

Gifted and Talented Students

Definition

The NSW Government strategy for the Education of Gifted and Talented Students defines **gifted** students as those with the potential to exhibit superior performance across a range of areas of endeavour. **Talent**, by contrast, is defined as significantly superior achievement or performance in one or more fields of human performance. An underachieving child of high potential can thus be acknowledged as a gifted student whose abilities have not yet developed as talents.

Identification

In years 7-12 gifted and talented students should be recognized as soon as possible and adequately challenged in the most appropriate way. Research suggests that the non-identification and non-catering for gifted and talented students can be more damaging than the wrong identification as a gifted or talented student.

Teachers are not necessarily the best identifiers of talent or giftedness since giftedness, for a variety of reasons does not equate with success in school-based assessment. Research shows parents and peers are more reliable identifiers. Creativity is probably the best single indicator of giftedness.

At Katoomba High School this policy may be applied by:

- Instigating a selective class in year seven with membership being gained by nomination and application. This class taught by selected and trained teachers and given considerable challenge
- Encouraging participation in all G&T courses and activities for parents, by publishing in the newsletter.
- Encouraging student participation in activities and competitions such as the Science and Mathematics competitions.
- Encourage mentoring with like-minded individuals (this can be faculty based).
- Foster school visits by "successful" people in various fields to stimulate all students, not just G&T students.
- Investigate avenues for **acceleration** (special rules, procedures and criteria apply).
- Be aware of and identify underachieving G&T students and be proactive when considering the students class placement.