

*Ysgol Maesydderwen*



# **More Able and Talented Policy**

***Polisi Mwy Gall a Thalentog***

Type: School Policy

Reviewed / Adopted On	Signed	Next Review
5/7/2021	<i>W. Patten</i> <i>P. D. Jones</i>	Spring Term 2022

## **Estyn**

There is no universally-agreed definition of learners who generally would be recognised as more able. In Wales, the term 'more able and talented' encompasses approximately 20% of the total school population, and is used to describe learners who require opportunities for enrichment and extension that go beyond those provided for the general cohort of learners.

The term 'more able and talented' includes learners who are more able across subjects within the curriculum as well as those who show talent in one or more specific areas, which could include practical, creative and social fields of human activity.

## **WAG 2008**

'Ability and talent can manifest itself in many ways, e.g. academic, practical, creative and social fields of human activity. The needs of more able and talented pupils cannot be separated from the move to raise standards of all pupils. Research shows that schools that focus on the needs of more able and talented pupils improve the quality of learning and raise standards of achievement for all pupils'.

**At Ysgol Maesydderwen** we believe in creating an inclusive learning community that celebrates the uniqueness of all learners. The school will promote stimulating and challenging experiences through a broad and balanced curriculum that also offers learning activities that focuses on the particular needs and talents of the learners. We are also committed to identifying and meeting the needs of learners as early as possible in order to enable them to achieve their best.

## **Definitions**

Talented pupils are pupils who require enriched and extended opportunities across the curriculum in order to develop their abilities in one or more areas. In Ysgol Maesydderwen learners should have the opportunity to demonstrate and celebrate their talents, whilst at the same time being up supported, challenged and extended further in their area of talent.

**More Able and Talented (MAT)** is the general term for this concept; Learners may be more able and/or talented in diverse fields, e.g. academic, creative, sporting, social etc.

**More Able learners** would demonstrate a higher ability than average and would often require differentiated tasks and opportunities to learn through challenges.

**Most Able learners** would be working at two levels/grades above the majority of learners in a class and would sometimes require additional and different provision.

**Talented learners** demonstrate an innate talent or skill in creative or sporting fields.

More Able and Talented learners may be 'high flyers', coasters, underachievers, or disaffected. Talents can be on one or more areas, such as:

- core subjects;
- specific curriculum subjects;
- organisational ability;
- leadership;
- creativity;

- thinking skills;
- social skills.

### **Aims**

- To develop provision for more able and talented learners;
- To develop a curriculum that extends and enriches the learning experiences of this particular group of learners;
- To develop a range of learning and teaching strategies that extend and support learners' development;
- To work effectively in partnership with learners and parents/carers to develop individual learning programmes;
- To identify and create a database of More Able and Talented Learners;
- To ensure effective monitoring and evaluation systems are in place.

### **Identification Strategies**

We are committed to identifying learners in response to the definition of more able and talented learners which will enable us to accurately identify a diverse range of abilities.

We do not intend defining a learner as more able and talented based on the results of a single strategy but rather from a combination of the following:

- Information from partner primary schools;
- CATS scores;
- ALPS scores;
- Reading test scores;
- Spelling ages/scores;
- Projected Grades/Performance Grades;
- Teacher nomination;
- Parental nomination based on skill, interest and abilities.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

Ysgol Maesydderwen recognises that successful provision for more able and talented learners is dependent on partnership. We acknowledge that this includes all stakeholders:

#### **Learners**

Ysgol Maesydderwen aims to provide a stimulating learning environment for all its learners and this includes the more able and talented learner.

#### **Parents/Carers**

- Ysgol Maesydderwen is committed to making parents/carers aware that we are committed to meeting the needs of all learners;
- Parents/Carers of learners who are more able and talented will be made aware of this and their child's IDP will be shared with them. They will be encouraged to take responsibility for supporting their child's learning outside of school.

#### **Learning Leaders**

- Each department will nominate a teacher with responsibility for MAT;
- Teachers should use a variety of teaching strategies to meet the needs of MAT learners;

- Teachers should discuss the planning for these groups of learners with the Assistant Headteacher as to ensure learners' needs are being met;
- Extra-curricular opportunities should be provided.

## **Teaching and Learning**

Teaching and learning strategies could, where appropriate, include:

- Use of Differentiated Learning Outcomes;
- Varying groups to suit tasks;
- Setting;
- Working with Older learners for some subjects;
- Extension opportunities/Acceleration;
- Learner initiated opportunities;
- Differentiated teacher questioning;
- Targeted use of TA's;
- Adopting a problem solving approach;
- Adopting a skills based approach;
- Awareness of learning styles;
- Special tasks of responsibility;
- Visits by experts/Links with outside agencies such as Universities, Colleges and other schools;
- Use of MAT learners as mentors;
- Acknowledging learners' success through displays, rewards, letters, the school website; presentations;
- Encouraging identified learners to share their expertise and skills, supporting others within and outside the classroom;
- Extension Days and weeks.

## **Review and Evaluation**

Responsibility for the planning, delivery and review of the More Able and Talented Policy initially rests with the Assistant Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed

- as part of the school's self-evaluation cycle in the summer term of each academic year;
- prior to this date should there be any changes to statutory requirements.