

ALL ABOUT POTENTIAL PLUS UK



WELCOME

This training module will cover:

- Potential Plus UK's history and current position
- The Potential Plus UK ethos
- The structure of the organisation
- Our support for families
- Our support for schools
- Our support for professionals



POTENTIAL PLUS UK - HISTORY

- Established in 1967 as The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), an independent charity supporting gifted children.
- Founder was Margaret Branch, a Psychiatric Social Worker who recognised some children who needed more support from their schooling and their parents.
- The need was quickly established with many parents contacting the organisation for support.



POTENTIAL PLUS UK - HISTORY

- Central office initially based in London, the charity moved to Northampton in the 1980s and shared offices with NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education).
- The charities went their separate ways and in 1996 NAGC moved to Milton Keynes.
- Our location since 2001 has been in Challenge House on Sherwood Drive, close to Bletchley Park.
- Branches are run by volunteers.



POTENTIAL PLUS UK - HISTORY

- Previously supported financially by the government, this funding stopped in March 2011 at a time of global financial crisis and a change of government.
- We began using the term 'High Learning Potential' in 2011 to replace 'Gifted'.
- We changed our operating name to Potential Plus UK in February 2012; our legal charity name is still National Association for Gifted Children.



POTENTIAL PLUS UK – ETHOS CURRENT POSITION

- There is no criteria for whom we support; if a parent, a school or a professional wants advice for a child whom they think has high learning potential then we do what we can to help them.
- Our remit includes children and young people:
 - With exceptional abilities
 - Who have the ability to achieve; but who, for whatever reason, are not achieving their potential
 - Who are dual or multiple exceptional (gifted with special educational need or disability)
 - Who are profoundly gifted (approximately 0.01% of children)



POTENTIAL PLUS UK – CURRENT POSITION

- Independent charity supporting children with high learning potential.
- Registered with the charity commission, number 313182.



POTENTIAL PLUS UK – ETHOS OUR OBJECTIVES

Our charitable objective, drawn up in 1967 and still in operation today:

“To provide for children who are of outstanding natural intelligence and/or creative capacity, and to advance, further and promote the educational provision that is suited to and likely to develop their full potential.”



POTENTIAL PLUS UK – ETHOS OUR AIM

Every high learning potential young person in England and Wales receives appropriate support and challenge to secure well-being and high attainment with the skills, resilience and confidence to succeed at each stage.



POTENTIAL PLUS UK'S ETHOS OUR STRAPLINE

Our Strapline is **DISCOVER, NURTURE, SUCCEED.**

This is because we want to help:

- to **DISCOVER** children's potential
- to **NURTURE** their gifts and talents
- to help children **SUCCEED.**



POTENTIAL PLUS UK – ETHOS WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

We are the only organisation that works positively with all parties involved with a child with high learning potential, including parents/carers.



POTENTIAL PLUS UK'S VALUES

The values we promote are:

- **Fairness**
- **Accessibility and Affordability**
- **Continuous Improvement**
- **Advice is Research and Experience-Based**
- **Responsive to Rights and Needs of Individuals**



THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

As a registered charity, Potential Plus UK:

- Furthers our charitable purpose through the work we do.
- Acts for ‘public benefit’ in accordance with the Charities Act.
- Has a volunteer board of trustees who have overall control of the charity and who are responsible for making sure it is doing what it was set up to do.



THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

- We have several high profile ambassadors who advocate for children with high learning potential and raise the profile of Potential Plus UK.
- Current ambassadors are:
 - Prof Jeff Forshaw, Professor of Particle Physics at the University of Manchester
 - Prof A. C. Grayling, Professor of Philosophy and Master at the New College of Humanities
 - Dr Jonathan Hare, Doctor of Physics, freelance research scientist and TV Presenter
 - Prof Barry Hymers, Professor of Psychology in Education at the University of Cumbria, experienced teacher, chartered educational psychologist and author.
 - Sir Mike Tomlinson, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector for Schools 2000-2002
 - Baroness Morris of Yardley, Labour MP for Birmingham Yardley from 1992-2005, including Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (97-98), Minister of State (98-01); Secretary of State (01-02) in the Department for Education and Skills 2001-02
 - Robert Ashton, Social Entrepreneur, Author and Campaigner



THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

- Our trustees employ the Chief Executive. Since 1st Jan 2018 this has been Julie Taplin.
- The staff team (most of whom work part-time hours) comprises:
 - Julie Taplin, Chief Executive
 - Rebecca Howell, Senior Education Consultant
 - Andrea Anguera, Senior Assessor
 - Tracy Morsbach, Finance and Office Manager
 - Geraldine Glover, Member Engagement Officer
 - Olivia Smith, Events Coordinator
 - Caroline Hooton-Picard, Advisor
 - Holly Smith, Administration Assistant
- We also work with associates for assessments, training, editing and proofreading
- Volunteers



THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

- There are currently 3 active branches:
 - Greater Manchester and Cheshire
 - Surrey
 - East Anglia South
- These are run by volunteers, each have a committee and signed up to a service level agreement. The activities they run vary in frequency, age suitability and type.



OUR SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

- First stop for most is our website:
 - www.potentialplusuk.org
- Public area includes information about:
 - The charity
 - The meaning of the term high learning potential
 - How we can support parents, schools and professionals
 - Events relevant for high learning potential children



OUR SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

There is also information in the families area about:

- Profiles of children with high learning potential
- Common difficulties
- Social and emotional issues
 - Asynchronous development, hypersensitivity and perfectionism
- Dual or multiple exceptionality



OUR SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Also on the website are the following resources:

- Could Your Child Have HLP? Questionnaire
- Fact and advice sheets (some are free to the public)
- Resources
- Activity booklets
- Information about assessments
- Events diary

In addition, we have a web chat service, a Facebook page and are active on Twitter.



OUR SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Membership

Families can become members of Potential Plus UK, which entitles them to:

- Advice service appointments
- Further website information
- Free downloads of all fact and advice sheets
- Discounts on our assessment service
- Discounts on events
- Focus On Potential member mailing



OUR SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

- We operate two Facebook Groups, Parenting High Potential and Parenting Gifted Children UK, which have over 2300 and 700 parents as members respectively.
- We provide national events organised by central office and local events through our branches. These are open to the public and members receive a discount.
- We provide an Instant Messaging helpline via the website that is open and free to anyone.



OUR SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

Assessments

Our assessment service is run from central office but we also have assessors in Somerset, Essex and Northampton. We provide:

- High Learning Potential Assessment (HLPAs) for children aged 4½-18 years.
- Early Years Assessment of Potential for ages 3-4½ years
- Individualised Sensory Profile
- Handwriting Profile
- Emotional and Social Profile



OUR SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

Our website has information for schools about:

- Identifying high potential learners
- Provision for high potential learners
- Dual or multiple exceptionality
- Our High Learning Potential Best Practice Award
- Our Professional Development
- Our Parent Matters Workshops



OUR SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

We offer membership to schools. School members have to watch an online module and agree to support high potential learners. Members receive:

- Logo for use on website and letterhead
- Certificate of membership
- Focus On Potential member mailing
- Advice appointments (by telephone)
- Free family memberships
- Discounts on Professional Development & Parent Matters Workshops
- Full criteria for the High Learning Potential Best Practice Award
- Eligibility to apply for High Learning Potential Best Practice Award



OUR SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

High Learning Potential Best Practice Award

- Launched in September 2018
- School members can apply to be assessed
- Has 3 levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
- Applicants provide a portfolio of evidence showing the work they are doing with high potential learners
- We visit to carry out an assessment



OUR SUPPORT FOR PROFESSIONALS

- There is information on the Professionals area of our website to inform and help professionals support high learning potential children.
- We offer professional membership, which includes:
 - Monthly e-newsletter
 - Member logo for website, letterhead and marketing
 - Certificate of membership
 - Access to telephone advice appointments
 - Member rates for professional development



WHAT DID WE COVER?....

- Potential Plus UK's history and current position
- The Potential Plus UK ethos
- The structure of the organisation
- Our support for families
- Our support for schools
- Our support for professionals


