



ST STEPHEN'S CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL, BATH

GIFTED AND TALENTED POLICY

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At St Stephen's we recognise that all children have "gifts and talents", or personal strengths as we would define them, and that it is a vital part of our professional remit to help discover, nurture and celebrate these strengths and aptitudes.

In seeking to rise to this challenge, we attempt to offer as wide a range of learning experiences as possible, as well as a variety of different opportunities. This is to maximise the likelihood of giving every child the chance to excel.

We know that those types of learning and output that make up our "core" curriculum are only a part of what learning is, and must be, if it is to serve the needs of the individual and society both now and in the future. We know that a positive and optimistic "can do" self-story is at the heart of effective learning. We aspire to contribute to the building of such a story in all our children, inclusively and irrespective of natural capacity, experience, proclivity or enjoyment.

We believe that providing such a positive message enables us to support every child's personal strengths. School should be a place that celebrates all these strengths, leading to a diverse understanding of excellence and achievement. Therefore, all children, of whatever age, should have to the chance to show what they are really good at and to learn in the way that suits them.

We recognise that successfully discovering, nurturing and celebrating the gifts and talents of individual children is, like every element of learning and teaching, dependent upon high-quality and conducive relationships between all members of the school community.

Some of the specific ways in which St Stephen's works with children to explore their potential in different areas include:

- Children who are more able in English and Mathematics have their specific needs met through in-class differentiation and setting, and through the use of Teaching Assistants, including some specific Teaching Assistant withdrawal.
- We deliberately target resources towards meeting the needs of those children with identified gifts and talents. These needs may be addressed in school if possible, or by directing to appropriate local organisations, or through the Apex (Able Pupils Extending opportunities: a programme of workshops), or a combination of these.
- We provide extracurricular activities in as wide a variety of learning areas as possible. The school is committed to reviewing and, where possible, increasing this provision.



- We employ a setting system within Year Six that allows the children to be set in four different groups for a large portion of the year. This approach extends the more able as well as meeting the needs of the rest of the cohort. We review this provision annually according to need and capacity.
- Amongst our large Teaching Assistant staff we employ one post to work specifically with groups of more able children.
- We seek to broaden learning opportunities outside the classroom. "Forest Schooling" principles and techniques provide the focus of this work.