

More Able Children at St John's College School

St John's seeks to foster the individual aptitudes and meet the individual needs of each child, irrespective of ability. The school is committed to discovering the gifts and talents of each child and to helping each child discover that he or she has a gift or talent in some or many areas.

We use the term 'more able' to refer to children who are performing at the top of the cohort in any single area of the curriculum or across a range of areas.

St John's is also aware of the value and significance of **social and moral talents**, of the importance of developing these and of the contribution they make to the overall welfare and well-being of a class and of the school as a whole.

Responsibilities

Identifying, making provision for and monitoring the needs of all the more able children is the responsibility of all staff. All teaching staff have a responsibility to ensure that all children are being adequately challenged by, for example, extension tasks or opportunities to perform.

The Director of Studies, in conjunction with Heads of Department and Heads of Year as appropriate, is responsible for the implementation of the school's policy, including managing the identification of and provision for the more able children, developing resources and maintaining and communicating an awareness of national developments.

Aims

The School's aims for the more able children are the same as those for any others, as set out above.

We are aware that gifts and talents may reveal themselves in widely differing ways in different children and are conscious that while some children may be highly able in many areas, others will have very specific academic gifts or non-academic talents. We aim to make provision for the abilities of each child and, according to the school's ethos and aims, we do not seek a narrow definition or a limiting approach to identification.

Academically, children's abilities become evident through the rigour with which we attend to the progress and needs of all children. Beyond the academic classroom, abilities are fostered and become evident through a very broad range of specialist provision within the timetabled curriculum and through a carefully balanced and full range of extra-curricular opportunities.

The school's commitment to the development of talent is based on a number of beliefs: that the discovery of a talent yields a confidence that has benefits throughout the curriculum; that each child should discover the fulfilment and richness of experience that come from such opportunities; that in learning how to express themselves the children discover their best selves; that in working together and giving to others in sport or in the performing arts, children learn skills of collaboration and empathy, values of care and a generosity of spirit that inform and deeply enhance their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

Identifying the more able Children

In identifying the more able children, we are aware that they may well stand out from their peers for positive reasons but that there can also be apparently negative indicators.

The more able children may be rapid, efficient learners, with a high capacity to integrate new knowledge and with exceptional powers of synthesis and analysis. They may have some or many of the following positive learning qualities, characteristics and attitudes:

- ability to perceive analogies and to think laterally
- interest in abstract, conceptual thinking
- aptitude for inductive and deductive reasoning
- intellectual flexibility
- strength in problem solving and collaborative learning
- socially very well developed
- at ease with open-ended questioning
- intellectual maturity beyond their years

Schools Festival' competition. Children with talents in drama also have opportunities to take part in poetry evenings and reading in Chapel.

- x Lighting and sound: a specialist works with children backstage for each drama production to develop their understanding of lighting and sound and this is especially good for developing the abilities of