

# ***Walbottle Village Primary School***



# **Highly Able Pupils Policy**

This document is a statement of the aims and principles for the teaching and learning of gifted and talented children at Walbottle Village Primary School.

## Rationale

At Walbottle Village Primary School we believe that all children are entitled to a broad balanced and relevant curriculum which provides challenge and takes individual differences into account. We are committed to providing an environment which encourages all children to maximise their potential or personal achievements and this clearly includes children who display some excellent form of gift or talent. We also aim to maintain an ethos to encourage all children to be independent learners, recognise achievement, provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and clubs, always provide work at an appropriate level and provide opportunities for all children to work with similar peers.

## School Vision

**Our vision for Walbottle Village is that all children will feel loved, happy and safe.**

**We will provide each child with many and varied opportunities to develop their character to feel accepted; to develop a sense of belonging; to be driven and resilient and to be inspired and be inspiring.**

## Definitions

**Children formally known as Gifted and Talented are now categorised as being 'Highly Able' by the Department for Education and OFSTED. These children will be in the top 5 to 10% of a cohort.**

Within the school we recognise that **highly able** children can be:

- Good all rounders
- High achievers in one area
- Of high ability but have poor writing skills.

We also recognise that those children who are highly able do not always show their ability. Such children are highly able even though their abilities may be hidden or remain as potential.

# Identification

The identification of highly able children is a process in which all teaching staff have a part, but it is overseen and co-ordinated by the Co-ordinator for highly able pupils. The identification process includes tests (baseline assessments, SATs and end of year tests) and teacher assessment.

A child who has been identified will be put on a register. Their progress will be closely monitored not only by the class teacher, but by the coordinator and Senior Leadership Team.

## **Access to the Curriculum**

All children experience the full range of curriculum opportunities. Teachers plan for differentiation within the classroom ensuring that all children gain access to the curriculum at their level.

Wherever possible all children have access to extra-curricular activities. When completing pupil questionnaires annually, the children have the chance to say which extra curricular activities they would like to participate in. Where appropriate, our highly able children are invited to extra literacy / numeracy sessions outside of the school day in order to stretch and challenge in a small group situation.

Teachers plan for subject days, plan visits out and invite visitors in. All of these ensure that all of our children have access to an exciting curriculum which takes into account the interests and talents of all of our children.

## **Pupil Participation**

The views of the child should where practical be taken into account, as should age, maturity and capability. When planning the creative curriculum, teachers ask the children what they would like to learn and how they would like to learn. Our creative curriculum provides us with the opportunity to identify talents which the children may not otherwise demonstrate.

## **Partnership with Parents**

At Walbottle Village Primary School we value our partnership with parents. Parents are consulted and kept informed about provision for their child. All parents are welcome to help in school and are invited to attend parent's evenings, accompany their child on visits and take part in fund raising and social events throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to share any concerns with staff and can usually see teachers after school to discuss these concerns.

### **Links with other Schools**

We have good links with Walbottle Campus, the school which most of our pupils feed into. The children in upper key stage 2 participate in activities at the Campus, which have been specifically designed with the highly able pupils in mind. We are also welcome to use their specialist facilities in subjects such as PE, science and drama in order to nurture the talents of our children in the best possible way.

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