

**School Procedure:** Amaroo School Apollo ProgrAM Procedures for following the ACT ETD Gifted and Talented Students Policy, 2014

**Related Policies and Procedures:** ACT ETD Gifted and Talented Students Policy, Published April 2021  
[https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications\\_and\\_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/access-and-equity/gifted-and-talented/gifted-and-talented-students-policy](https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/access-and-equity/gifted-and-talented/gifted-and-talented-students-policy)  
Procedures for Early Entry into School  
Enrolment in ACT Public Schools (Preschool to Year 12)

## Philosophy

Gifted as well as 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 measuring students' learning.

Amaroo School recognises that gifted as well as 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. We, therefore, recognise that gifts and talents may not always be readily apparent.

## Mission

Amaroo School aims to meet the social-emotional and intellectual learning needs of the whole child, be they gifted or gifted and talented, so as to optimise their development in our Apollo ProgrAM.

## ACT ETD Gifted and Talented Policy, 2014

Amaroo School follows the ACT ETD 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.

## Program Goals

Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM aims to:

- Appropriately identify gifted as well as gifted and talented students and, then, match these students' needs to services in academic subjects: mathematics, English, humanities and science
- Engage students in appropriately challenging learning experiences
- Build teachers' capacities to understand, engage and extend gifted as well as gifted and talented students learning, through professional development at school as well as from professional organisations outside our school community
- Attend to students' social-emotional and intellectual capacities.

## Apollo ProgrAM Identification Procedures

Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM:

- Is designed to match students' learning needs to programs offered by our school
- Uses measurement tools appropriate for identifying gifted as well as gifted and talented students, inclusive of EALD students for whom we use culturally fair tests
- Uses a combination of the following identification measures:

Objective Measures	Subjective Measures	Performance Measures
<p>Ability – we may use a range of ability testing measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intelligence Quotient (IQ)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT)</li> <li>• Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) 8</li> <li>• Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices (SPM) +.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Ability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher observation scales</li> <li>• Teacher, parent and student checklist</li> <li>• Peer nomination scales.</li> </ul> <p>Talent</p> <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>• 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> <li>• Progressive Attainment Test</li> <li>• NAPLAN</li> <li>• PIPS</li> <li>• Reading benchmarks.</li> </ul>

## System of Identification

Students' abilities are identified using subjective and objective measures (some of which are overseen by the relevant school psychologist)

- Student Focus meetings are held to ensure that students are appropriately grouped.
- These meetings comprise of:
  - The Deputy Principal of the relevant sector.
  - The executive teacher responsible for Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM or the executive teacher of the relevant school sector.
  - Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM coordinator.
  - The relevant School Psychologist.
  - Relevant teachers, executives and Year Coordinators.
  - Others, as appropriate e.g. the defence liaison officer, health professionals.
- Once students have been grouped through student focus meetings:
  - The deputy principal responsible for the Apollo ProgrAM will sign off on students' class placements, after consultation with deputy principals of the relevant school sectors **and parents**.
  - The Apollo ProgrAM coordinator will then create classes or place a student or students within existing classes.
  - **Students will remain in Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM unless parents request otherwise.**

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## Apollo ProgrAM Structures

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

Students identified for Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM, in our primary school, will be flexibly grouped with like minded peers for core learning subjects such as writing, reading and numeracy. Flexible grouping may include clustering of students in a class, whole class grouping, regrouping across classes or targeted groupings.

### Secondary School (Year Seven – Year 10):

Students identified for Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM, in our secondary school, will be grouped in one of three ways when in Year Seven: firstly, they may be grouped for mathematics and science classes; or, secondly, they may be grouped in English and humanities classes, alternatively, they could be grouped in each of these core subjects. Then, from Year Eight to Year 10 students, identified for our Apollo ProgrAM, will be grouped according to their abilities as well as abilities and talents in the four core learning areas.

Content studied and ways of teaching and assessing students, in our primary and secondary sectors, will be differentiated within these classes to meet gifted students' as well as gifted and talented students' learning needs.

## Languages, Performing Arts and Sports Programs

Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM focuses upon the four key learning areas, however, in languages, students will be flexibly grouped according to ability and degrees of language proficiency; they will also be offered opportunities to participate in external competitions and excursions.

Enrichment opportunities are provided in sports and the performing arts through:

- Amaroo School's Instrumental Music Program (IMP) band and choir
- Dance Fest, School Productions, Tournament of Minds, Quest, Wakakiri, rostrum and school and system performances
- Sports clinics, PSSA and SSSA representation and interschool sporting opportunities
  - Study lines are provided for students working at an elite sporting level or in a talent based cultural program outside of school.

## Service Provisions

Amaroo School's Apollo ProgrAM offers ongoing services to meet the learning needs of students identified for our program:

- Acceleration
- Grade skipping
- Subject acceleration
- Curriculum compacting
- Full time ability grouping
- Advanced classes in specific areas
- Cluster grouping
- Multi-grade classes
- Close alignment with Gungahlin College to offer extension courses
- Encouragement to enter competitions e.g. Mathematics Challenge and International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) among others
- Encouragement to enter talent workshops.

These services are overseen by a leadership team.

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 Mathematics And Related Technologies Program (SMART). This program is further extended in Year 11 and Year 12 where students can study advanced courses.

## Australian Curriculum Standards

Amaroo School aligns its Apollo ProgrAM with the Australian Curriculum (AC). Content from outside the curriculum is used to appropriately extend gifted as well as gifted and talented students.

## Professional Development

Amaroo School is committed to supporting our educators to engage in ongoing professional learning that develops their capacities to meet gifted as well as gifted and talented students' learning needs.

## Evaluation Plan

Amaroo School has conducted surveys with parents and students. We aim to collect further data from which to evaluate and strengthen the effectiveness of our program. These data could include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent satisfaction surveys</li><li>• Student satisfaction surveys (including social-emotional data)</li><li>• Teacher satisfaction surveys</li><li>• Teacher/Students conferences</li><li>• Professional development feedback</li><li>• Independent external advice</li><li>• Teacher observation forms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tracking student data, yearly:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)</li><li>• PAT testing</li><li>• A-E Grades</li><li>• Ability tests</li><li>• Off-level testing</li></ul></li><li>• Tracking students through to Gungahlin College.</li></ul>
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## Communication With Parents and Carers

Communication with parents and carers about our Apollo ProgrAM will occur through:

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