

Broad Chalke CE VA Primary School
More Able and Talented Policy 2019

‘With the love of God we learn, care, grow and share’

STATEMENT OF SCHOOL INTENT

The governors and staff at Broad Chalke Primary School believe that every child is unique. As every child is a gift from God, we believe that they deserve the best education that we can offer. We acknowledge the potential of each individual pupil and as such seek to support the More Able and Talented (MAT) pupils within our school through a broad range of opportunities. We believe that the social and emotional growth of all pupils should be encouraged alongside the development of academic and practical potential. We seek to be inclusive in our approach and sensitive to the potential impact of labeling a group of pupils as MAT.

In the pursuit of school-wide excellence we aim to provide opportunities for all our pupils to reveal, display and extend their abilities. We believe that supporting the needs of MAT pupils is a factor in raising the achievements for all. We believe in providing appropriate challenge within the broad and balanced curriculum of the school. We believe that confidence, home environment and expectation are key factors influencing how well pupils achieve.

DEFINITION of MORE ABLE and TALENTED

1. Gifted refers to pupils who achieve or have the ability to achieve at a level significantly in advance for their year group within our school, in one or more subjects in the core curriculum. However we rarely use the word ‘gifted’ as it can be misleading if over used.
2. We prefer to use the term More Able for those children who are achieving well beyond expectations for their age.
3. Talented refers to pupils who have this ability or potential in art, music, PE, sport or creative art.

We recognise that more able and talented pupils will be within the top 10% for our school.

IDENTIFICATION STRATEGIES

We aim to identify MAT pupils using a variety of methods.

- We use teacher assessment to help teachers with their initial identification.
- We promote the early identification of more able and talented pupils, use information passed on by other schools and exchange information within the school.
- We use SATs scores, reading and spelling age test scores, Cognitive Ability Tests (Y5) and Pupil Tracker data.
- We are aware that latent talent or potential may go unrecorded, that social background/lack of opportunity may disadvantage pupils and that some pupils perform poorly in tests. To redress this, teachers will be encouraged to use their professional judgment and experience through observation of pupils; rates of progress in acquiring relevant knowledge, skills and understanding.

IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN THE SCHOOL & BEYOND

- We consider fully the appropriateness of fast-tracking for maths.
- We plan differentiated work and identify opportunities for extended homework.
- We group pupils to maximize the quality of teaching and learning.
- We use in-class support to further the learning of our more able and talented pupils.
- We develop and provide opportunities for extension work/projects.
- We provide appropriate pastoral care by class teachers in recognition of the particular emotional and psychological needs of MAT pupils.
- We provide opportunities for professional development of teachers.
- We make contact with experts external to the school.
- We provide a wide range of extra curricular opportunities to encourage talent to flourish e.g. Braeside courses and Cluster Days. In the interests of Child Protection, any additional adults who come into contact with our children as part of our MAT provision must have a DBS check.

TEACHER/PUPIL SKILL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

We recognise that MAT pupils are entitled to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in full, we will endeavour to promote this through the enhancement of teachers' own awareness and skills.

We promote the teaching of questioning skills for teachers, teaching assistants and pupils.

We promote the teaching of thinking skills and problem-solving across all curriculum areas.

We provide opportunities to develop effective research techniques, library and ICT skills.

We encourage the development of a wide variety of recording and communication skills.

We promote a culture of determination to succeed.

We encourage and celebrate the expression of special ability - musical, sporting, theatrical performances, and art work through assemblies, presentations, certificates etc.

IMPACT - MONITORING, ASSESSMENT and REVIEW

The school has a named person (the SENCO) as coordinator for MAT pupils who will consult with teachers. The coordinator will:

- Ensure all teachers are involved in identifying MAT pupils annually.
- Provide information for parents about MAT courses.
- Ensure the needs of these pupils are being met.
- Liaise with parents and external agencies.
- Monitor the progress of identified pupils on the pupil tracker.

Ratified by FGB: January 2014

Reviewed: January 2017, Autumn 2019

Next Review due: Autumn 2022