



MacKillop College

Policy: Gifted and Talented

Introduction

As a Catholic school, MacKillop College provides a curriculum and pastoral care environment underpinned by Gospel values that supports our students to reach their potential. We seek to serve our students by building a culture of achievement and equity in schooling. The Julian Tenison Woods Program has been established to respond to the needs of our gifted and talented students. The following model, widely known and accepted by the Catholic Education Office Melbourne and researchers internationally, guides us in our concept of giftedness and talent:

François Gagné's **Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent** acknowledges exceptionality across a range of domains and specific strengths within domains, as well as performance in specific fields of endeavour. The definitions are as follows:

Giftedness designates the possession and use of outstanding *natural* abilities, called aptitudes, in at least one ability *domain*, to a degree that places an individual at least among the top 10% of age peers.

Talent designates the outstanding mastery of *systematically* developed abilities, called competencies (knowledge and skills), in at least one *field* of human activity 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.

Principles:

The Julian Tenison Woods Program is designed to:

- identify gifted and talented students in all domains and areas of school life
- provide gifted and talented students with an appropriate level of curricular challenge to help them reach their potential
- allow for flexibility in program design for individual students
- use research-based approaches to cater for the unique characteristics of gifted and talented learners to build contemporary learning environments that are dynamic, flexible, and technology-rich
- provide cross-curricular projects and activities to allow gifted and talented students to see the connections between disciplines and their range of abilities
- provide gifted and talented students with extracurricular opportunities that engage and motivate them to reach their potential.

Objectives

MacKillop College aims to:

- create a pastoral care environment where gifted and talented students encounter intellectual peers and like-minded students in accordance with the Melbourne Declaration of Educational Goals (MCEECDYA, 2008) which states as its number one goal that 'Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence'
- provide programming interventions within the Julian Tenison Woods Program to allow gifted and talented students to reach their potential including:
 - *Cohort-based interventions*; such as ability grouping, curriculum differentiation, curriculum enhancement and extracurricular activities/competitions
 - *Individual interventions* such as single-subject acceleration, grade-based acceleration, mentoring and advanced placement in University courses.

Implementation

i) Principal commitment

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice.

ii) Staff commitment

Staff working in the Julian Tenison Woods Program are expected to:

- work with the Julian Tenison Woods Leader and colleagues to ensure the best possible pastoral care, and the provision of cross and extra-curricular opportunities
- continually seek to improve their practices by attending internal and external professional development in the area of gifted and talented development
- adopt a contemporary learning focus and use a range of pedagogical approaches
- differentiate the curriculum appropriately formalising the documentation of the units and tasks.

This policy works in conjunction with the following documents:

- Student Achievement and Promotion Policy

Review Date

This Policy will be reviewed in: July 2015

Signature

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

Date: _____