

What is More Able and Talented (MAT)?

In every school, there are more able and talented pupils who require greater support in learning than that provided for the majority of pupils. These pupils include those who are more able across the curriculum and may be capable of achieving above the expected level. They also include those pupils who show ability or are particularly talented in one or more specific areas, such as music, drama, art or sport.

How do we provide for our More Able and Talented Learners?

At Etherley Lane Primary School, we believe it is essential that each and every child is stretched and motivated to succeed. Approximately 20% of our learners have been placed on the More Able and Talented register for a wide range of curriculum areas. Below is our provision document, outlining the variety of ways we cater for our MAT learners.

The grid below can be used as a guide for identifying how a particular MAT pupil is being provided for.

A MAT pupil can be provided for via several of the areas below.

MAT Category	Definition / explanation
Extension	When a pupil is asked to complete an extended task after the main task of the lesson has been completed.
Enrichment	When a pupil is given a task that is different from the other learners in the class, and may involve a higher level of understanding.
Planned opportunities for independent learning	When a pupil has been given an independent learning task with very little or indeed no teacher input. It may involve individual research and presentation of a certain area of learning.
Problem Solving Activities	When a pupil is given a specific task that involves solving a problem. It may involve a mathematical reasoning challenge or a task where the pupil has to think logically.
Assemblies/concerts/ productions	When a pupil is given an opportunity to display their talents in front of an audience. It may be in a "lead role" of a show for example.
Orchestra	When a pupil is given the opportunity to sing or play an instrument in front of an audience.
School Clubs	When a pupil has been invited to a specific school club to enhance his/her learning. An example may be a radio club to showcase exceptional oracy skills, or a cookery club for a pupil who displays a

	unique talent in this area.
Responsibilities i.e. prefect, captain	When a pupil is elected to lead a specific area of responsibility in the school, such as house captain, iLeader, school council or eco-council.
Outside provision	When a pupil's talents are provided for outside school, and the school contribute towards this e.g. allowing a pupil to leave early for training or an event or using the pupil as a model of good practice to the other pupils.
ICT	When a pupil displays a specific flair for ICT and is given the opportunity to showcase their work using a computer or iPad.

NACE Challenge Award

Etherley Lane Primary School are members of NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education). NACE is the only dedicated, not for profit organisation, specialising in supporting teachers to provide excellent teaching and learning for more able and talented pupils.

To exemplify the work we are doing to provide for our more able and talented pupils, next year we will be pursuing the NACE challenge award. The award gives us a framework to work within and to ensure we are doing our very best for our more able learners.

<http://www.nace.co.uk/>

Parental Involvement

There are many practical steps that you can take to support and nurture your child, for example by encouraging him/her to:

- Utilise the local library and the internet as learning and research resources
- Visit museums, science centres, nature reserves and art galleries
- Watch educational and current affairs programmes such as the news, wildlife/nature programmes and documentaries, and discuss them
- Read a quality national newspaper
- Discuss and debate topics, such as politics, the environment and the media
- Discuss homework and schoolwork
- Take part in extra-curricular activities
- Take an active part in family decision-making
- Listen to different types of music
- Read for pleasure, including demanding/challenging books
- Take regular physical exercise

- Socialise and relax in between work and learn to 'switch off'
You can also support your child by:
- Providing suitable learning resources such as books, encyclopedias, magazines, computer software etc.
- Organising day trips and visits to places of cultural, historical and educational interest.
- Building cultural experiences, trips and excursions into family holidays.

Useful websites and resources

Potential Plus UK - <http://www.potentialplusuk.org/parents.php>

Supporting pupils and the parents of pupils who have been identified as more able and talented.

Family Education Gifted and Talented - <http://school.familyeducation.com/gifted-education/parenting/34390.html>

Is your child bright, or truly gifted? Learn the difference and find activities and games to challenge his/her mind, and tips and resources to keep him/her centred.

Hoagie's Gifted Education Page - <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/>

A wide ranging America site that provides articles, research, books and on-line support for gifted children, their parents and teachers.

Kid Source on-line - <http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/pages/ed.gifted.html>

An American site that provides a wide variety of articles, information and resources for parents of gifted and talented.

Uniquely Gifted - <http://www.uniquelygifted.org/>

This website is specifically for parents of children who are gifted and/or talented but who also have special educational needs.

The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children – <http://www.worldgifted.org/handcrafted2.asp>

The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children is a non-profit international organisation, dedicated to the needs of gifted and talented children throughout the world.