

How do we provide for the more able in school?

What is our policy on Gifted and Talented pupils at Christ Church?

At Christ Church we believe that all children have talents and we are committed to every child achieving to their full potential. We recognise that some children are more able in certain areas of the curriculum and that we need to provide different or additional challenges for these children. We believe that one important way of discovering children's particular talents and skills is through the wide ranging activities and experiences which we provide at Christ Church. We want these to be inclusive and available to all children.

We want everyone's time at Christ Church to be enjoyable and rewarding and we always aim to promote the highest standards of teaching and learning. We believe that a rich and stimulating curriculum encourages all children to reach for the highest level of personal achievement.



Christ Church is a high-attaining school and class work is often directed at a higher level than national expectations for all children in the class. All subjects are differentiated to ensure children of all abilities are challenged at an appropriate level. This might be through completing a different task, the use of questioning to challenge a particular child or group or the use of different resources. In most subjects, more able children will not simply be taught the next part of the curriculum, but provided with activities to deepen and extend their knowledge, e.g. problem-solving or investigation work. Each class also has a 'challenge area' with a changing task each week to get all children thinking. In some subjects or topics it might be appropriate to set independent research or project work to stretch the more able as well.

Additional provision in school:

From time to time we are able to provide additional activities for the more able in school, such as volunteers who come in to work with groups of children or an additional workshop as part of our arts or sports provision. Those who are able to take part in workshops such as this will often have been selected because they have shown aptitude for the activity in an earlier whole class workshop. Our school clubs also provide an opportunity for able children, and although we are inclusive in our policy of allocating children to clubs, these are often opportunities to extend skills in areas of particular talent.

Some recent examples of additional provision in school have included:

An extra clay tile workshop with one of our Arts Project artists for children in all year groups who had shown particular skill in the class sessions

Extra skipping workshop and the chance to share skills with the rest of the school for selected children after the whole school skipping day.

Children selected to take part and then perform with a gospel singer after class workshops.

Are there any additional activities which my child can get involved in outside school?

The range of opportunities and additional workshops for the more able offered by Camden or within a cluster of local schools is growing each year. There are often very limited spaces for these activities and children will be selected to take part based on their known skills in the particular area. If we feel that your child will benefit from taking part in a workshop which is due to take place we will contact you individually with the details. The school's Gifted and Talented coordinator organises this process.

Some recent examples of cluster or Camden-based activities for the more able have included:

A film making project (after school and whole day workshops) for Year 5 and 6 pupils who were selected after whole class workshops at school.

Series of Year 6 science workshops after school at local secondary schools.

Year 5 and 6 pupils went to the Tate for an art day.

The plan is for this provision to be extended to all year groups and when it is our turn at Christ Church to organise a workshop we'll try to target it at a younger year group.

What is the Gifted and Talented register?

The school is required to submit to the Local Authority through the school census, a list of those children who it judges to be Gifted and/or Talented. At Christ Church, we want to be more flexible than this and not be constrained in our provision by a list of names. Therefore, we view the register purely as an administrative exercise and have decided not to share this information with parents or children. We have made this decision because of the fact that our provision, in class or access to additional workshops which may occur, does not rest on whether a child is included on the register. We also feel that it may be divisive, particularly since the children's names may move on and off this list through their time in school.

What is Gifted and Talented?

In 2001 the Department for Education launched a gifted and talented programme to ensure the most able children were provided with the challenge they needed. Gifted is usually taken to mean children with a high ability in academic subjects, talented to mean children who excel in arts or sport.

Each school is required to have a policy describing how they are going to support their most able children and there are also national and local projects directed towards this group.

However, at Christ Church, we feel that many of the national recommendations and definitions on provision for the more able are too narrow—we don't want to be constrained by them in what we can provide and want to be flexible in meeting the needs of the children we have in our school.

We have produced this leaflet to share what we do at Christ Church School, as well as how this fits in with national requirements.

Gifted and talented provision at Christ Church school isn't new—the school has always been successful in providing for children of a wide range of abilities, including very able children. We have done this through both effective differentiation in the classroom and additional activities, clubs and workshops.

What should I do if I feel my child is Gifted or Talented?

Talk to your child's teacher to find out what is already in place for the more able in their class.

Make sure that your child's teacher knows about any talents your child may have. We will ask you about this each year in our Autumn parents evenings.

Talk to our Gifted and Talented coordinator or Inclusion Leader in school. They are part of the local cluster of schools who plan more able provision and will be able to let you know what additional activities might be coming up soon.

Useful contacts and websites

Please ask in the office if you would like a copy of Christ Church's Gifted and Talented Policy.

Useful websites:

Young Gifted and Talented www.ygt.dcsf.gov.uk

The Wallace Collection www.wallacecollection.org

London G&T www.londongt.org

How stuff works www.howstuff.works.com

National Literacy Trust www.literacytrust.org

Science Museum www.sciencemuseum.org

National Association for Able Children in Education www.nace.co.uk

Gifted and Talented



Frequently asked questions