



GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS POLICY

Rationale:

Gifted and talented learners are those with exceptional abilities relative to other students of the same age and cultural background. These individuals have certain learning characteristics that give them the potential to achieve outstanding performance. They require different learning opportunities and may need emotional and social support to realise their potential.

(Adapted from: Office of the Minister of Education, 2002, p2)

Gifted and talented learners are recognised, valued, and empowered to develop their exceptional abilities and qualities through equitable access to differentiated and culturally responsive provisions.

(Gifted and Talented Students: Meeting Their Needs in New Zealand Schools, Learning Media for MoE, 2012)

Purposes:

- 1 To ensure that gifted and talented students are identified as early as possible on the basis of a range of valid data.
- 2 To provide differentiated learning opportunities that will challenge and extend gifted and talented students in all areas of the curriculum.
- 3 To provide opportunities for academically talented students to undertake multi-level programmes.
- 4 To establish effective management systems to support the continuity and sustainability of these programmes throughout the school with on-going evaluation and reflection to enable improvement.

Definition:

Our school defines gifted and talented students as those learners who demonstrate or show the potential for a high level of performance in one or more the following ability areas, when compared to others of similar age, background and experience: intellectual/academic, visual/performing arts, physical/sporting, creativity, social/leadership, cultural/knowledge skills.

(Adapted from: Riley et al., 2004, p9)

It is recognised that exceptional abilities may be demonstrated by a student's behaviour and responses as well as by their actual achievement at school and that within the school's group of gifted and talented students there is a wide range of ability from mild to profound.

New Plymouth Girls' High School is committed to its gifted and talented Maori and Pasifica students, and recognises that in addition to the ability areas identified above, these students may demonstrate or show potential in areas specifically valued from within a Maori and/or Pasifica worldview.

Guidelines:

- 1.1 Procedures for identifying gifted and talented students will be flexible, on-going, and inclusive, drawing from a wide range of sources to ensure that all relevant information is considered.
- 1.2 Focus dates will be set annually for the identification of gifted and talented students to be considered for accelerated and extension programmes.
- 1.3 Parents/caregivers of gifted and talented students will be informed and consulted with regarding their daughter's progress and achievement prior to placement in special programmes.
- 2.1 Teachers will use a range of strategies to differentiate the regular classroom programme to cater for the special needs of gifted and talented students.
- 2.2 A variety of approaches will be used to provide regular opportunities for gifted and talented students to work with others who have similar interests and abilities, e.g. cluster grouping, cross-class grouping, withdrawal programmes, enrichment programmes and IE/QPs.
- 2.3 The strengths, abilities and interests of staff as well as mentors from the wider community will be utilised to maximise the learning opportunities provided for gifted and talented students.
- 3.1 The timetable structure will enable multi-level learning programmes and acceleration opportunities to be available for students capable of working at an advanced level. This may include NZ Scholarship programmes and University papers.
- 3.2 Staff professional development needs, resources and additional support to meet the needs of gifted and talented students will be considered annually.
- 3.3 The social and emotional needs of gifted and talented students will be considered with the allocation of a Tutor Teacher who teaches accelerated/extension programmes and students being given the opportunity to be in a tutor classes with others who have similar abilities.

Signed:

Date Signed:

Date of Ratification: May 2016

Next Review Date: 2019