

Rockdale Public School Gifted and Talented Policy

At Rockdale Public School we recognise the need to encourage excellence in all areas of endeavour:

- Social leadership ability
- Creative or productive thinking
- General intellectual ability
- Specific academic aptitude
- Psychomotor ability
- Creative and performing arts

Gifted and talented students are to be found in all communities regardless of the socio-cultural or socio-economic background.

Definition

Gifted students are those with the potential to exhibit superior performance across a range of areas of endeavour.

Talented students are those with the potential to exhibit superior performance in one area of performance.

Outcomes

1. Students will accept, value and foster their own talents and giftedness. They will be challenged and actively involved in their learning.
2. Teachers will - identify gifted and talented students, recognise the barriers to the development of talent and giftedness and employ a range of strategies to cater for gifted and talented students.
3. School based curriculum will accommodate Gifted and Talented students.

Aims

1. To enable students to achieve high standards of learning and develop self-confidence, high self esteem and a commitment to personal excellence based on a positive set of values.
2. To identify Gifted and Talented students through a variety of procedures such as teacher nomination, peer nomination, self-nomination and standardised tests.

3. To recognise and meet the specific needs of Gifted and Talented students.
4. To continually build upon resources.
5. To enable teachers to cater for the needs of Gifted and Talented students by providing teachers with support, ongoing inservice, dissemination and organization of resources and information on current research.

Implementation Strategies

WITHIN CLASS OPTIONS

Learning Environment

- Student-centred rather than teacher-centred
- Independent rather than dependent – commitment to and encouragement of students' self initiative
- Open/flexible – divergent thinking encouraged
- Accepting rather than judging
- Complex intellectual tasks
- High physical mobility

Curriculum

1. Content

- Abstractness – increased level of thinking and complex vocabulary
- Complexity – challenge in the content of learning tasks and a focus on an interdisciplinary approach.
- Variety (topic breadth and depth)
- Organization of content around a key area or basic concept
- Study of people

2. Process

- higher levels of thinking (Bloom's Taxonomy)
- creative problem solving
- moral reasoning
- Open-ended questions and activities
- Inquiry approach/questioning
- Evidence of reasoning (Thinking skills to be taught intentionally)
- Freedom of choice in topic, method, environment. Negotiated learning
- Pace and variety
- Cooperative, social and leadership skills
- Cooperative learning – group tasks e.g. jigsaw

3. Product

- Problems (student generated/relevant/current real world issues)
- Real audiences (with interest in or understanding of the topic)
- Appropriate evaluation (teacher/peer/self/group/audience)
- Transformations of information rather than summaries

Classroom Management

- Independent research projects
- Group work and cooperative learning
- Learning/interest centres
- Negotiated learning

- Contracts/management plans
- Peer teaching

WITHIN SCHOOL OPTIONS

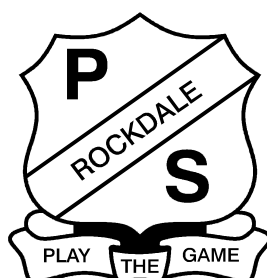
- Vertical grouping/ horizontal grouping
- Enrichment /Extension groups eg Performing Arts Groups
- Special Interest Groups – chess, dance, recorder, choir
- Publications that recognise excellence eg Newsletter, Assembly items
- School Enrichment programs eg PSSA sport, sports clinics
- School talent quests
- Team teaching – matching teacher expertise to students’ talents
- Independent research and contracts
- Flexible progression
- Learning centres
- Competitions eg UNSW English, Maths, Writing, S & T,
- Public Speaking and Debating
- Rich tasks
- 6 Thinking Hats
- SRC
- Technology – enrichment groups

OUTSIDE SCHOOL OPTIONS

- OC classes and Selective High Schools
- District provisions – choir, music and dance festivals, chess and support networks eg SRC
- Multicultural and St George District Public Speaking Competitions
- Art Competitions
- Book Week Competitions
- Writing and Poetry Competitions eg Nestle Write Around Australia
- Camps – Oracy, Creative Arts, Writing
- Mentors/ High School Links
- Weekend Enrichment Activities
- Australian Youth Choir
- PSSA – Zone/District/State selection

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