



More Able and Talented Policy

September 2020

1 Introduction

- 1.1 We believe that all children are entitled to an education that will enable them to develop to their full potential, be that intellectual, physical, aesthetic, creative, emotional, spiritual or social. We are committed to providing a stimulating and suitably challenging curriculum for all our pupils, in the pursuit of the highest academic and pastoral achievements.
- 1.2 All pupils have individual needs, which puts personalised learning at the heart of our teaching and learning programme. More able and talented pupils should be given the opportunity to access an optimal breadth and depth of learning; as such we aim to provide opportunities to develop specific skills and talents. At Breaside, we recognise that the very able pupil will be capable of working at a significantly higher cognitive level than their peers in some areas and that tasks need to be set accordingly. We are, however, concerned for the whole child's development and recognise that in other areas, able children need the opportunity to develop alongside their peers. By stimulating and providing challenges for all pupils we will also develop the thinking of all pupils.

2 Definitions

Breaside Preparatory School aims to provide opportunities for able pupils to:

- Have an appropriate education
- Work at a higher cognitive level in order to demonstrate their full potential
- Discover and develop their talents and abilities
- Develop socially as well as intellectually

At Breaside, we categorise and define our more able and talented pupils as follows:

More Able	Pupils who achieve, or have the ability to achieve, above average in one or more academic areas, including areas outside the main school curriculum. This also includes children who are leaders or role models and who display outstanding leadership and/or social skills. Pupils with an innate ability, who present a natural, outstanding aptitude or competence for exceptional performance.
Talented	Pupils who excel in one or more specific fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative and Performing Arts – Art, Design & Technology, Drama, Music;• Physical Education/sporting ability; and/or• Extra-curricular pastimes – e.g. Chess.
Dual Exceptionality	Pupils who are more able or talented but also subject to a barrier of learning, such as Dyslexia, Asperger's Syndrome, or a physical disability. It is worth remembering that able pupils can also be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• of high ability but of low motivation;• of good verbal ability but have poor writing skills;• very able but with a short attention span;• very able with poor social skills; and/or• keen to disguise their abilities.

It is important to note that the MAT register is fluid and flexible and will be monitored, reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

3 Identification of More Able and Talented

- 3.1 At Breaside Preparatory School, we identify children as more able and talented when they either perform significantly above national expectations for their age or demonstrate higher level strategies or styles of learning. The identification of more able and talented pupils is a process which the whole teaching and support staff participate in, as well as parents, carers and the children themselves. The identification of more able and talented pupils is a process which the whole teaching and support staff participate in, as well as parents, carers and the children themselves.
- 3.2 The identification begins when a child joins the school. The school is keen to understand their achievements and interests in particular areas as they join the school. Discussions with parents and carers will enable us to create the best possible picture of the child, and records of awards and achievements in academic, sporting, musical, artistic and any extra-curricular activities will be helpful in this respect in building up a wholly representative picture of the child.
- 3.3 Both qualitative and quantitative information is used for identification purposes:
- A programme of formative, summative (internal and external) assessment takes place (see the school Assessment Policy). We make use of the following summative assessment data to monitor cognitive ability: EYFS Tapestry learning goals, Optional SATs results, NFER, PTM and PTE scores as well as ongoing formative teacher assessment including Voice of the Teacher to inform the More Able and Talented register.
 - Department Heads will have an overview of pupils who demonstrate ability in their subjects, and will communicate with the MAT Coordinator through internal school communication systems or during weekly staff meetings to inform them of pupil suitability for the MAT register.

Additionally, we make use of the following information when identifying more able and talented pupils:

- Information provided by parents or carers;
- Identification by a previous teacher, previous school, external agency or organisation;
- Discussion with the child.

As a school, we recognise that more able and talented pupils may:

- be good all rounders
- be high achievers in only one area or strand of the curriculum
- be of high ability but low motivation
- be of good verbal ability but poor writing skills
- be very able with short attention span
- be very able with poor social skills
- possess superior powers of reasoning
- show originality and initiative
- be frustrated if they cannot achieve the excellence they demand of themselves
- have keen powers of observation
- spot the direction of a story or situation well ahead of their peers
- have exceptional curiosity and constantly want to know why
- have a wide range of interests which they follow with great enthusiasm
- be unwilling to follow instructions for class task preferring to do things in an individual manner
- when interested become absorbed for long periods
- absorb and store information quickly
- have exceptional ability in Art, Music or Sport

4 Responsibilities

4.1 Teachers:

- Identify the pupils who meet the criteria;
- Use enrichment/extension opportunities appropriately; and
- Identify and address underachievement.

4.2 Assessment Coordinator:

- Identify the pupils who meet the criteria;
- Plan for and use assessment materials appropriately;
- Identify and address underachievement; and
- Provide the Curriculum Manager(s) and More Able and Talented Co-ordinator with assessment data and results.

4.3 Subject Leaders:

- Prepare subject specific criteria with the More Able and Talented Co-ordinator;
- Inform department staff of these criteria;
- Identify the pupils which meet the criteria;
- Pass these names on to the More Able and Talented Co-ordinator;
- Provide schemes of work that contain enrichment/extension materials for identified pupils;
- Ensure that enrichment/extension/challenge materials are being used appropriately by staff;
- Encourage children to enter local and national events and competitions as well as develop international challenge links with partner Cognita schools;
- Plan for and use enrichment/extension/challenge materials appropriately;
- Identify and address underachievement; and
- Provide the MAT Coordinator with assessment data and results.

4.4 More Able and Talented Co-ordinator / SENDCO:

- Prepare from prior attainment data a register of the top 10% of each cohort year;
- Gather names of identified pupils from all areas of the curriculum;
- Categorise this information in a register, circulated to the Senior Leadership Team and all teaching staff;
- Meet with Subject Leaders and relevant Senior Leadership Team members on a regular basis to review provision within departments;
- Prepare courses of action for children who are identified as able in many areas (by agreement with senior management);
- Monitor the provision of more able and talented pupils;
- Evaluate the progress made by more able and talented pupils on an annual basis; and
- Lead/co-ordinate challenge focus groups.

4.5 Curriculum / Teaching and Learning Coordinator:

- Monitor schemes of work and ensure that they allow opportunities for enrichment and extension;
- Work with the More Able and Talented Co-ordinator to oversee the process and activity;
- Include items concerning the provision of more able and talented children on meeting agendas; and
- Ensure that staff are made aware of opportunities for CPD development in supporting the needs of more able and talented children.

5 Coordination and Monitoring

- 5.1 The More Able and Talented Register for pupils is coordinated by **Antony Pryke and Jane Chandler** (More Able and Talented Coordinators). The MAT Register is reviewed on an annual basis, in association with pupil progress, staff feedback and information gleaned from subject areas and weekly staff meetings.
- 5.2 Talents and abilities emerge at different times due to developmental issues, and as new opportunities arise, therefore, inclusion in the cohort is not permanent. If it is perceived by parties that inclusion is no longer beneficial, pupils may be moved off, either temporarily or permanently. Such changes to the register will be discussed in parallel with the pupil and parents.
- 5.3 We recognise that some pupils who are more able and talented do not always show their ability. This may arise from learning difficulties such as dyslexia, or personal circumstances. The school aims to work with support programmes and parents to ensure a consistent achievement at the appropriate level for each child.

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by SLT and the MAT Coordinator through:

- Tracking the progress of children identified as more able on the school register;
- Analysing test results and checking planning files, marking and other records;
- Observing children, planning, marking and feedback;
- Developing methods of measuring the impact of the initiative on specific pupils and the general raising of standards;
- Appointing a co-coordinator for able and talented pupils will be responsible for monitoring how this policy is carried out;
- Ensuring form teachers are responsible for maintaining documentation of pupils' progress and achievements; and
- Reviewing and revising this policy as the need arises.

6 Strategies for Teaching

6.1 At Breaside, we aim to ensure effective and suitable provision for More Able and Talented pupils by planning work with appropriate pace, rigor and challenge. We aim to create a learning climate in which success is valued by everyone and where individual differences are accepted and celebrated.

We offer opportunities for more able and talented pupils to thrive through:

- An enriched, stimulating and relevant curriculum;
- Using a whole school policy on identification and provision;
- Creating a positive environment in which it is good to succeed and achievement is celebrating;
- Identifying the needs of the more able and talented in the planning process; including the provision of resources where funding allows;
- Giving children the opportunity to take responsibility and use initiative;
- Regular reinforcement of high expectations, e.g. with a Challenge Wall;
- Opportunities for pupils to work outside their usual working environment, where possible (e.g. regional enrichment events or workshops);
- Independent and collaborative learning activities providing opportunities for pupils to organise their own work, access resources, make choices, analyse and evaluate their achievements, challenge themselves and be self-critical;
- The focus on thinking and study skills, including metacognition;
- Pupils self-assessing and evaluating their own work; and
- Encouraging risk-taking and the experience of setbacks to develop resilience.

At Breaside, due to the nature of the classes and the close cooperation between colleagues, each teacher is aware of the current status of children in their class. All school staff provide a challenging environment to inspire and excite children and are committed to an ethos of high expectation for all.

The following classroom-based strategies are employed where appropriate:

- Establishing prior knowledge, understanding and skills the pupils;
- Variable and flexible grouping of children;
- Differentiation by both task and outcome;
- Individual target setting;
- Encouraging all children to become independent learners;
- Setting unaided tasks which involve making choices about their work and self-evaluation;
- Planning high quality tasks for enrichment with extension materials that relate to the subject always available; and
- Ensuring extension tasks are identified in lesson plans.

7 Extension, Acceleration and Enrichment

7.1 Opportunities to broaden pupils' learning experiences may include:

- Differentiation, where pupils may be grouped according to ability, and differentiated work is built into schemes of work and lesson plans to provide activities requiring extended higher order thinking skills;
- Working on subject matter which would typically be for older pupils to access broader knowledge and develop more sophisticated thinking and reasoning skills. At Breaside we aim to offer a mastery curriculum whereby added weight is given to a child's ability to apply their learning within the whole curriculum in a more complex and in-depth, cross-objective and multi-modal model;
- Internal opportunities for pupils to take part in organised challenge activities, e.g. MAT Maths Enrichment Club, subject area days including Maths Puzzle Day and termly MAT challenges sent home with selected pupils identified by the MAT Register and/or teacher voice;
- Enabling a pupil to study aspects of a topic that there would not normally be time to study, or adding extra subjects or specialised calendar events to the curriculum or extra-curricular activities programme; and
- Partnership with other schools or external organisations, for example workshop events, specialised holiday camps, and local, regional and national schemes/competitions.

8 NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education)

8.1 Breaside Preparatory School are a proud member of NACE and we are delighted to have hold the prestigious **Challenge Award Framework** which was accredited in **June 2018**. Breaside continue to work closely with **NACE** which nationally recognises and celebrates those schools which provide the very highest level of challenge for its pupils. NACE helps teachers provide excellent teaching and learning for able, gifted and talented pupils. Our accreditation means that we are now placed in a select group of just 1.6% of schools across the UK who have achieved this significant Challenge Award. The recognition of this award to Breaside Preparatory School is a noteworthy achievement. It recognises the full experience of Breaside pupils across the curriculum both inside and outside the classroom, through specialist taught subjects such as Music and Science, dedicated more able and talented clubs and a carefully constructed wide range of extra-curricular activities.

9 Success Criteria

- 9.1 The success of this policy is measured by qualitative and quantitative evidence of an individual pupil's progress and the development of the More Able and Talented Register as a whole. This includes:
- Improved attainment in the areas in which they are more able or talented;
 - Increasing active involvement by pupils in assessment of their own progress and target setting;
 - Increasing higher level questions being asked by pupils;
 - Increasing levels of independent learning, including risk taking in learning; and
 - Increasing confidence and improving attitudes to learning.

Supporting Documentation.

Please also refer to the MAT Staff Handbook for additional information and resources.

General checklist for identifying more able and talented children.

More able and talented children may:

- Possess extensive general knowledge, often know more than the teacher and find the usual reference books superficial;
- Show good insight into cause-effect relationships
- Easily grasp underlying principles and need the minimum of explanation
- Quickly make generalisations and extract the relevant points from complex materials
- Have exceptional curiosity and constantly want to know why – are inventive and original when interested;
- Ask searching questions which tend to be unlike other children's questions;
- Often see the unusual rather than the conventional relationships – can pose problems and solve ingeniously;
- Display intellectual playfulness, fantasise and imagine and are quick to see connections and to manipulate ideas;
- Give inventive responses to open ended questions;
- Have a keen sense of humour in the unusual and are quick to appreciate nuances and hidden meanings;
- Appreciate verbal puns, cartoons, jokes and often enjoy bizarre humour, satire and irony;
- Criticise constructively even if sometimes argumentatively;
- Be unwilling to accept authoritarian pronouncements without critical examination and want to debate and find reasons to justify the why and wherefore;
- Have mental speeds faster than physical capabilities so are often reluctant to write at length;
- Prefer to talk rather than write and often talk at speed with fluency and expression;
- Be reluctant to practise skills already mastered, finding such practice futile;
- Read rapidly and can retain what is read and recall detail;
- Listen only to part of the explanation and appear to lack concentration or even interest, but always know what is going on;
- Jump stages in learning and are often frustrated by having to fill in the stages missed;
- Leap from concrete examples to abstract rules and general principles;
- Have quick absorption and recall of information, seem to need no revision and are impatient with repetition;
- Be keen and alert observers, note detail and are quick to see similarities and differences;
- See greater significance in a story or film and continue the story;
- See problems quickly and take the initiative;

- Have advanced understanding and use of language, but are sometimes hesitant as the correct word is searched for and then used;
- Become absorbed for long periods when interested and may be impatient with interference or abrupt change;
- Be persistent in seeking activity completion when motivated and often set very high personal standards – are perfectionists;
- Be more than usually interested in ‘adult’ problems such as important issues in current affairs (local and world), evolution, justice, the universe etc.;
- Be concerned to adapt and improve institutions, objects, systems and can be particularly critical of school for example;
- Be philosophical about everyday problems and common-sense issues;
- Be perceptive in discussion about peoples’ motives, needs frailties;
- Daydream and seem lost in another world;
- Show sensitivity and react strongly to things causing distress or injustice;
- Empathise with others and often take a leadership role, are very understanding and sympathetic;
- Be confident and competent;
- Express own feelings;
- Attribute ideas to others;
- Be self-effacing; and
- Reflect on own performance.

Subject Leader Checklists

While general checklists can be used to identify more able, gifted and talented pupils across the curriculum, it is useful to identify pupils against subject-specific criteria. This enables the school to identify those pupils who may be manifesting ability within one or more subject areas and can indicate pupils who have strengths intelligences rather than across the broader curriculum. The following checklists are useful for refining teacher observation.

Language

- Show close reading skills and attention to detail;
- Show attention to spelling and meaning of words;
- Are sensitive to nuance of language use, use language precisely;
- Have a well-developed sense and appreciation of humour;
- Have fluency and breadth of reading;
- Contribute critical responses, can analyse own work;
- Are able to read with more meaning, drawing on inference and deduction, can ‘read between the lines’;
- Analyse insights confidently when discussing their own and others’ writing intentions;
- Approach writing tasks thoughtful and with careful preparation;
- Draw out relationships between different texts read;
- Can reflect on language and linguistic forms they encounter; and
- Can transfer their skills across the curriculum.

Mathematics

- Grasp the formal structure of a problem: can generate ideas for action;
- Can generalise from examples;
- Recognise pattern: can specialise and make conjectures;
- Can generalise approaches to problem-solving;
- Reason logically: can justify and prove;

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- Use mathematical symbols as part of the thinking process;
- Think flexibly, adapting problem-solving approaches;
- May work backwards and forwards when solving a problem;
- May leap stages in logical reasoning and think in abbreviated mathematical forms; and
- Remember mathematical relationships, problem types, ways of approaching problems and patterns of reasoning.

Science

- Recognise patterns and relationships in science data: can form a hypothesis based on valid evidence and draw conclusions;
- Use subject vocabulary effectively in construction of abstract ideas;
- Think flexibly, generalise ideas and adapt problem solving approaches;
- Recognise and process reliable, valid and accurate data: can explain why data is unreliable, invalid or inaccurate;
- Can evaluate findings and think critically; and
- Enjoy reasoning logically.

Computing

- Use computing hardware and software independently;
- Use computers and technology to support their studies in other subjects;
- Use computing skills and software to solve problems;
- Consider the purpose for which information is processed and communicated and how the characteristics of different kinds of information influence its use;
- Consider the limitations of computers and technological tools and information sources; and
- Consider some of the social, economic and ethical issues raised by the use of computers and technology.

Art

- Analyse and interpret their observations and present them creatively;
- Are enthusiastic and interested in the visual world;
- Enjoy experimenting with materials, able to go beyond the conventional;
- Can sustain concentration, constantly refining ideas;
- Have confidence using a wide range of skills and techniques; and
- Quick to learn and transfer skills.

Music

- Hear music 'in the head';
- Have a strong musical memory;
- Demonstrate power of expression and skill beyond competency;
- Are particularly sensitive to melody, timbre, rhythms and patterns;
- Respond emotionally to sounds;
- Demonstrate coherence and individuality in developing musical ideas;
- Show a commitment to achieving excellence; and
- Have the motivation and dedication to persevere and practise.

Modern foreign languages

- Show an interest and empathy to foreign cultures;
- Are curious about how language 'works', its meaning and function;
- Recognise grammatical patterns and functions of words;
- Use linguistic / non-linguistic clues to infer meaning;

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- Identify and memorise new sounds and 'chunks' of language;
- Can listen and to reproduce sounds accurately;
- Apply principles from known language to the learning of new ones; and
- Have effective communication strategies.

Physical Education

- Use the body with confidence in differentiated, expressive and imaginative ways;
- Can adapt, anticipate and make decisions;
- Have a good sense of shape, space, direction and timing;
- Have a good control of gross and fine body movements and can handle objects skilfully;
- Produce a seamless fluency of movements with an intuitive feel for elegant movement;
- Show high level of understanding of principles of health-related exercise and their application in a variety of activities;
- Can technical terms effectively, accurately and fluently;
- Can perform advanced skills and techniques and transfer skills between activities;
- Can analyse, evaluate their own and others' work using results to effect improvement; and
- Take the initiative, demonstrating leadership and independence of thought.

Useful MAT websites

General:

www.nace.co.uk - The National Association for Gifted Children in Education. An independent education organisation.

<http://blog.purprock.com/> - news and views from the nation's leading publisher for gifted, advanced, and special needs learners

Across the curriculum:

<http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/home/learn-with-us/downloadable-learning-activities/> - a range of activities to support children across the curriculum

<http://www.potentialplusuk.org/> - provides support and advice for families of more able and talented

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/38BYD39DV9TQmJ7xhM4gytG/primary> - A range of short films, including dramas, animations and documentaries, designed to provide inspiration for the classroom and beyond.

<http://www.ruralgandt.org.uk/> - The aim of this website is to provide advice, support and information for schools, young people, parents and carers. Our focus is on most able learners who live or attend school in rural, coastal or isolated areas of England.

Useful websites with resources:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

<http://thekidstory.com>- bank of useful websites/activities for all ages/subject areas

English and Mathematics:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/> - range of literacy and Numeracy games to support and extend children's learning independently

<http://www.literacyshed.com/>

MAT activities/challenges for children:

Public Learning Destinations are places which provide *Children University Learning Activities* and which are publicly accessible, places which include wildlife centres, zoos, historical interest sites, theatres and libraries. Click on the link below to see the destinations local in Swansea or further afield.

<http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/home/learning-destinations/#/?categoryId=0&text=swansea&distance=600&location=England>

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