



Exmouth  
Community  
College  
Academy Trust

# Lead Learner, (Gifted & Talented) Policy

<b>Policy Details</b>	<b>Date</b>
Policy Written	Ian Williamson
Policy ratified by	Curriculum Committee
Policy agreed by governors	26.01.21
Review Cycle	2 years
Policy Review date	Autumn 1 2023

## **Definition**

- There is no specific definition or guidance by the Department for Education or Ofsted as to which students should form part of the College's Lead Learner program. As such we operate a bespoke model of selection and activity delivery to these students. However, the following definitions have been helpful in designing this model:
- 'Gifted' learners are those who have abilities in one or more academic subjects, such as Maths and English.
- 'Talented' learners are those who have particular abilities in sport, music, design or creative and performing arts. It includes those who are vocationally gifted.

## **Identification**

There is a Lead Learner (gifted and talented) team within the College, managed by the Coordinator for Lead Learner students. When students enter the college in Year 7, their Key Stage 2 English and Maths SAT's together with the results of Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) are analysed so that the top 5-10% of performers form a focus group entitled Lead Learners. These students are expected to be some of the highest College achievers in GCSE subjects at the end of Year 11. There is also an opportunity for departments to nominate students who fulfil the specific criteria of a Lead Learner student for that subject, during the Autumn Progress reporting cycle. This should help identify and support students who may show exceptional ability in more practical subject areas, or those students for whom the Key Stage 2 SATs and CATs data is not such a suitable indicator of their true capability in subjects. This group is called "Subject Lead Learner", and this list is reviewed annually, so as to account for differences in pupil development, focus and effort during their time at the College. Subjects use the following types of evidence when judging whether a student is Subject Gifted and Talented:

- i] Professional judgement of teachers
- ii] Subject assessment by in class testing
- iii] Use of CATS together with other baseline scores (e.g. Bently music test).
- iv] Subject specific pupil descriptors.

We also use the following criteria taken from the OFSTED review of able, gifted and talented learners:

He or she may:

- Be a good reader
- Be very articulate or verbally fluent for their age
- Give quick verbal responses (that can appear cheeky)
- Have a wide general knowledge
- Learn quickly
- Be interested in topics one might associate with an older child
- Communicate well with adults – often better than with peer group
- Have a range of interests
- Show unusual and original responses to problem solving activities
- Prefer verbal to written activities
- Be logical
- Be self taught
- Have an ability to work things out in his/her head quickly
- Have a good memory
- Be artistic
- Be musical
- Excel at sport
- Have strong views and opinions
- Be sensitive and aware

- Be socially adept
- Appear arrogant or socially inept
- Be easily bored
- Show a strong sense of leadership

### **Disadvantaged Students**

In order to ensure that all lead learners are offered opportunities to develop their higher level skills, and undertake activities that instil an aspiration to achieve the best grades, study and work chances, this identification procedure actively seeks to ensure that each cohort of lead learners is represented by approximately 25% disadvantaged students. This figure is in line with the College's whole disadvantaged cohort, and ensures that criteria that lead to students being classed as "disadvantaged" are not barriers to developing exceptional academic abilities and skills.

Although Post 16 students are not specifically identified as a "Gifted and Talented" focus group by DfE, the College now identifies the students who are expected to attain the highest grades at Post 16 based on their GCSE attainment score. Subject teachers are also able to identify students who seem to be highly able during the Autumn Progress reporting cycle. The performance of these students is monitored and interventions and extra curricular activities targeted at them where appropriate.

The database of students that emerges from this exercise is provided to all staff via Sims marksheets, and as spreadsheets available on the S:Drive of the College ICT system. Students identified as High Achievers are now picked out during data analysis of the three reporting cycles used at the College, and Lead Learners will form part of this group. Students who are underachieving are highlighted to subject departments and year teams so that specific interventions can be put into place.

### **Effective provision in the classroom**

All teachers are aware who is on the Lead Learner, (gifted and talented register) in their teaching groups. Teachers are encouraged to differentiate for these learners and to use questioning and activities that stretch thinking and enhance learning and study skills wherever possible.

Opportunities for curriculum enrichment are plentiful with workshops available through the College's membership of SWAG (South West Academies Group) Challenge Plus program.

### **Assessment for learning**

Data is used to evaluate pupil progress and target strategies for improving the academic performance of lead learners..

The creation of Key Stage 4 focus groups has provided students with the opportunity to provide written feedback about teaching and learning opportunities for lead learners( gifted and talented students) in the College. Regular auditing of pupil groups by the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator allows feedback to be made directly to subjects.

### **College ethos and pastoral care**

The achievements of lead learners are recognised and widely publicised using the school web site, which has a page dedicated to this group of students.

Key Stage 3 and 4 open evenings provide teachers with the opportunity to consult with parents about the ongoing opportunities and developments for lead learners (gifted and talented students).

## **Leadership**

Anna Stimson is the link governor for lead learners (gifted and talented students).

Kerrie-Ann Craddock is the Senior Management team link.

The Principal actively champions lead learners (gifted and talented students).

Ian Williamson is the Lead Learner, Coordinator and is responsible for motivating and driving most able, gifted and talented provision in the College.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy. No one will unlawfully be disadvantaged on the grounds of age, race or ethnicity, disability, gender and marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or belief under the operation of this policy.

This policy is also compliant with General Data Protection Regulation