



If you can dream it...
Ysgol Bae Baglan

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MAT Policy

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Date passed by Governing Body: Oct 3rd 2018

Chairman.....*E.V. Latham*

Rationale

At Ysgol Bae Baglan we recognise the need to provide equality of opportunity for learners of all abilities in order to maximise their potential. We are committed to helping all our learners to develop their personalities, skills and abilities, both intellectually and socially and to providing teaching which makes learning challenging and enjoyable.

This policy is a statement of the entitlement of more able and talented (MAT) at this school. It reflects the commitment of the school to support the able learner.

Aims:

- To ensure that more able learners are provided with an appropriate, challenging, stimulating and enjoyable education based on high teacher expectation.
- To develop a range of learning and teaching strategies that extends and support pupils' development.
- To offer learners opportunities to develop their specific skills and talents through provision of opportunities and guidance that is sensitive to their ways of learning and allows potential to be turned into performance.
- To stimulate learners through extracurricular activities and through curricular enrichment.

Objectives:

- To work proactively in developing an ethos of high expectation and a whole approach to meeting the needs of the more able and talented children.
- To identify and place on a register the more able and talented children in our school.
- To ensure effective monitoring and evaluation systems are in place.
- To ensure a through-school approach which meets the needs of MAT learners in all year groups.
- To work with feeder primary schools to aid early identification.

Identifying More Able and Talented students

More able and talented learners are identified by making a judgement based on an analysis of various sources of information including:

- Quantitative data including the results of assessments and other available data, such as FP Outcomes, PUMA / PIRA, Reading Scores, KS2 TA, CATs, National Tests etc.
- Predicted test / examination results,
- Teacher assessments

More able and talented learners will normally comprise no more than 15% of pupils in the year group and will usually be those pupils who have the best outcomes in a range of measures. However, recommendation of teachers in areas such as Art, Music and Sport are equally important.

No one single method will ever accurately identify all of the more able and talented learners within the school.

Organisation

The school is happy to adopt a very flexible approach to meet the learning needs of individual and groups of more able and talented learners. At present the approaches adopted include:

- Modifications to the formal curriculum.
- Differentiation
- Enrichment
- Extension
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Mentoring

Withdrawal groups are sometimes used e.g. Reaching Wider / Higher and the Brilliant Club.

The Curriculum

The school will always provide the more able and talented learners with their full entitlement to the National Curriculum and, additionally, provides access to curriculum enhancement in both National Curriculum areas and, where appropriate, outside.

Enrichment / extension work should be provided by all teachers in all classes as part of normal differentiated provision. Working with others of like ability is important. This can be made possible by group work or by the use of setting. Differentiation should provide activities requiring higher order thinking skills. More able and talented children need to be challenged. The role of the teacher is vital in challenging the thinking of the more able and talented child.

Subject Leaders will advise colleagues within their department on subject specific strategies to challenge more able and talented students. The Co-ordinator for the More Able and Talented will also advise colleagues of general strategies in the teaching of this group.

The school will seek to discover and utilise a range of strategies to improve the teaching and learning of the more able and talented. INSET may be required to facilitate this delivery. Opportunities for extension and enrichment are built into our planning and both are needed if students' abilities are to be monitored effectively.

Enrichment

Enrichment relates to breadth of study experience. It involves offering learners a wide variety of opportunities, both within and outside the curriculum, and exposing them to experiences not usually encountered as part of the standard curriculum.

Extension

Extension (also referred to as enrichment through depth), involves pupils following the standard curriculum but developing a deeper understanding through encountering more complex resources and materials, tackling more challenging questions and tasks, demonstrating higher levels of thinking, and presenting increasingly sophisticated responses.

Extra- curricular Activities

These are highly valued for the more able and talented learner and include:

- Club activities – curriculum subjects, sports, performing arts, etc.
- Activity days and post- 16 sample lessons and University and College visits / talks, e.g. Swansea and Oxford Universities. These may be organised by the school, the Local Authority and the Regional Partnership.
- Day and residential visits.
- The use of specialists e.g. sporting experts/ coaches, visiting artists and authors.
- A broad, creative curriculum, giving children a chance to thrive.

Roles and responsibilities

Senior Management

- To provide adequate resources to ensure that more able students receive an education that meets their needs.
- To develop appropriate tracking systems that allow for disseminating and recording information about more able students.
- To ensure integration of more able and talented provision within the SDP
- To provide opportunities for staff development, as required, raising awareness and developing skills in identifying, developing teaching and learning strategies and providing resources for more able students.
- Monitor the progress of MAT pupils alongside other groups of learners.

Middle Management – Subject Leaders

- To set aside regular departmental time to discuss new ideas, share materials, develop teaching strategies and extension activities for the more able and talented cohort and therefore improve the quality of teaching and learning for all.
- To monitor the achievement / attainment of more able students to check that they are on target and to provide the necessary evidence.

The Classroom Teacher

- To ensure that lesson plans reflect the whole school policy and subject schemes of work and contain class and homework activities that are differentiated to meet the needs of all students.
- To provide students with opportunities to extend their talents / skills by regularly promoting problem solving, open ended and investigative activities.
- To recognise that setting more work for students is not necessarily beneficial. More able students are more inclined to respond to higher level work that is more challenging, rather than more work of a similar level that is likely to be resented.

The Co-ordinator for the More Able and Talented

- The co-ordinator has overall responsibility for ensuring that the policy is implemented and co-ordinating the monitoring of progress.
- The co-ordinator will liaise with teaching staff within the school to promote and champion the more able and talented cohort of the school.
- The coordinator will lead the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the schools' provision for the more able and talented pupils.
- Compile a register of more able and talented pupils on the school MIS.

Conclusion

The more able and talented will be monitored and membership of the cohort will be flexible. At all times the wellbeing of the individual student belonging to the cohort must be paramount. The key concept to the more able and talented programme must be opportunity, challenge and enrichment.

The more able and talented programme must impact on the whole curriculum in order to be effective. Opportunities for enrichment may be offered beyond the school day.

As a school we intend to champion the cause of more able and talented students and celebrate with them in their success.