

Tasker Milward VC School – Strive to Achieve Respect
Ysgol RG Tasker Milward- Safwn Er mwyn Rhagoriaeth



More Able & Talented Policy

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MORE ABLE AND TALENTED POLICY

Definition and Curriculum

This school provides an environment in which all young people are encouraged and supported to achieve their maximum potential. We recognise that pupils have different abilities, talents and learning needs and we plan and organise the formal and informal curriculum to meet these and to raise standards for everyone. This policy focuses on the particular needs of our more able and talented pupils.

Definition: The term 'More Able and Talented' encompasses approximately 20% of the school population and is used to describe pupils who require enriched and extended opportunities across the curriculum in order to develop their abilities in one or more areas. The top 2% may be considered to be exceptionally able. Ability and talent may be shown in many different ways including academic, practical, creative, social, musical and in sports. By improving the quality of learning and opportunities for more able and talented pupils we develop pedagogy and practice which will, through dissemination, raise standards of achievement for all pupils.

A whole school approach: We have a supportive ethos which promotes high self-esteem and which aims to meet the needs of all pupils regardless of emotional, social, linguistic, cultural, physical or intellectual differences. Meeting the needs of any group of young people (including MATS) benefits all our pupils, through promotion of a positive ethos in the school, further embedded through the school's STAR culture.

The formal curriculum: Teachers in this school have developed schemes of work in each area of the curriculum. Lesson planning takes place to ensure every pupil is challenged through differentiated activities and learning outcomes. Work in ability-linked groups is used when appropriate. Extension and enrichment work is provided to extend the more able and pupils are carefully monitored and assessed to ensure progress is being made. Our pupils are encouraged to explore different learning styles and intelligences, to develop skills-based learning and independent learning skills. Teaching and learning strategies have also been enhanced as a result of teachers sharing good practice through dialogue, sharing of resources and triad observations.

The informal curriculum: This school promotes and encourages a range of opportunities and activities which support and extend learning and the development of talents and abilities. These include developing personal skills and social responsibility through school council, charity committee, enterprise, peer mentoring and supporting literacy and numeracy intervention work. Extra/extended curricular activities such as character drawing and craft, knitting, techno club, languages club, history club, games club, computer club, maths clubs, drama club, Duke of Edinburgh scheme, drama club and science group take place on a regular basis. Pupils with an interest or talent in music have a wide range of ensembles to join, including choirs, orchestra, string, brass, jazz, and vocal ensembles. There is also a range of sporting activities, including both school and 5x60 groups. Both the music and PE departments encourage pupils to develop these talents and represent the school at local and national events. Involvement of learners in skills competitions has been achieved in year 7 and encourages pupils to involve themselves in activities outside of the classroom. The library is open every day for reading, using computers and completing

homework. The Success Club is open for all pupils who wish to receive help to complete homework or would just like to complete homework before they go home. Pupils have access to all computer programmes, websites and on-line resources such as the HWB.

In addition, enrichment opportunities for more able and talented pupils are provided and we participate in local and county-wide events which extend the range of challenges and experiences available to these pupils. These activities also facilitate co-operative working with pupils in other schools and help provide a supportive network for our more able young people.

Identifying more able and talented pupils

A wide range of qualities, characteristics and processes contribute to high potential and achievement. Identification necessarily involves a range of strategies and a dynamic process which is continuous and flexible.

In this school identification strategies will include:

- Teacher assessment : teachers use information from a range of sources including observation, formal and informal testing/assessment, feedback from other teachers, dialogue with pupils and parents;
- Self and peer identification: pupils are encouraged to identify their interests, capacities and learning needs and to celebrate their strengths and abilities. The celebration of achievement forms a regular part of our school life. We endeavour to involve pupils in the process of self-evaluation and provide opportunities for them to express their views about their achievements and experiences and how well these meet their learning needs;
- Parental involvement: we welcome an open dialogue between the school and parents and carers. The quality of this communication has a direct impact on the well-being of learners and parents are encouraged to take every opportunity to discuss their children's needs;

High ability may be masked by disaffected behaviour or by limited experiences. Some more able and talented young people may choose to underachieve and this poses problems in identifying what they are capable of achieving. Abilities may be hidden by poor performance in basic skills for example where an ability to think creatively is not matched by an ability to express those thoughts through language or writing. Literacy and numeracy intervention work helps to improve pupil's ability to access all work.

Strategies to enhance opportunities for all pupils which benefit more able and talented pupils

These will vary depending on individual, class and curricular needs but may include the following:

- Classroom organisation and grouping/target grouping;
- Setting where/if appropriate;
- Opportunities to focus on particular activities to develop knowledge and skills;
- Independent and resource-based learning opportunities;
- Extension and enrichment learning activities;
- Appropriate resourcing including reference materials and ICT;

- Encouraging thinking skills, higher order learning skills, skills-based learning, creativity, different learning styles, multiple and emotional intelligence;
- Working with/activities with older pupils where appropriate or feasible;
- Supporting peers/younger pupils in particular areas of work/activity;
- Opportunities beyond the classroom, out of school hours learning opportunities;
- Partnership working with other schools, colleges and businesses, engaging in co-operative activities with other organisations, providing social networking opportunities for pupils;
- Mentoring and pastoral support;
- Monitoring, assessment and providing feedback; regular reviews to ensure appropriate support is provided.

Monitoring and Review

This school recognises that provision needs to be dynamic and flexible to meet changing needs. This policy will be reviewed and up-dated annually in the light of feedback from teachers, pupils and parents. The Welsh Government national standards for schools for More Able & Talented learners (2008), developed in association with the National Association for Able Children in education (NACE), provide the framework for schools to plan their approach to this area.

- The "Meeting the Challenge: Quality Standards in Education for More Able and Talented Pupils" Self-Evaluation tool is appended.

This policy has been drawn up using the following guidance documents:

- "A curriculum of Opportunity: developing potential into performance – Meeting the needs of more able and talented pupils " ACCAC 2003 on www.accac.org.uk ref: AC/GM/0536 Welsh Assembly Government guidance document.
- "Educating Pupils who are More Able and Talented" WAG consultation document August 2003 / Pupil Support Division on www.learning.wales.gov.uk
- "Meeting the Challenge – Quality Standards in Education for More Able and Talented Pupils" October 2006 WAG consultation document / Additional Needs and Inclusion developed in co-operation with NACE National Association for Able Children in Education, Cymru