



ACADEMICALLY GIFTED POLICY - COLLEGE

Written by:	Director of Studies and Gifted & Talented Coordinator
Date:	March 2019
Review Date:	September 2019
Manager responsible for review:	Director of Studies

GIFTED AND TALENTED POLICY – STONYHURST COLLEGE

College Gifted and Talented Policy Rationale

‘In Jesuit education, the criterion of excellence is applied to all areas of school life: the aim is the fullest possible development of every dimension of the person . . . The pursuit of academic excellence is appropriate in a Jesuit school, but only within the larger context of human excellence’. (Characteristics of Jesuit Education, 7.1)

As a Jesuit school, we recognise the importance of allowing each student to develop and to accomplish objectives at a pace suited to his or her individual ability and the characteristics of his or her own personality. This policy intends to give support to those pupils who are identified as achieving highly across their academic work.

Students on the Stonyhurst College Gifted and Talented Register are those with a high ability in several academic subjects. However, each student with a particular strength in an individual subject will be stretched additionally within the relevant subject area(s); provision being the responsibility of the Head of Department/Faculty.

Who is responsible for carrying out this Policy?

The Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator will manage the College’s response to meeting the needs of learners identified as Gifted and Talented.

All teaching staff will ensure that appropriate consideration for the needs of Gifted and Talented learners is given in the course of planning all lessons, tailoring and providing independent learning opportunities to cultivate and nurture their gift or talent.

All Academically Gifted learners have an entitlement to the following:

- The commitment of staff to develop learners’ potential at all times.
- Active participation in lessons that stimulate, engage, challenge, inform, excite and encourage through partnership and dialogue with teachers and other students.
- Skilled, well-prepared and informed teachers who have a perspective and understanding of whole-school needs, problems and policies, especially those concerning issues related to those learners identified as Gifted and Talented.
- A provision stretching beyond subject teaching, including preparation for adult life and the world of work. This should include co-curricular activity, visits to local universities and other educational institutions, PSHE education, careers guidance and counselling, visits to local industry and community service.

How are gifted and talented students identified?

- Firstly, through the Stonyhurst Scholars programme (see Scholars Policy). All students identified as an Academic Scholar on entry into Stonyhurst will be considered as a Gifted and Talented student, unless otherwise stated by the Head of Scholars.
- Secondly, through baseline testing: MiDYIS (Lower Grammar), YELLIS (Grammar/Syntax) and ALIS (Poetry): an overall score of 125+ (for Lower Line) and 115+ (for Higher Line).
- Thirdly, through data generated by College reporting cycles during the first term of each year. Each student achieving an average of a grade 7 in assessments and for their ‘overall performance’ is considered to be of significant academic aptitude.

Once identified through one, two or all three means, each student will be placed on the Gifted and Talented Register by the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator. Learners will then be monitored termly

by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Heads of Faculty/Department and relevant Head of Playroom using report data, lesson observations/learning walks and work scrutiny to ensure their continual achievement.

The register is shared with all College teaching staff and monitored termly and updated as appropriate by the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator.

What is it to be Academically Gifted?

Academically Gifted learners may exhibit one or more of the following attributes:

- Exhibiting a high level of ability confirmed by an academic scholarship award, standardised test scores and report cycles.
- Superior powers of reasoning and problem solving.
- Ability to process and apply information easily.
- Learns easily, quickly recalling factual information.
- Outstanding keen and critical powers of observation.
- Inventive and individual response (verbally or non-verbally) to open questions and activities.
- Extensive vocabulary and superior language development.
- Demonstrates a passion for learning and intellectual curiosity.

What do we offer our Academically Gifted students within the curriculum and co-curricular programme?

Curriculum: In time, all schemes of work will show the provision made for identified learners. All schemes of work will include specific enrichment material and ideas on a module-by-module basis.

Learning and assessment opportunities will be provided that allow all Gifted and Talented learners to aspire to achieve and/or surpass their target grade.

Curriculum Enrichment: Activities will be provided by individual faculties to enrich the curriculum, to enhance the learners' experiences and further develop their abilities, interests and aspirations.

Opportunities will be provided for Gifted and Talented learners to work together, within the College and at externally-run events to further develop their gift or talent; for example, national competitions and subject-specific development days at educational institutions.

It is important to note that, where possible, provision will not be exclusive to those identified as Gifted and Talented, but should include all who would wish and/or display an aptitude to benefit from such provision.