



St Mark's Elm Tree Primary School

A Policy for Able, Gifted and Talented Pupils.

**Reviewed September 2016
Approved by Governors
To be reviewed September 2018**

A Policy for Able, Gifted and Talented Pupils

Mission Statement:

At St. Mark's, Elm Tree Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School we:

- Welcome everyone.
- Build Christian values and worship into our teaching.
- Establish strong links between home, school and community.
- Care for, encourage and respect each other.
- Support each other to stay safe, healthy and make a positive contribution to our world.

Our school is a place where every person has the right to be themselves and to belong and learn in a safe and happy environment. Everyone at our school is equal and treats each other with respect and kindness. We do not tolerate bullying.

At St Mark's Elm Tree we believe every child should be given the opportunity to achieve his or her maximum potential.

We recognise the need to identify, nurture and motivate the gifted, talented and more able children within our school.

Identification:

A more able child is one who shows outstanding ability in one or more areas of the curriculum.

A gifted child could be a child who is exceptional in one or more area but may be of average general ability (or unexceptional in any other area).

A talented child will be one 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 levels of learning

Approximately 10 per cent of the children in our school will be considered as gifted, talented and/or more able. 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 further.

Extremely able children, who are at the top of this 10 per cent of children, will, when appropriate, be provided for separately. Class teachers will liaise with other members of staff as well as talking to the child on a regular basis.

Support will be given to parents and information will be shared at consultation evenings as well as with secondary colleagues, when applicable.
The following criteria/features will be useful help to identify able, gifted and talented children

The child:

- Demonstrates high levels of achievement in National Curriculum assessments.
- Has an ability to communicate a wide range of thinking and ideas.
- Has a rich vocabulary and can communicate a wide range of speech patterns.
- Asks probing questions.
- Is able to respond to searching questions and challenges.
- Is able to work independently and in a sustained way.
- Shows unusual perseverance and concentration.
- Has an excellent memory.
- Displays extensive general knowledge.

We aim to identify such children through a variety of methods:

- Teacher assessment
- Teacher observation
- Testing
- Parental referral
- Subject specific criteria (pupils who show an outstanding flair, ability or technical skill for their age in a specific subject)

Provision

Many of the strategies we will use are born out of sound teaching and learning approaches and can be applicable to all children.

We aim to:

- Ensure that there is differentiation in planning
- Allow for differentiation by outcome
- Ensure the work is challenging and the pace is appropriate
- Set targets and negotiate agreements
- Provide individual programmes if necessary
- Offer children opportunities to generate their own learning
- Encourage children to think and work independently
- Provide a wide range of stimulating materials which can be accessed by the pupil
- Use a range of investigative and problem solving activities to extend thinking
- Provide extension activities
- Exploit the use of ICT to support the child's learning
- Give pupils opportunities to express their talents
- Create a climate of achievement so the expectation is high

- Praise and recognise achievement
- Keep parents informed and involved.

There may be times where it is appropriate to seek advice from external agencies to provide for our pupils – sports coaches, secondary schools, drama or musical experts etc. This will always be carried out with full consultation with parents.

There will obviously be a range of strategies used depending on the pupil, and we recognise the need to monitor the performance and progress of the pupil, as we do with all of our pupils. If a pupil on the AG&T register is identified as underachieving this will be addressed through discussion with the pupil, teacher and if necessary parents.

On occasions, it may be desirable to move the pupil to a higher age group for some or all of their lessons. The case of each child will be examined carefully as we are aware of potential social disruption and would be cautious about such moves, seeking the views of the parents and pupil from the outset.

Opportunities we create for our pupils:

- Annual Talent Show
- Choir productions
- Opportunities to work with secondary schools
- Children allowed to use entrepreneurial skills (e.g. writing Newspapers, fundraising events)
- Discussions with parents following certain skills that have been noticed – tennis skills identified etc
- Opportunities to take part in after school clubs
- Our pupils being given opportunities to participate in local authority AG & T summer school each year (when available)

Monitoring and Review

The responsibility for the provision of the able, gifted and talented pupils lies with everyone in the school – the Senior Leadership Team, Class Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Curriculum Development Team leaders and the SENCO. There is a nominated Leading Teacher within school who co-ordinates, monitors and reviews the provision and practice within school, including updating the register as required, however provision for AG&T pupils is seen as a whole school approach. Feedback is given to the Governing Body through the School Improvement and Christian Ethos Committee on an annual basis.