

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School



**An Academy School Part of
The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust**



Academically More Able Policy 2024

Our Mission Statement:

We are a catholic school. We strive to be a sign of Christ's presence in the world. We follow Jesus.

Date Approved by Governing Body:	7 th September 2024
Date To be Reviewed by:	Autumn 2027
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Academically More Able Policy

1. Introduction

At Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary school, we recognise that all pupils are individuals with their own strengths and areas for development. Within this range, there are pupils who are more able intellectually than others and there are pupils who are particularly talented in specific areas such as music, art, sport and drama.

All pupils in our school have an entitlement to fulfil their optimum potential. It is part of our school ethos to respond to pupils as individuals and to make appropriate provision for them.

We plan our teaching and learning in such a way that we enable each child to reach for the highest level of personal achievement. This policy helps to ensure that we recognise and support the needs of those children in our school who have been identified as Academically More Able according to national guidelines.

As a school we agree with and will uphold the following statements from the House of Commons Select Committee Report:

“Third report on More Able Pupils:

“Gifted and talented pupils must be allowed to enjoy their childhood.....They can become stressed and pressurised by parents ‘hot housing’ them.”

“The right balance must be struck between meeting the intellectual needs (of able pupils) and supporting social and emotional development.”

“It is wrong to assume that the only way of satisfying the intellectual needs of the gifted and talented is through linear progression up the ladder of examinations and qualifications.....(it is) a plea for breadth, challenge and enrichment, not more knowledge, narrowness and tests.”

2. Definition of Academically More Able

Every child is unique thus there is no single appropriate definition. Following national guidelines, at Our Lady of Lourdes, the terms academically more able refer to the top 5-10 percent of the ability range in each year group in any of the following areas:

- General intellectual ability
- Specific aptitude in one or more subjects
- Creative or performing arts
- Leadership qualities
- Advanced social skills

Pupils performing significantly above age related expectations will be considered as part of this group.

3. Aptitudes in English, Mathematics and Science

Children considered Academically More Able in English are identified when they:

- Demonstrate high levels of fluency and originality in their conversation
- Use research skills effectively to synthesise information
- Enjoy reading and respond to a range of texts at an advanced level
- Use a wide vocabulary and enjoy working with words
- See issues from a range of perspectives
- Possess a creative and productive mind and use advanced skills when engaged in discussion.

Children considered Academically More Able in mathematics are identified when they:

- Explore a range of strategies for solving a problem
- Are naturally curious when working with numbers and investigating problems
- See solutions quickly without needing to try a range of options
- Look beyond the question in order to hypothesise and explain
- Work flexibly and establish their own strategies
- Enjoy manipulating numbers in a variety of ways.

Children considered Academically More Able in science are identified when they:

- Are imaginative
- Consider alternative suggestions and strategies for investigations
- Are inquisitive about how things work and why things happen
- Use different strategies for finding things out;
- Ask many questions
- Think logically, providing plausible explanations for phenomena
- Decide quickly how to investigate fairly and manipulate variables
- Strive for maximum accuracy in measurements
- Analyse data or observations and spot patterns easily; enjoy challenges and problem solving
- Show intense interest in one particular area of science
- Make connections quickly between facts and concepts.

4. Provision in school

Provision for our academically able pupils will primarily take place within the classroom setting and will consist of the following:

- Careful use of higher order questioning setting across the year group in maths
- Open-ended creative thinking skills activities accessible to all pupils at their own level of thinking
- Differentiated work which will ensure thorough coverage of the curriculum but with opportunities for extension and enrichment as appropriate
- Involving pupils in their own learning, targets and evaluation of progress
- A whole school ethos of encouraging success and developing enquiring minds
- Opportunities for cross curricular work when appropriate

- Opportunities to develop thinking skills which will underpin their learning development
- Extension activities in every Maths and Literacy lesson and foundation subjects when appropriate
- Quality first teaching of groups in the classroom to extend the most able. Weekly enrichment classes

Academically able pupils are discussed at every Pupil Progress Meeting, these take place on a half term basis. Progress is monitored on the school RAAP (Raising Achievement Action Plan)

Provision for our talented pupils may take place in school but may also take place out of school with, for example, specialist sports coaches and music teachers. It may also involve local clubs and specialist groups.

5. Aims and objectives

Having identified our Academically More Able pupils we aim to:

- Ensure that we recognise and support the needs of our children
- Enable children to develop to their full potential
- Offer children opportunities to generate their own learning
- Ensure that we challenge and extend the children through the work that we set them
- Encourage children to think and work independently
- Provide appropriate learning experiences to develop and nurture any special talents they may have.
- Nurture their thinking skills
- Stimulate their interest in learning

This is done in a variety of ways such as:

- Differentiations
- Mastery Work
- Providing additional support to challenge their thinking
- Sign posting to the National Association for Gifted & Talented pupils (now called Potential Plus UK)
- Personalising Teacher Coaching to ensure that all teaching at the correct level to challenge and extend the child's learning and independent thinking skills.

Learning is also enriched through regular homework activities linked to the work being undertaken in classes. This offers teachers a further opportunity to set work at the level of individual children.

6. Out of class activities

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children. These activities offer talented children the opportunity to further extend their learning in a range of activities.

The children will also have the opportunity to experience a range of educational visits that further enrich and develop learning in every year group.

The school is a member of a local cluster group which meets regularly to discuss provision for academically more able pupils, develop resources, provide training for staff and enrichment opportunities for pupils.