



## St Michael's Church School

6:7

### POLICY ON EXTENSION TEACHING OF PUPILS

#### **RATIONALE:**

- St. Michael's Church School is a Christian school in the Anglican tradition reflecting the intentions of the St. Michael's Church School Statute.
- The School is committed to the development of pupils' self esteem, which comes from achieving academically and/or in the extra-curricular areas, according to the ability of each.
- Pupils who are gifted and talented will be identified and will aspire to realise their potential in a caring and challenging environment, where all pupils strive for personal excellence.

#### **PURPOSES:**

- St. Michael's School wants the best for our pupils and thus will always encourage them to aspire to excellence.
- The goal is for pupils to be accelerated and enriched in a particular activity to the extent that they realise their potential

#### **GUIDELINES:**

- The programme will take place in St Michael's Church School, primarily in the classroom location.
- Gifted students will also be 'group taught' in rooms e.g. library set aside for this purpose
- At St Michael's the identification process and the programme will be implemented by class and specialist teachers.
- The programme will be directed by relevant staff who have pupils in the top 5% for Mathematics and Reading in their year group.
- Pupils selected will be in the top 5% for the skill that they are being nurtured in eg PAT Mathematics 95% +, Australian Mathematics: High Distinction.

#### **Identification:**

At the beginning of each educational year gifted and talented pupils will be identified according to:

- Pupils who score in the 95th + percentile in norm-referenced achievement tests etc.
- Informal identification of creative thinkers, problem solvers, and critical thinkers by parents/teachers.
- Bloom's Taxonomy of intellectual development and behaviours also to be used as a cross check to screen boys into an upper echelon of the top 5% (Bloom, 1956, McAlpine & Moltzen).

NB: Case studies (Davidson, "1996, in Davis & Rimm, 1995, P69) would strongly advise against a too rigid selection process, based on testing etc. 'Such procedures do not allow students actually to demonstrate their abilities in areas in which they are interested and talented'. (David & Rimm, 1998, P69).

**The Programme:**

Programmes will be set up according to the abilities, interests and talents of the selected pupils:

- Enrolment in National and International Competitions, e.g. Australian English, Mathematics, Science, competitions; Secondary School Scholarships etc.
- Extension classes including Problem Solving and Critical Thinking groups, i.e. withdrawal groups to be developed in English, Mathematics and Science using a variety of resources and teaching techniques eg Co-operative Learning Strategies, Peer Tutoring, Thinking Maps and Metacognition i.e. a higher level of cognition, using cognitive strategies (Gagne, 1985).
- Investigation of set topics using the formula: hypothesis, tests and investigation, before formalising a conclusion, e.g. the School's Annual Science Fair.
- Learning Styles (Dunne & Dunne, 1992), i.e. use of different approaches eg Constructivist Learning, to ensure these gifted and talented pupils are encouraged to learn in the style they are most comfortable with (kinaesthetic, tactile etc)
- The Principal takes an extension class with those Year 7 and Year 8 pupils who, having fulfilled the criteria of this Policy, have been chosen to prepare for Secondary School scholarships.

**Evaluation:**

'It is important, both for the demonstrating of success to outsiders, and for improving the programme ... that evaluation plans should be made at the outset of the programme.' (Davis & Rimm, 1996, P42).

- This St Michael's Church School policy has set criteria under the three headings above, and a reviewal process would use this criteria as a point of reference.
- Reviews will be made on a regular basis, at Senior Management meetings and at full Staff Development days.

**CONCLUSION:**

All pupils will be encouraged to achieve to their highest potential, and where pupils are shown to be gifted and/or talented, extension teaching opportunities will be arranged for them.