

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

POLICY STATEMENT

MEETING THE NEEDS OF GIFTED, TALENTED AND ABLE PUPILS

The Board's commitment to the needs of able pupils is rooted in the Christian belief that each child is unique in the sight of God and that all abilities, gifts and potential are God-given deserving full development. There is ample Biblical evidence of the special gifts and abilities used for the glory of God and the requirement to act as good stewards of God-given talents and abilities. History bears witness to the Christian contribution to high academic achievement and the pursuit of excellence in areas such as art, music and science.

As a Christian Body the Board is committed to inclusion; the development of the full potential of all abilities; the development of a wide range of skills and abilities through a challenging curriculum; the promotion of teaching approaches which are matched to different abilities including those with high ability and special talents.

The Board encourages its schools to include provision for able pupils within the school improvement plan. The Board recommends that schools have an agreed policy on able and talented pupils, and that other curriculum policies of the school should make explicit reference to the needs of these pupils. The Board also recommends that schools identify, where possible, a member of staff to co-ordinate the implementation of the policy, and develop teaching skills for the more able through appropriate training.

It is the Board's belief that high ability and giftedness are displayed not simply in intellectual potential but in practical, aesthetic and personal and social skills. The Board is committed to an education which develops all these aspects and is, therefore, fully supportive of the initiatives taken by schools through clubs and extra-curricular activities to extend the interests and abilities of pupils and enhance pupil achievement. The Board also welcomes the government recommendation that schools should identify the 10% of gifted and talented pupils in their schools. The Board also strongly supports its secondary schools in pursuing specialist status within the government's current policy.

The Board occupies a unique position through its involvement in the schools of twelve different boroughs. It will therefore seek to consult with LEAs where appropriate and promote the dissemination of good practice relating to the needs of the more able pupils in its schools across these boroughs. Through its regular involvement with schools and colleges the Board will encourage them to provide for the needs of all pupils with high ability and to work in partnership with other agencies which may assist them in this provision.

The Board will advise governing bodies of the ways in which they may promote the needs of the able and talented pupils in their schools through training and through the support offered to schools before and after inspection.

The role of the Diocesan Board

Governors:

- To highlight the needs of gifted and talented pupils within its training programme.
- To facilitate the exchange of ideas and sharing of good practice.
- To support schools seeking specialist status.

Headteachers and teachers:

- To provide an informal network for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of common difficulties and good practice as with other areas of school provision.
- To encourage collaboration between schools over provision for more gifted and talented pupils where the Board has relevant information over local practice.
- To keep abreast of initiatives relating to the needs of more gifted and talented pupils in order to offer appropriate advice over sources of support and information to schools.

Local Education Authorities:

- To keep abreast of LA initiatives relating to the needs of more gifted and talented pupils in order to support Diocesan schools.

DfES:

- To participate fully in any consultation in relation to measures aimed at addressing the needs of the more gifted and talented, when requested to do so.

26 June 1997 (Schools Committee)

Revised 2 November 2006