

The St Michael Steiner School

Statement regarding 'Able, Gifted, and Talented' children

In 2008, the government defined gifted and talented pupils as, "those children who are achieving, or who have the potential to achieve, at a level substantially beyond the rest of their peer group."

While the school acknowledges that there are some children who achieve at an exceptional level generally, it is also true that most children achieve at a higher level than their peers in one area or another. All children have their strengths and weaknesses and we value artistic, practical, academic, and other abilities wherever they are seen; academic ability is not valued more than other special gifts.

Class Teachers are especially well-placed to recognise the special gifts of the children in their classes and, when we see these, steps are taken to provide for, or encourage parents to provide for, the development of these talents.

For example, we have advised parents that their children should learn to play certain musical instruments; with older children, personal projects are set and the pupils work with specialist 'mentors' to develop a particular interest.

In all classes, children who need to be 'stretched' in certain areas are given different, extra or more challenging work to do.

Review date: July 2024