



Education and Training

# Amaroo School

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<b>School</b>	Gifted and Talented Procedures
<b>Procedure:</b>	
<b>Development:</b>	2016
<b>Renewal</b>	2019
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Related Policies and Procedures:</b>	<p>ACT EDT Gifted and Talented Students Policy, 2014  <a href="http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/554203/Gifted-and-Talented-Student-Policy-2014b.pdf">http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/554203/Gifted-and-Talented-Student-Policy-2014b.pdf</a>            Amaroo School's Gifted and Talented Procedures, 2013            Procedures for Early Entry into School            Enrolment in ACT Public Schools (Preschool to Year 12)</p>

## Philosophy

Gifted and talented students' intellectual social and emotional characteristics differ to those of average ability students. Therefore, these students require appropriately and systematically differentiated: learning environments, content studied, pedagogies used to engage and extend as well as assessment used to assess students' learning.

Amaroo School recognises that gifted and talented students come from diverse backgrounds, can be twice-exceptional (e.g. possessing one or more specific learning difficulties; physical, emotional or behavioural disabilities; or other factors which may impair performance and mask high potential and or achievement) and that they can also underachieve. Therefore, we recognise that sometimes gifts and talents may not be readily apparent.

## Mission

Amaroo School aims to meet the social-emotional and intellectual learning needs of the whole child so as to optimise talent development during students' placement in our gifted and talented program.

## ACT EDT Gifted and Talented Policy, 2014

Amaroo School follows the ACT EDT Gifted and Talented Policy (2014) in defining:

- Giftedness as: a student's outstanding natural abilities or aptitudes, located in one or more domains: intellectual, creative, social, perceptual or physical, and recognises the diverse abilities of students

- Talent as: a student's outstanding performance in one or more fields of human activity: academic, technical, science and technology, arts, social service, administration or sales, business operations, games or sports and athletics.

## Acceleration and Exceptionally Gifted and Talented Students

Students who are accelerated and/or who have been identified as exceptionally or profoundly gifted will have an Independent Learning Plan (ILP).

Amaroo School is committed to providing pathways for our gifted and talented students to extend their learning e.g. through early entry to Gungahlin College's Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Program (STEM). This program is further extended in Year 11 and Year 12 where students can study advanced courses.

## Program Goals

Amaroo School aims to:

- Appropriately identify gifted and talented students and, then, match students' gifts and talents to services. Currently our program is designed to meet the academic needs of students for mathematics, English, humanities and science. Gifted and Talented programs in the areas of performing arts and sport have not been formalised, however enrichment opportunities are provided
- Engage students in appropriately challenging learning experiences
- Build teacher capacity to work with gifted students including participating in Mini COGE, to build their understanding of research based practice
- Develop students' social-emotional and intellectual capacities.

## Gifted and Talented Identification Procedures

Amaroo School's gifted and talented program:

- Is designed to match students' learning needs to programs offered by our school
- Uses measurement devices for gifted and talented EALD students
- Aims to optimise gifted students' talent development, therefore, we use a combination of:

Objective Measures	Subjective Measures	Performance Measures
Ability – we may use a range of ability testing measures including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual</li> <li>• Group.</li> </ul>	Ability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher observation scales</li> <li>• Teacher, parent and student checklist</li> <li>• Peer nomination scales.</li> </ul> Talent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing samples</li> <li>• Classroom Observations</li> <li>• Work samples.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive Attainment Test (PAT)</li> <li>• NAPLAN</li> <li>• PIPS</li> <li>• Reading benchmarking</li> <li>• Above Year level testing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PAT</li> <li>○ Competition papers such as those below</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Competition papers:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)</li> <li>○ Australian Mathematics Trust.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## System of identification

- Students ability is identified using subjective and objective measures (some of which are overseen by the school counsellor)
- Student Focus meetings are held to ensure that equitable decisions are made about placement of students
- These meetings comprise of:
  - The Deputy Principal responsible for Amaroo School's gifted and talented program
  - The Executive Teacher responsible for Amaroo School's gifted and talented program
  - The Amaroo School's coordinator of the gifted and talented program
  - The school psychologist
  - Relevant teachers and other executives
- Places are reviewed annually.

## Structures of our program

### Primary School (Kindergarten – Year Two):

Students identified as gifted or highly capable, in early childhood, have the opportunity to engage in extension groups in core learning subjects such as writing, reading and numeracy. Students are also regrouped for numeracy within their homeroom based on: academic outcomes used in diagnostic testing at the beginning of each year; structured teacher observations and students' work samples demonstrating growth or progress over time. These measures allow teachers to provide differentiated curricula based on students' individual needs.

### Primary School (Year Three – Year Five):

Students identified as gifted or highly capable through subjective and objective measures will be clustered in a class. These classes are designed to broaden students' understandings of concepts and skills through differentiated curricula. Opportunities exist for students with subject specific capabilities, e.g. in mathematics, to be regrouped for further extension during the year. Positions in these classes are subject to annual review.

### Secondary School (Year Six – Year Eight):

Students identified in Amaroo Primary School, or through other methods after they enrol at Amaroo School, will have the opportunity to be part of a gifted and talented class. This program will enable the students to develop their skills in the four core learning areas. Work will be differentiated to meet students' learning needs. Positions in these classes will be subject to annual review.

### Secondary School (Year Nine and Year Ten):

Students entering the senior school from the gifted and talented program in middle school will have the opportunity to be placed in gifted and talented classes in mathematics, English, science and humanities subject areas where they have demonstrated consistent talent; therefore, students may not be placed in all four subject areas. Other students not identified for the middle school gifted and talented program, may be identified at the end of Year Eight as having the potential and

disposition to participate in one or more of the four Year Nine and Year 10 Gifted and Talented classes. Positions in these classes are subject to annual review.

## Performing Arts and Sports Programs

Gifted and Talented programs in these areas have not been formalised, however enrichment opportunities are provided through:

- Students talented in music are catered for through the school's instrumental program (Musicorps), band and choir
- Students talented in the performing arts are provided with talent development opportunities through Dance Fest, School Productions, Tournament of Minds, Quest, Wakikirri, Rostrum and school and system performances
- Students talented in sport are provided with talent development opportunities such as clinics, PSSA and SSSA representation and interschool sporting opportunities
- Study lines are provided for students working at an elite sporting level outside of school.

## Service Provisions

The Amaroo School's gifted and talented program offers ongoing services to meet the learning needs of students identified as gifted and talented:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Acceleration</li> <li>○ Grade skipping</li> <li>○ Subject acceleration</li> <li>○ Curriculum compacting</li> <li>○ Full time ability grouping</li> <li>○ Advanced classes in specific areas</li> <li>○ Cluster grouping</li> <li>○ Multi-grade classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Close alignment with Gungahlin College to offer extension courses</li> <li>○ Encouragement to enter competitions e.g. Mathematics Challenge and International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) among others</li> <li>○ Encouragement to enter talent workshops.</li> </ul>
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These services are overseen by a leadership team.

## Australian Curriculum Standards

Amaroo School aligns its gifted and talented program with the Australian Curriculum (AC) and follows it when introducing content from outside the curriculum to appropriately extend gifted and talented students.

## Professional Development

Amaroo School is committed to offering and supporting our educators to engage in ongoing professional learning that develops their capacities to confidently meet the learning needs of gifted and talented students.

## **Evaluation Plan**

Amaroo School has conducted incidental surveys with parents and students over the last few years. The goal is to collect further data to enable us to evaluate the effectiveness of the program we offer and strengthen the program. These data could include:

- Parent satisfaction surveys
- Student satisfaction surveys (including social-emotional data)
- Teacher satisfaction surveys
- Teacher/Students conferences
- Professional development feedback
- Independent external advice
- Tracking student data, yearly:
  - National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
  - PAT testing
  - A-E Grades
  - Ability tests
  - Off-level testing
- Teacher observation forms
- Over-excitability Scale
- Tracking students through to Gungahlin College.

## **Communication with Parents**

- Parent information sessions
- Gifted and Talented Liaison Officers (GATLOs) roles
- School website
- Phone, email and letters home.

## **Future Goals**

- Introduction of performing arts and sporting programs
- Closer cluster network partnerships
- Teachers trained in the certificate of gifted education
- Succession planning
- Improved transition points in the school to help with continuity of student learning.