

# HOMEBUSH PUBLIC SCHOOL

## GIFTED AND TALENTED POLICY

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Homebush Public School caters for students of all ability levels. In particular it offers those students deemed gifted and /or talented a range of curriculum options where they can be extended. In order to understand which students fall into these categories the following information, which is taken from the Department of School Education Gifted and Talented Students' Policy is provided.

### Definitions

**Gifted** students are those whose **potential** is distinctly above average in one or more of the following domains of human ability: intellectual, creative, social and physical to a degree that places an individual at least among the top 10% of age peers.

**Talented** students are those whose skills are distinctly above average in one or more areas of human **performance** to a degree that places an individual at least among the top 10% of age peers who are or have been active in that field or fields.

The distinguishing features of the gifted become apparent from an early age. Silverman (1993) provided a useful generalisation of the intellectual and associated personality characteristics of the gifted group. Not all these features are exclusive to gifted and talented students but such students possess them to a greater degree.

Intellectual Traits	Personality Traits
Exceptional reasoning ability	Insightful
Intellectual curiosity	Need to understand
Rapid learning rate	Need for mental stimulation
Facility for abstraction	Perfectionism
Complex thought processes	Need for precision/logic
Vivid imagination	Excellent sense of humour
Early moral concern	Sensitivity/empathy
Passion for learning	Intensity
Powers of concentration	Perseverance
Analytical thinking	Acute self-awareness
Divergent thinking/creativity	Nonconformity
Keen sense of justice	Questioning rules/authority
Capacity for reflection	Tendency for introversion

(Silverman, 1993)

Opportunities exist in every classroom for extension. Specifically graded reading groups are held four days each week from Years 1 -6 to provide extension (as well as remediation) within the English Key Learning Area. These groups are regularly reviewed. Students in Years 3-6 are offered the opportunity to sit for the University of NSW English and Mathematics Competitions. These competitions test students in schools throughout South East Asia.

A number of extra curricula opportunities exist for students in the areas of Sport (Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Softball, Soccer, Cricket and Netball), Public Speaking, Debating, Art, Technology and Choir. Leadership opportunities are also available for members of the Student Representative Council.

Further information can be located on the following websites:

[University of New South Wales. GERRIC: Gifted Education Research Resource and Information Centre](#)

[NSW Department of Education and Training, Gifted and Talented Education](#)

## **Selective High Schools and Opportunity Classes**

Students applying for placement in selective high schools and opportunity classes are selected on academic merit in open examinations. These exams are held early in Year 6. Academic merit for selective high schools is determined mainly by the combination of results of the Selective High Schools Test in English language, writing, mathematics and general ability, together with primary school assessments in English and mathematics.

For placement in opportunity classes, academic merit is determined mainly by the combination of results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test in English language, mathematics and general ability, together with primary school assessments in English and mathematics. This test is held in Year Four.

Further information about specialist schools can be found at:  
<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolfind/types/index.php>