



# Alexandra School

*Learning Together*



## Gifted & Talented Policy

### Aims

We are committed to providing an environment which encourages all children to maximise their potential. This includes children who display particular gifts or talents in different areas of the curriculum and/or in extra-curricular activities.

### Definitions

A 'gifted pupil' is one who 'has the capacity for or demonstrates high levels of performance in an academic area'

A 'talented pupil' is a child who falls into the top 5-10% of those with a specific ability in a non-academic area. This might include:

- Physical talent
- Visual/performing arts
- Mechanical ingenuity
- Creativity – musical or artistic talent

### Identification

Before identifying any child as being gifted or talented at Alexandra School, we aim to ensure that all children have had an opportunity to learn and succeed in this area. This may be through class lesson time (eg gymnastics lessons) or through extra-curricular clubs (eg chess club) which are open to all children expressing an interest.

Gifted and talented children will be identified through a range of methods. The specific procedure will vary according to the subject area but will include elements of the following:

- Teacher nomination
- Ladder assessment results/standardised assessments such as reading tests or sports award schemes (eg BAGA gymnastics)
- Peer nomination
- Specialist teacher identification

As a staff team we remember that pupils with particular gifts or talents may be:

- Good all-rounders
- High achievers in one particular area
- Of high ability but lacking in motivation
- Of good verbal ability but with lower written ability
- Very able but struggle with short attention span
- Very able but struggle with social skills
- Keen to hide their abilities
- Struggle with poor self-esteem

Some of these factors may disguise gifts or talents and it is our responsibility at Alexandra School to do everything in our power to unlock hidden talents and to identify and value children's abilities.

### **Provision for Gifted and Talented children**

Subject leaders, class teachers and support staff share the responsibility for identifying children who are potentially high achievers. They also share the responsibility for ensuring that provision is suitably challenging or stretching.

Opportunities for extension activities and enrichment tasks will be built into our medium term planning and our lesson plans.

The following provision should be offered to support gifted and talented children:

- Extension activities
- Educational visits
- Working with others of similar ability
- Individual challenges set in particular subject areas
- Themed curriculum weeks provide excellent opportunities to identify and work with children who have strengths or enthusiasms in particular areas..
- Lunch time clubs and after school activities will continue to be a source of provision for talented pupils.

Children's progress will be monitored through assessment procedures, child and adult evaluation questionnaires so that provision is under constant review.

*Reviewed by SMT and approved by governors November 2011*