

# LYONSDOWN WHOLE SCHOOL, INCLUDING EYFS, GIFTED AND TALENTED POLICY

The Governors and staff of Lyonsdown School believe that the School should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment, which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child. The School recognises the importance of working within the framework for Every Child Matters: Change for Children and the outcomes outlined within it:

To be Healthy  
To Stay Safe  
To Enjoy and Achieve  
To Make a Positive Contribution  
To Achieve Economic Well-being

*"A rising tide lifts all ships" - Joseph S Renzilli*

## **Rationale**

Striving to deliver good teaching and quality learning for all our pupils is our main concern at Lyonsdown. Nevertheless, it is now recognised that a proportion of children in any school will have abilities which can be classified as either gifted (academic) and/or talented (creative). It is the job of the school to identify such pupils and to devise programmes and opportunities for them to develop their skills and knowledge within the school curriculum and in extra curricula clubs. The school holds a register of identified gifted and talented pupils, which is reviewed and updated annually. Within lessons however differentiation of activity or objective should take place where appropriate, to allow all our pupils to achieve their best in every area of school life.

Lyonsdown is committed to nurturing any exceptional ability, but will make reference to the following:

- general intellectual ability or talent;
- specific academic aptitude or talent;
- visual and performing arts and sports;
- leadership ability;
- creative and productive thinking;
- mechanical ingenuity; and
- special abilities in empathy, understanding and negotiation.

## **Specific Aims**

1. To clearly identify G and T pupils using QCA's subject - evidence based criteria.
2. To create a learning environment which allows children to stretch themselves and to take risks without fear or favour.
3. To develop teaching and learning strategies in all subject areas which provide G and T pupils with an appropriate level of challenge and interest.
4. To recognise and respond supportively to, the sometimes unique, emotional and social needs of high ability learners.
5. To support and guide parents in the learning styles and needs of their G and T children.

## **Specific Objectives**

1. To meet the needs of our G and T pupils through the provision of a clearly differentiated and extended curriculum using specific resources where appropriate along with dedicated funding.
2. To develop teachers' confidence and skills in providing for G and T children through appropriate training and professional guidance.
3. To establish a whole school cohesive approach to the education of G and T pupils reflected in classroom practise and in key school policies.
4. To encourage the development of a positive, creative, approach to learning, encompassing higher order thinking and communication skills.

5. To set up and manage Challenge Boxes in all classrooms, providing an array of different “puzzle” challenges of all kinds.
6. To provide opportunities for G and T pupils to work together across the year groups on whole school investigations and projects e.g. school magazine, quest type activities, local history projects, organising pupil events.
7. To provide opportunities for our G and T pupils to meet and work with other such children from neighbourhood schools i.e. Church Hill School in East Barnet.

**Co-ordination and monitoring**

Responsibility for monitoring the Gifted and Talented policy at Lyonsdown School will be jointly managed by the Head, Deputy Head and Head of Lower School.

Individual education plans are set up for pupils identified.

Review Date: Summer 2015

Ratification responsibility of the Education Sub-Committee - Autumn 2015