



# 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 students in reaching their potential. The Julian Tenison Woods Program responds to the needs of gifted and talented students.

François Gagné's **Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent** acknowledges exceptionality across a range of domains and specific strengths within such domains, as well as performance in specific fields of endeavour. The model outlines distinctions between giftedness and talent:

**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. (Building Gifts into Talent: Brief overview of the DMGT 2.0, 2008)

### Principles

The Julian Tenison Woods Program is designed to:

- identify gifted and talented students in the varied curricular domains and areas of school life and extracurricular activities
- use research-based approaches to provide gifted and talented students with an appropriate level of curricular challenge to support them in reaching their potential
- provide cross-curricular projects and activities that allow gifted and talented students to recognise the connections between disciplines and their range of abilities

### Objectives

MacKillop College aims to:

- create a pastoral care environment where gifted and talented students encounter intellectual peers and like-minded students
- provide programming interventions within the Julian Tenison Woods Program to support gifted and talented students to reach their potential

## **Implementation**

**i) Principal commitment**

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice.

**ii) Staff commitment**

Staff are expected to:

- engage with contemporary pedagogical approaches in order to support gifted and talented learners
- continually seek to improve their practices by attending professional development in the area of gifted and talented development
- 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
- Learning Diversity Policy
- Melbourne Declaration of Education Goals (MCEECDYA, 2008)
- Building Gifts into Talent: Brief overview of the DMGT 2.0, 2008
- Gifted and Talented Students - a resource guide for teachers in Victorian Catholic Schools, 2014
- Parliament of Victoria – Inquiry into the education of gifted and talented students, 2012

Rory Kennedy (Principal)

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