

Definition

Gifted individuals are those who possess a high level of natural aptitude in one or more areas of human ability: intellectual, creative, social, emotional and physical.

Talented individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding skills in one or more areas of human endeavours.

Rationale

All students have a right to develop to their full potential. Under this policy, Sacred Heart College is committed to giving its gifted and talented students the opportunity to develop their special gifts or talents through opportunities within the school curriculum, beyond the school via relevant institutions such as universities, Registered Training Organisations (TAFE, Open Access etc.) and its extra curricula programs.

Policy

Sacred Heart College shall provide to the best of its ability for the needs of gifted and talented students.

Aims

To identify students who are gifted or talented and to ensure that the school responds to, and provides for their individual needs.

To provide an educational culture where all levels of giftedness and talent are valued and promoted and, specifically, to provide opportunities relevant to students displaying high levels of giftedness in a specific area of endeavour.

Implementation:

The Director of Teaching and Learning coordinates the identification of students with special talents.

The Learning Enrichment Coordinator (LEC) to coordinate the school's gifted and talented students program.

Provide educators with professional support to assist gifted and talented students where necessary.

A variety of identification tools should be utilised to identify students of above average ability, which may include input from teachers, parents, peers, students and professional consultants.

In keeping with the Marist ethos, gifted learners will be taught in mainstream classes using a differentiated program. The higher the level of giftedness, the greater the need for support structures to be in place to assist both the learner and the teacher.

Acceleration both within the College and beyond (eg University Program) will be explored as possibilities to meet the needs of the student.

Gifted students programs and activities outside the classroom will also be provided to enhance and extend the educational program of individual students including activities regularly conducted for schools by outside organisations, for example, The Science and Engineering Challenge etc.

A Gifted and Talented Students program budget will be developed by the program coordinator in consultation with classroom teachers and program support group members.

Staff professional development needs will be ascertained annually to ensure individual differences in our students are identified and best catered for.

Policy Title