High potential and gifted education


Questions and answers – High Potential and Gifted Education Policy

The High Potential and Gifted Education Policy promotes engagement and challenge for every student, regardless of background, in every school across intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical domains. It supports every student to achieve their educational potential, through talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices to ensure that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met.

When will the new policy come into effect?

The High Potential and Gifted Education Policy will be operating in all schools in NSW by day 1, Term 1, 2021. Schools can now familiarise themselves with the policy, engaging in professional learning and planning.

Why do we have a new policy?

- The new policy will replace the 2004 Gifted and Talented Policy. It reflects recent research which indicates that high potential and gifted students will not develop their potential without additional support and differentiated learning experiences.
- The new policy recognises that a broader approach is needed to ensure all students who are gifted or have high potential maximise their learning outcomes.
- The new policy addresses four key areas of potential and gifted education – intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical.

What is the purpose of the new policy?
The new policy highlights the responsibility of every NSW government school to address the diversity of students who are identified as high potential or gifted.

**How does the new policy relate to the Selective School Review?**

- The new policy is complementary to the Review in focusing school awareness on the importance of addressing the needs of high potential and gifted students in all school settings.

**How long do schools have to implement the new policy?**

- The High Potential and Gifted Education Policy will be operating in all schools in NSW by day 1, Term 1, 2021. Schools can now familiarise themselves with the policy, engaging in professional learning and planning.
- This policy will inform the normal planning process teachers will be undertaking to best support student learning and wellbeing needs as it coincides with the next 3-year planning cycle for schools.

**What support will be provided to schools in implementing the new policy?**

Implementation will be supported by:

- an ongoing program of professional learning for school leaders and teachers, both face to face and online
- a website containing extensive advice and resources
- a research summary outlining research-based, effective practices for supporting the needs of high potential and gifted learners in schools.

**Has any consultation taken place in developing this new policy?**

- The policy is the result of broad consultation with students, parents and carers, teachers, school leaders and experts in the field. This process began in 2017 and there has been significant support for the new policy.