



# OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

*A leading co-educational preparatory school for children aged 2-13 years*

## Gifted and Talented Policy

OBHP30

POLICY OWNER: HEADMASTER  
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## **Definition**

Old Buckenham Hall School defines 'gifted and talented' students as those children who possess demonstrated or potential abilities which, when promoted and encouraged by appropriate teaching, resources and learning opportunities, will be evidenced in high performance in areas such as intellectual learning, creative subjects, the arts and sport.

In general, "gifted" is the term used for students who are able in all areas and "talented" is the term used for students able in a specific area.

## **Identification**

The identification process will utilise evidence from a variety of sources that include general school assessment policy and standardised norm and criterion referenced tests:

- CATS
- teacher recommendations based on subject-specific criteria;
- scrutiny of students' work and performance;
- significant participation and high performance in extra-curricular activities provided by the school or external agencies
- information from lesson observations
- Heads of Department Meetings
- school reports
- academic reviews
- end of year examinations

The use of an amalgam of evidence ensures that identified cohorts of gifted and talented students encompass students with general intellectual ability, subject-specific ability, and/or ability in visual and performing arts and sport. The identified cohorts may also contain students who have the ability, but who are currently underachieving.

## **Educational Provision**

Educational provision for gifted and talented students takes place within the frameworks of the schemes of work in subjects but also provides opportunities to study topics and subjects outside of those frameworks. It is a combination of differentiation, enrichment, extension and acceleration that occurs as both in-class provision and co-curricular activities including extra academic enrichment sessions with the Director of Senior School Admissions and the Headmaster.

## **In-Class Provision**

Schemes of work and teacher lesson plans include details of levels of differentiation, including:

- tasks which demand higher order cognitive and intellectual skills to challenge children;
- access to advanced resources and materials that support the level of challenge;
- more complex and open-ended tasks;
- flexible learning strategies;
- instruction that utilises a variety of strategies such as tiered assignments and independent study;

- qualitative modifications in content, process and products; and
- increasing the depth of study in certain subjects;
- Setting and/or streaming for certain subjects;
- Specific activities within and outside of lessons designed to increase understanding and leadership.

### **Out of Class and Co-Curricular Provision**

The study of specific subjects is augmented and complemented by a range of Co-Curricular provision that offers extension and enrichment to pupils in their area(s) of ability and/or interest. It enables them to examine subjects at greater depth and breadth or to explore additional subjects. Although these may be aimed at children who are gifted and talented, the School would not normally stop others from involvement in such initiatives. Such provision may include:

- evening activities and lunchtime clubs;
- focused visits to artistic events, athletic opportunities, exhibitions and performances within Suffolk and beyond;
- study skills, academic scholarship programmes and organisational and thinking skills;
- master classes offered by external institutions and visitors in music, sport and the arts;
- school competitions;
- lessons provided by visiting staff on a one-to-one level;
- author visits;
- training delivered by specialist sports coaches.

Our aim is to provide as many of these opportunities as we can.

Academic provision is complemented by a concern for the whole child and the provision of pastoral care.

### **Timetable Integrity**

It is recognised that Old Buckenham Hall asks for a significant investment of time from children and their families. This is essential for the academic progress that we seek for all children so that we can provide for their abilities and offer a rounded curriculum. However, where a child shows a particular talent, the School will make adjustments to the timetable or allow external coaching or tuition in consultation with parents. This is done on a case by case basis, but the following criteria must be met:

- The child must be recognised to at least a 'county' standard in their area of talent. This may be in sport, music, drama or another area. County standard is hard to define but it would not be met by playing a sport for a local club or dancing at a local dance school or singing in a local choir, as examples. The individual child must have been recognised formally;
- The coaches or teachers must be willing to discuss the suggested provision with the School – usually the Director of Teaching and Learning, Director of Sport or another senior teacher at the School;
- Any school time missed must result in the student catching up on work outside of School time;
- If any coaching or training time will happen during the School day, it must be taken during Prep time or during Sport. However, it is recognised that this is not always possible. In such case the Headmaster must be consulted, and a time found at the beginning or end of the School day to

limit disruption. These requests will be considered on a case by case basis with all impacting factors considered;

- All decisions regarding the timetable not being followed rest with the Headmaster and their decision is final. If children miss School outside of an agreement, it will be considered an unauthorised absence;
- Agreements made for such activity will be reviewed by teachers at Old Buckenham Hall and will only continue during the course of the existing academic year. They will not automatically continue across years and will be terminated if there is not satisfactory performance in all areas of schooling. These decisions lie solely with the Headmaster.

## **Aims**

The aim of educational provision for gifted and talented students is to ensure that those students so identified have every opportunity to achieve their full potential. In addition, this is a great opportunity to raise the achievement of all students, creating a positive ethos and opportunities for many more students than those identified as gifted and/or talented. It is recognised that supporting gifted and talented students benefits the entire school community and raises the profile of the School.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring of the list of gifted and talented students is an ongoing process with updates regularly sought by the Director of Teaching and Learning and discussed at Heads of Departments meetings. The Director of Sport and Arts and Drama teachers discuss the progress of such children with parents and staff through pastoral meetings and parent evenings as well as individual meetings.