

# LANGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## **Gifted and Talented Policy**

*Reviewed Spring 2017*

*Agreed by the Governing Body 17.5.17*

*Due for review Spring 2019*

## **Policy on Gifted and Talented Children**

### **1 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.

### **2 Aims and objectives**

- 2.1 In respect of Gifted and Talented children our aims are to:
- ensure that we recognise and support the needs of our Gifted and Talented 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.

### **3 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 school. 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 and Year 6, plus the optional SATs tests in Years 3, 4 and 5. Teachers also make regular assessments of each child's progress in all subjects of the National Curriculum. We compare the information from these tests with a

range of national and LA data, in order to ensure that each child is making appropriate progress.

- 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 consultation evenings, and report annually on each child's progress in July.
- 3.6 Children's gifts and talents will be recorded on the Gifted and Talented Register according to the categories of strength developed by Trevor Hawes. A portfolio of evidence to support pupil's strengths will be kept in order to show how the school is supporting individual children's needs.

#### **4 Aptitudes 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 more effectively to synthesise information;
- enjoy reading, and respond to a range of texts at a more advanced level;
- use a wider vocabulary, and enjoy working with words;
- see issues from a broader range of perspectives;
- use more advanced skills when engaged in discussion.

4.2 Gifted children in mathematics are identified when they:

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

#### **5 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 greater 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 organisational strategies as they move through the school. These strategies can be used by all children, but give due scope to higher achievers.

5.3 In all years we set targets for English and mathematics, and teach the children in ability groups. Teachers regularly review the progress of children, and children move between the groups as appropriate. This enables teachers to plan work that reflects the ability band of each group.

5.4 We offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children. These activities offer higher achievers the opportunity to further extend their learning in a range of activities.

- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The children will also have the opportunity to experience a range of educational visits that further enrich and develop learning.
- 5.7 From time to time children identified as having a particular gift or aptitude may be invited to take part in events aimed at deepening learning for gifted and talented children in particular subjects. These events are not open to all children and school staff will determine on the basis of their knowledge of the individual child whether an event might be suitable for them. Staff have the final say in respect of which children may be invited to participate.

## **6 Management strategies**

- 6.1 There is a nominated teacher who coordinates the provision and practice within the school for gifted and talented children. At Langdon the coordinator is Mrs Lynn Paylor Sutton. The coordinator's role includes:
- maintaining 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;
  - providing advice and support to staff on teaching and learning strategies;
  - liaising with parents and carers, governors and LA officers on related issues.

## **7 Monitoring and review**

- 7.1 The progress of and provision for Gifted and Talented pupils is monitored regularly by class teachers in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities. Class teachers review and plan according to their assessment of children's progress and attainment, modifying experiences in order to meet individual needs.
- 7.2 Academic progress is monitored following termly assessments and planning and teaching opportunities for the term are then reviewed in order to ensure that pupils needs are met at the appropriate level, across the curriculum.
- 7.3 The range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities available to children will be reviewed termly and new opportunities that meet the needs of Gifted and Talented pupils, and offer opportunities to enhance and develop their skills and progress, will be provided wherever possible.
- 7.4 The Gifted and Talented Register will be updated annually following informal consultation with school staff, pupils and parents. Where appropriate, outside providers may be consulted in order to seek accurate information about a pupil's performance outside of school.