

High Potential and Gifted Education Procedures



Rationale

At Illawong Public School, we support every student to achieve their educational potential, regardless of background, through the provision of explicit teaching strategies and high-quality teaching in a supportive learning environment. We believe that every child has some degree of high potential in one or more aspects of giftedness, and every child will be encouraged to identify and build on their strengths. Some children will have very definite strengths and will be considered to have particularly high potential. Through the identification process outlined below, differentiated learning opportunities will be offered.

We aim to provide learning environments which support the social-emotional and wellbeing of all high potential and gifted students, enabling them to connect, succeed and thrive.

We aim to optimise the growth and achievement of high potential and gifted students across all domains of potential, through evidence-based talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices, to ensure that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met.

Definitions

High potential students are those whose potential exceeds that of students of the same age in one or more domains (creative, physical, socioemotional and intellectual). Their potential may be assessed as beyond the average range across any domain. They may benefit from an enriched or extended curriculum and learning opportunities beyond the typical level of students the same age.

Gifted students' potential significantly exceeds that of students of the same age in one or more domains. Leading gifted education experts commonly estimate that 10% of students may be considered gifted. They typically develop talent and achieve mastery notably faster than their age peers.

Highly gifted students' potential vastly exceeds that of students of the same age in one or more domains. Highly gifted students have potential assessed in the top 1% or less of age peers. Highly gifted students may require specific and more significant curriculum adjustments to meet their learning and wellbeing needs.

Identification procedures

Identification of high potential and gifted students should be objective, valid and reliable. A mix of quantitative data (internal and external assessment data) and qualitative (teacher, parent/carer and student information) is considered. Assessment and data are used in an ongoing manner to inform learning and teaching across all domains of potential. The use of various data sources, with a high number of stakeholders providing input, ensures that students from diverse cultural, linguistic, socio-economic backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students with disabilities are provided with equitable opportunities.

Quantitative Sources

- Standardised tests, eg NAPLAN Year 3 and Year 5, Check-In Assessments Year 4 and 6, Best Start for Kindergarten
- School-based assessments across KLAs
- Psychometric assessments and ICAS test results (note: these are not expected or required, but may be considered if provided)
- CAT4 [Cognitive Abilities Test, 4th Edition] which **gives** information about each student in the areas of verbal, quantitative, non-verbal, and spatial aspects of ability.
- Dance auditions, visual arts portfolios, sporting trials (for talents in specific domains)

Qualitative Sources

Teacher identification of potential/giftedness (Illawong HPGE Checklist)

Teachers can make referrals via SchoolBytes and can access the identification checklist in the High Potential and Gifted folder on the school's shared Google Drive. Completed teacher referrals and checklists are sent to the Learning and Support team for discussion and action.

Parent identification of potential/giftedness (Michael Sayler checklist)

After attending the HPGE parent information session, a parent referral form will be made available to all attendees. Completed parent checklists should be returned to the class teacher and accompany the referral process. If a parent has missed the session, the form can be made available through a meeting with the Principal.

Student self-reflection

On completion of multiple intelligences assessment.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Use assessment and data to identify the specific learning needs of high potential and gifted students across all domains of potential.
- Apply evidence-based approaches that extend and challenge high potential and gifted students beyond their current level of mastery.
- Develop, design and teach differentiated learning programs and provide experiences that meet the advanced learning needs of students.
- Participate in school-provided professional learning that enhances expertise in planning and programming effective learning experiences for high potential and gifted students.
- Collaborate with families, other schools and the wider community to support the learning and wellbeing of high potential and gifted students.
- Communicate assessment and identification information to support the transitions of high potential and gifted students.

Provisions for High Potential & Gifted Students

The school coordinates the provision of developmentally appropriate and engaging programs for students who are gifted and talented in the intellectual, creative, socio-emotional and physical domains. Teachers select and implement a variety of teaching strategies and learning experiences to engage the interest of gifted and talented students, challenge their capabilities and enrich their daily experience of schooling. This is achieved through a variety of strategies at a whole school, classroom and extra-curricular program level.

Whole school

The school implements evidence-based programs, practices and procedures so that high potential and gifted students' specific learning needs are identified and addressed.

The school staff caters for high potential and gifted students across a range of domains. Included are a range of lunch time activities such as Play Pals, Eco Warriors, Dance, Drama and SRC. School Sport and PSSA also provide additional opportunities for students across the physical domain.

The school facilitates opportunities and encourages participation in programs beyond the school to provide opportunities for high potential and gifted learners in a range of domains.

The collaborative planning process enables the creation of differentiated learning programs which support the needs of HPGE students. There is a strong focus across the school on promoting creative and critical thinking through rich and open-ended tasks, including the widespread use of inquiry, project and passion-based learning.

The school may form one or more classes which are aimed at providing a specialised learning environment that enhances and broadens the curriculum to cater to the specific learning and wellbeing needs of identified HPGE students.

All classrooms

All teachers develop, design and implement differentiated learning programs with deliberate adjustments to content, process, product and learning environment, to meet the specific learning needs of HPGE students. Through ongoing data collection, teachers analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of differentiated programs and provisions.

The **Differentiation adjustment tool** is used by teachers to inform their programming.

Teachers use assessment data to implement flexible and purposeful grouping practices. Teachers are expected to offer differentiation to meet student needs, including HPGE students with a disability.

Flexible grouping strategies may include needs-based or task-oriented grouping – students may be grouped and regrouped frequently, according to formative assessment and learning progress. Extension groups may be formed for specific purposes, aimed at catering for students with particular strengths and talents.

In order to achieve their best, all students need to be challenged to learn and master new skills

and feel a sense of success, wellbeing and belonging in a supportive learning environment. Some HPG students may experience specific social challenges related to their advanced ability and development, and this needs to be proactively addressed by all teachers in collaboration with parents and carers.

Potential co-curricular/external provisions

Intellectual Domain

English Enrichment

- Public Speaking competitions
- Debating competition
- ICAS English
- Premier's Spelling Bee
- Annual writing competitions
- Author talks

Maths Enrichment

- Maths Cup
- Maths enrichment sessions – withdrawal groups
- ICAS Mathematics
- Maths Olympiad & Maths Explorer (APSMO)

General

- Lego Robotics
- Game Changer
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- ICAS Science
- Partnerships with feeder secondary schools

Creative & Physical Domains

- Drama Ensemble
- Sydney Schools Drama Festival (Term 3)
- Dance (supported by Studio A)

- Choir
- Eco Warriors (Environmental initiatives and gardening)

Sport

- PSSA and School Sport
- District/Regional carnivals
- Sporting workshops
- Access to sporting pathways – Zone, Regional, State

Gifted Education Resources

Further information to support parents of high potential and gifted students can be found here.

Illawong PS does not officially endorse any of the following programs, but encourages parents to use this list as a starting point for their own research and investigations.

For Parents and Students

Name	Contact	Details
Gifted Families Support Group Incorporated' (GFSG)	giftednsw.org.au	
GERRIC at UNSW	www.arts.unsw.edu.au	Programs for parents and children
NSW Association for Gifted and Talented Children Inc.	www.australiangiftedsupport.com	FAQ around gifted students / Australian gifted education.
GERRIC Gifted Education Directory	https://www.unsw.edu.au/content/dam/pdfs/ada/education/resources/2021-06-ada-documents/2021-06-gifted_and_talented_directory_2018.pdf	Helpful links for parents to understand their child's giftedness
Gifted and Talented Services Directory	www.arts.unsw.edu.au	A list of providers in the area of gifted education

Name	Contact	Details
GERRIC Holiday Workshops	www.arts.unsw.edu.au	Short workshops for gifted students.
Gateways Education	www.gateways.edu.au	A range of workshops and activities for gifted students. Eastern Suburbs.
Australian Education Gifted Support Centre	australiangiftedsupport.com	A range of links to holiday enrichment activities.
Mindquest	www.mindquest.net.au	Holiday programs in many areas of interest. St George High School and Glenwood.
Macquarie University School Holiday Program	www.mq.edu.au	Play, learn and grow at Macquarie with exciting adventures, cool activities, super sports and awesome creations.

Appendix 1:

