identified by:-

- Teacher observations and nominations
- Parent and caregiver nominations (Sayler nomination form, GERRIC)
- Peer and self-nominations
- NAPLAN
- Standardised tests – SENNA, TORCH, PAT MATHS, SA SPELLING TEST, PRE-TESTS
- UNSW ASSESSMENT TESTS
- IQ tests (School Counsellor and other outside agencies)

Identified students will be added to APS gifted and talented data base.

The progress of all identified students will be assessed regularly.

All programs and procedures will be evaluated as required.

## **Differentiating the Curriculum**

All teachers are responsible for developing programs that specifically meet the needs of the gifted and talented students in their class.

Programs developed for gifted and talented students should be responsive to their unique needs.

This is achieved through developing units of work that allow gifted and talented students to:-

- Develop and use higher order and abstract thinking and problem solving skills of analysis and synthesis (Bloom's Taxonomy)
- Accelerate in KLAs where appropriate
- Work on independent projects of passion
- Be challenged
- Produce work of exceptional standards
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## **Mentoring and Enrichment Programs**

At Annandale Public School, teachers and parents with expertise in any field of endeavour will be encouraged and supported to provide mentoring and enrichment programs for gifted and talented students.

Provision is made for guest speakers to address the whole school, individual classes and small groups to provide motivation, stimulation and hands on opportunities for our students.

- All students have access to a differentiated curriculum and learning centres within the classroom.
- All students have access to the 'OC', Selective High School tests and ICACs tests.
- Enrichment programs including debating, chess, Mindquest, Murder under the Microscope etc. are accessible to students at Annandale Public School.

## **Parent Information**

Annandale Public School parents and caregivers will be informed of gifted and talented policy and programs.

## **Professional Development for Teachers**

It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure professional learning for all teachers in the area of gifted education and to support them in developing programs that meet the needs of gifted and talented students.

## **Evaluation**

The needs of the Gifted and Talented students are reviewed regularly at Learning Support Team meetings. Programs are monitored and regulated by staff in consultation with students and parents.

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