

Gifted and Talented education – pupil and parent guarantees

High level information for parents, pupils,
schools and local authorities

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Background

The White Paper - *Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system* offers a new guarantee for each child and their parents about what they can expect at school. The Pupil and Parent Guarantees (PPG) bring together in one place an account of the key components of a good education. The focus throughout is on the entitlements and the responsibilities of pupils and parents. The Guarantees will help to ensure that parents and pupils know what they can expect from schools. The Guarantees also spell out what schools can expect from parents and pupils in terms of their responsibilities to support schools.

This offer includes a specific entitlement for gifted and talented pupils.

The Pupil Guarantee says:

That every pupil identified as gifted and talented receives written confirmation by their school of the extra challenge and support they will receive [in the classroom and outside school hours].

The Parent Guarantee says:

Parents receive written confirmation of the extra challenge and support their child will receive if they are identified as gifted and talented and a clear understanding of what they should do to help them.

New directions

The DCSF is in the process of reforming support for G&T education, aligning it with the broader direction on schools' policy as set out in the 21st Century Schools White Paper and ensuring we are better placed to meet the needs of all G&T learners.

The G&T programme will be embedded within the new approach to personalisation set out in the White Paper. This will enable DCSF to build on the progress in G&T education to date, which includes:

- embedding national quality standards for G&T education in all schools, backed up by training, support and guidance provided through the National Strategies
- securing regional collaboration in support of G&T education in every government region and introducing a network of 170 high-performing specialist schools (HPSS) supporting G&T education
- a National Challenge G&T project, working with over 60 National Challenge schools to develop 'excellence for all' school improvement strategies, led by G&T practice.

The information that follows relates to the intentions set out in the 21st Century Schools White Paper and the DCSF consultation document 'The Pupil and Parent Guarantees'.

The Guarantees

The Pupil and Parent Guarantees will support this reform of G&T education in the following ways.

- The White Paper guarantees support and challenge for G&T pupils, with greater emphasis on the responsibilities of individual schools to provide for their needs.
- The inclusion of G&T in the Guarantees strengthens accountability in that it will require schools to be clearer and far more explicit about the support they are (and will be) providing.
- Every identified G&T learner and their parents will be provided with details – and have a formal record – of the provision that schools will secure in the classroom and out of school hours.
- The description of provision need not amount to an individual education plan unless the school expressly wishes to use this approach. It should address elements of the Institutional Quality Standards (IQS) for Gifted and Talented education as follows:
 - effective provision in the classroom
 - enabling curriculum entitlement and choice
 - assessment for learning
 - school ethos and pastoral care
 - engaging with the community, families and beyond
 - learning beyond the classroom.
- Parents and carers will be told by the school when their child has been identified as G&T and they will get written confirmation of the support they will receive.
- The DCSF will publish guidance for schools to help them meet the G&T provisions in the Guarantees and will publicise the Guarantees to parents. This guidance will set out expectations in more detail and include advice on:
 - what the guarantees should include, for pupils and for parents
 - a suggested format for providing the information to parents and to pupils
 - what might be included as supplementary information
 - how often the guarantees need to be updated
 - how to incorporate and make best use of information from parents and external agencies or organisations that might recognise or provide for the individual child
 - how to ensure any information provided is tailored to the individual child
 - the principles that underpin and guide decisions about the provision made
 - a time line for implementation of the Pupil and Parent Guarantees to support schools with their preparation and planning.
- The Guarantees will support parents and carers in engaging in discussions with schools about the provision they are making, and enable them to establish with the school their role as coeducators of their G&T children.
- Schools should embed effective support for G&T learners within their personalised learning strategies and integrate it within their whole-school improvement plans. It should not be an ‘add-on’ or require additional work.

For further information and to respond to the Public Consultation on the Introduction of the Pupil and Parent Guarantees go to www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1692&external=no&menu=1

It is expected that the Pupil and Parent Guarantees will come into effect from September 2011.

Audience: Parents, pupils, schools and local authorities

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