

RANDWICK GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL GIFTED AND TALENTED POLICY

RATIONALE AND AIMS:

The staff at Randwick Girls High School believes all should achieve to their full potential. (*Randwick Girls High School Management Plan*). To enable this the school community acknowledges it has a responsibility to:

- develop effective and equitable identification procedures
- foster collaborative home-school partnerships to support gifted and talented students
- provide a range of opportunities and to monitor and evaluate programs for gifted and talented students

(*DEET Gifted and Talented Policy 2004*).

DEFINITION:

Randwick Girls High adopts the definition of giftedness and talent endorsed by DEET (2004) and based on Gagnes Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent (2003).

*Gifted students are those whose **potential** is distinctly above average in one or more of the following domains of human ability: intellectual, creative, social and physical.*

Talented students are those whose skills are distinctly above average in one or more areas of human performance.

Randwick Girls High recognises that Gifted and Talented students may vary in terms of the nature and level of their abilities.

PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFICATION:

It is important that the identification process must:

- be school wide
- use multiple criteria
- be inclusive
- be dynamic and continuous
- be culturally fair
- ensure that all domains of giftedness and fields of talent are identified
- recognises degrees of giftedness and talent
- be organised and linked to differentiation
- encourage input from caregivers and students.

Randwick Girls High School uses a range of identification procedures for gifted and talented students. These include:

- Teacher identification
- UNSW testing for year 7
- NAPLAN results
- School Certificate results
- Use of identification tools from the DEET support package.
- Consultation with caregivers and students.

Assistance from specialists including counsellors, ESL and STL teachers can be used in relation to

- Underachievers
- Students with learning difficulties
- Students with disabilities
- Conduct disordered students
- Students from non –English speaking backgrounds
- Students from culturally diverse backgrounds
- Socio-economically disadvantaged students

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

At Randwick Girls High School the professional learning team will work collaboratively with the school community in implementing strategies for gifted and talented students.

This will include:

- Planning during Year 7 Team meetings.
- Implementation of Quality Teaching Strategies
- Inservicing of staff during Staff Development Days, Staff and Faculty meetings.

PROVISIONS

Teachers at Randwick Girls High have a responsibility to select and implement a variety of teaching strategies for inclusion in programs for the range of gifted and talented students in their classes.

Differentiation or modification of the curriculum caters for differences between gifted students and age peers. Gifted students need differentiation because they:

- learn at faster rates
- find, solve and act on problems more readily
- manipulate abstract ideas and make connections to an advanced degree.

To encourage high achievement, originality, problem-solving, higher-order thinking skills and creativity, teachers will consider the individual needs of the gifted and talented students in their classes. Teachers will assess students' knowledge and skills to provide challenges and learning options appropriate for their development. Teachers may use a variety of teaching and learning strategies.

Programs can be implemented that incorporate:

- various grouping strategies
- accelerated progression
- extension activities within and across classes
- Working in the ILC
- enrichment
- contract work, with students negotiating the components of the contract
- open-ended questions, activities and assignments
- online learning hypothesis testing and problem solving
- individual research and investigation
- opportunities for peer tutoring and assessment
- mentors with specific expertise.

Specific programs offered in each faculty are as follows: