



Adamstown Community College

Gifted Students Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the identification and ongoing support of Gifted Students to ensure that they have an opportunity to progress towards realising their full potential.

Aims:

- To foster a culture of achievement by creating a climate of teaching and learning excellence throughout the school.
- To put an emphasis on creating opportunities for students to identify their gifts and talents.
- To work in close partnership with, and involve, parents/guardians to help them promote their children's learning and development.
- To outline the form that additional educational support for Gifted Students takes in the college and reflect current practice.

Identifying gifted students:

'A child who shows exceptional ability in one or more areas such as mathematical, verbal, spatial awareness, musical, or artistic ability may be considered gifted.' (SESS)

Students are identified by:

- Scoring in the 95th percentile in the Common Standardised tests taken in the college
- Reports from Educational Psychologists
- Reports from Primary School
- Reports from Parent/Guardian
- Teacher observations

Common characteristics of Gifted Students:

1. Keen powers of observation;
 2. Have learned to read early (often well before school age);
 3. Reads rapidly and widely;
 4. Well developed vocabulary – takes a delight in using new and unusual words;
 5. Has great intellectual curiosity;
 6. Absorbs information rapidly. Having superior comprehension skills to others;
 7. Very good memory – can recall information in different circumstances;
 8. Has the ability to concentrate deeply for prolonged periods;
 9. Very good powers of reasoning and problem solving;
 10. Has intense interests;
 11. Possesses unusual imagination;
 12. Has a great interest in ‘big questions’ e.g. the nature of the universe, the problem of suffering in the world, environmental issues;
 13. Very sensitive – perhaps becoming upset easily;
 14. Very aware of rights and wrongs. Having a strong sense of morality and belief.
- (Info taken from SESS - SESS Exceptionally Able)

Assisting our gifted students in our school:

- Gifted Students will be noted on VShare using the SEN toggle by the SET team. This will allow teachers to easily recognise those that have been identified as gifted.
- Teachers will use differentiated teaching strategies in their lessons and homework assignments.
- Teachers will have extension activities to further challenge, stimulate and motivate gifted students.
- Teachers will inform the Gifted Students Coordinator if they have identified any students they think are gifted and who have not previously been noted.
- Departments will work towards having a bank of extension activities shared in their team drive.
- Teachers will encourage students to take part in school and/or national competitions in their subject area.
- Teachers will encourage students to take part in school clubs, extra curricular activities and use the school library.
- The college recognises that some students may be Twice Gifted, that is, be gifted but also have a learning difficulty. In this situation, the school will liaise closely with

parents/guardians in ensuring appropriate support for such students within the context of the College's SEN programme and this policy.

- Teachers will advertise clubs, extra curricular activities and competitions through Google Classroom, school notice boards and whole school announcements.

Useful Information

[Differentiation in Action](#)

[Teaching strategies](#)

CTYI - DCU [CTYI Information](#)

CAT - DCU [CAT Information](#)

Summer Scholars - DCU [Summer Scholars Information](#)

SESS - <https://www.sess.ie/categories/exceptionally-able/exceptionally-able>

SESS Signposts -

https://www.sess.ie/sites/default/files/Documents_Publications/SESS_Signposts_Complete_Document.pdf (See section 5 for information and teaching strategies)

NCCA -

https://www.ncca.ie/media/1974/exceptionally_able_students_draft_guidelines_for_teachers.pdf (Includes subject specific information on identifying and differentiating for gifted students)