

Gifted and Talented Policy



This policy is a statement of the aims, organisation and resourcing of the teaching and learning of children who are identified as gifted and talented.

September
2017

Key values and principles

Hartland International School aims to recognise the unique aspect of each child that makes them an important part of the learning community. The school aims to provide opportunities for students to fulfil their potential in all areas; academic, creative, sporting and social. Hartland celebrates the diversity within the school and equips its students with the skills and attributes required to become active citizens in the school's international community and the wider world.

The Gifted and Talented Policy supports the school's aims and outlines the provision made by Hartland International School for students who require additional support to access the school curriculum in order for them to achieve their full potential. Hartland has high expectations of all students and caters for the 'whole' child. We do everything practicable to make school a positive experience for all students, including those who are deemed gifted and talented.

This policy is set up in accordance with the documentation from the UAE Ministry of Education and adheres to the philosophies and principles laid out in the document on General Rules for the Provision of Special Educational Programs and Services (Schools for All), which states that the goal is to "provide appropriate services to the students with...special gifts and talents in all educational institutions in the public and private schools that meet their needs and enhance their abilities". It also takes into account guidance given by the UAE Schools Inspection Framework 2015-2016, Section 4.1.

The policy draws on international standards for the provision of education for children who are high ability, have high potential, or are gifted and talented including the United Kingdom's Teaching Standards 2012 and Ofsted guidance that states that it is 'important to test the school's response to individual needs by observing how well it helps all pupils to make progress and fulfil their potential' and that it may be relevant to pay particular attention to the achievement of 'the highest attainers' (The Ofsted school inspection handbook, January 2014).

Hartland endeavours to provide suitable education for all students, showing due regard for standards and legislation.

Who was consulted?

In drafting this policy, the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator has drawn on guidance and procedure from the following sources, as well as her expertise and training:

- UAE Inspection Framework 2015-2016
- UAE General Rules for the Provision of Special Educational Programs and Services (Schools for All)
- Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) (UK)

Definition of Gifted and Talented

- Definitions of what constitutes a gifted and/or talented student varies and international terminology is ever-changing regarding this, for example, Potential Plus UK use the term 'high learning potential'; Ofsted use 'most able'; and the report 'Educating the Highly Able' produced by the Sutton Trust (July 2012) recommends the term 'highly able'. For the

purposes of this policy, the terms and definitions used will follow the UAE School Inspection Framework 2015-2016.

- The term giftedness refers to ***'a student who is in possession of untrained and spontaneously-expressed exceptional natural ability in one or more domain of human ability.'*** These domains will include intellectual, creative, social, physical abilities. In the case of a gifted student, whilst exceptional potential will be present, they may actually under achieve.
- The term talented refers to ***'a student who has been able to transform their 'giftedness' into exceptional performance'***. Talented students will always demonstrate exceptional levels of competence in the specific domains of human ability. - UAE Schools Inspection Framework (2015-2016)
- Students who are gifted and talented are considered to have a special educational need on account of their need to be challenged and differentiated for in order to reach undoubted potential.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of this policy are to promote good practice in identification, teaching, learning and management of students who are gifted and talented. In order to do this, Hartland will:

- Provide a structure to identify and monitor gifted and talented students.
- Promote a whole school approach to gifted and talented provision.
- Create a positive atmosphere wherein students can develop confidence and self-respect.
- Develop the whole child socially and intellectually.
- To empower students, staff and parents through specialist support, as appropriate

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Ensure that gifted and talented pupils have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, which meets their individual needs and that there are opportunities for them to access further enriching experiences outside the regular timetable.
- Enable all staff to take responsibility for identifying and supporting gifted and talented pupils, by providing them with relevant training.
- Encourage a parent partnership to support a joint learning approach at home and at school, by offering information sessions and individual meetings as required.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Gifted and Talented Coordinator will:

- support and oversee identification and provision for the whole school and liaise with all members of the teaching staff, reporting to the senior leadership team.

Teachers will:

In line with the Teaching Standards 2012, models for differentiation and guidance from the UAE Schools inspection Framework, it is a whole school responsibility to cater for the needs of all students, regardless of ability. Therefore,

- every teacher is responsible and accountable for all students and for the everyday provision of quality first teaching to ensure that students who are gifted and talented achieve their potential and are challenged appropriately and successfully in the classroom environment and beyond.
- Subject leaders are responsible for individual educational needs provision in their subject areas. Class teachers are responsible for this provision in their class.
- Teachers will ensure that the curriculum in any given subject area should meet the needs of all the students to whom it is delivered and should be modified where necessary and appropriate.
- Before meeting a new class, all staff should make themselves aware of those students in each of their classes who are on the Gifted and Talented register and communicate where possible with the previous teacher in order to ensure that progress continues and transition is smooth.
- Participate effectively in the identification, assessment and referral process

Parents as Partners:

The school prides itself on the partnership it has with parents. The school will actively seek the involvement of parents in the education of their children. It is recognised that it is particularly important for students who have learning support needs, including those who are gifted and talented, to have the support and encouragement of parents so that they can achieve success. The school considers parents as partners in the student's learning and encourages parents to view themselves as such.

Parents will always be kept informed about their child's learning and regular communication will take place. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator is always available to meet with parents to discuss their child.

Parents will be fully informed and consulted regarding strategies that have worked in school and can be used at home.

Student Voice:

- The school will work to ensure that, where possible, students are fully aware of their individual needs and have involvement in the targets that are set for them.
- As far as is possible and practicable, students will be involved in the decisions which are taken regarding their education.
- Peer identification of gifted and talented students is another important way of identification. Where appropriate, peers will be asked for their feedback.

Identification, assessment and referral process

- Identification of students who are gifted and talented is not a straightforward process.
- At Hartland International School, all available material – CAT scores; reports from previous schools; information from parents; the school’s identification checklist and crucially, teacher judgement will be used to decide if a child is entered on the gifted and talented register. The decision of Hartland International School of who should be included on the register is final.
- A list of students who are gifted and/or talented will be kept on a register which will be available to teachers on the whole school shared drive in the Gifted and Talented folder. This list is always a working document and students can be added to it – or withdrawn from it – following appropriate evidence.
- Teachers will have access to documentation such as check-lists that will help with the identification of students they may consider gifted and talented.
- Ongoing teacher assessment will monitor progress of gifted and talented students.
- The Gifted and Talented Coordinator will review progress of all children on the register and follow up any children who may be underachieving.

Provision, curriculum access and modification / inclusion

The school aims to nurture independent and creative thinkers who are able to meet the challenges of the wider world and this includes providing for those students who already have or are showing signs of these capabilities, such as those who would be deemed gifted and talented. It is the school’s policy to provide a broad, varied and balanced curriculum for all students, giving them a chance to thrive and to demonstrate skills and abilities that might not otherwise come to the fore.

Provision for students who are identified on the gifted and talented register is generally provided by the class and subject teacher through effective quality first teaching and differentiation. This will take place, both in the student’s class and sometimes in withdrawal enrichment classes, dependent on need.

It is the school’s aim to ensure gifted and talented students are catered for in their peer groups through the development of higher order thinking skills and challenging age-appropriate work. Research has suggested that acceleration through age-groups is not necessarily the best course to take for students who are gifted and the school accepts this. However, where needed and when appropriate, a child may move between year groups for elements of the curriculum or may have individual and small group intervention to enhance their skills and develop their giftedness. The aim is to promote deeper thinking in age-appropriate topics and subjects and to focus on the quality of provision rather than the quantity, through effective differentiation in the classroom.

Gifted and talented students are encouraged and on occasion may be invited to participate in the school’s wide range of extra-curricular enrichment activities that will help to nurture their abilities and give them every opportunity to develop their skills.

Working with outside agencies

Where necessary and appropriate, the school will seek support from and work closely with outside agencies to assist in the provision for students. This may include educational psychologists who are able to ascertain gifted and talented children through psychometric testing. Any costs associated with accessing this provision will be covered by parents.

Staff development

- Gifted and talented training will be provided by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator to all staff at the start of each academic year.
- All staff will be advised on new additions and amendments to the gifted and talented policy. Relevant teachers will be advised regarding changes to the entries on the gifted and talented register.

This policy should be read in conjunction with school documents including:

- Admissions Policy
- EAL Policy
- Learning Support Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Marking Policy
- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Policy

Review of Policy

Date for review

September 2018

Signed.....Date.....

School Principal