

More Able Policy

This document should be read in conjunction with the following complementary documents:

- Assessment, Marking and Reporting Policy (Junior School)
- Assessment, Marking and Reporting Policy (Senior School)
- Curriculum Policy (Junior School)
- Curriculum Policy (Senior School)
- Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Inclusion Policy

Further to these policies, we aim to respond to the particular needs of those pupils who are recognised as having exceptional abilities and talents and to provide a suitably stimulating and challenging environment, both curricular and co-curricular, which will allow those abilities and talents to develop.

There are many definitions of gifted and talented students but DfE guidelines state that such children are those 'with one or more abilities developed to a level significantly ahead of their year group or with the potential to develop those abilities.' At Silcoates we refer to these students as More Able (MA). At the centre of our policy is a consistent and committed approach from all staff and faculties to provide a secure, challenging environment for all students, ensuring that no ceiling is placed on achievement. We therefore encourage all our students to become independent learners with high aspirations.

Evidence used to identify pupils as More Able

- Reading ages.
- Teacher observations/discussions/work scrutiny.
- Parental information.
- Test scores resulting from baseline testing. In the Senior School, a score of 126+ in a MidYIS/Yellis/ALIS score rates a pupil as More Able.
- Examination results.
- Sporting achievement.

Aims

Silcoates aims to:

- challenge all students within the classroom whilst ensuring the most able are sufficiently stretched



- provide stimulating learning experiences for all pupils that encourage independence and autonomy, and support pupils in using their initiative and allow them to achieve their full potential
- provide opportunities for students to work at higher cognitive levels
- provide opportunities for pupils to develop specific skills and talents
- encourage pupils to reflect on the process of their learning and to understand the factors that help them to make progress
- foster the development of a well-rounded and balance individual, both intellectually and socially
- encourage pupils to be open to ideas and initiatives presented by others, thus promoting the importance of citizenship and cultural diversity
- encourage pupils to develop leadership potential and provide opportunities for this
- celebrate achievement

Extra Faculty and whole school Opportunities within the Classroom for MA pupils

- The Extended Project (EPQ) is offered to able students within the Sixth Form.
- Oxbridge and Top Universities Group and a yearly trip to the Oxford University open day.
- Pupils are streamed in Years 8 and 9 and throughout for Maths. Setting is in place for English and Maths at GCSE.
- The provision of Additional Mathematics for able pupils in Year 11, with the opportunity to take Further Mathematics as an additional GCSE.
- A flexible curriculum so pupils can choose options according to their strengths.
- The opportunity to be involved with national academic challenges, such as Chemistry Olympiad (year 12 and 13) and C3L6 competition (Year 12).
- Provision of enrichment and extension activities so pupils have opportunities to learn beyond specifications, e.g. The Chanteys our sixth form discussion club , Electronics club
- Differentiation within subject areas, such as additional research, wider reading or additional sessions to help broaden a pupil's experience.
- Development of independent learning, by allowing pupils to organise their own work, carry out tasks unaided, evaluate their work and become self-sufficient.
- Peer mentoring scheme with More Able students in Y13/12 supporting Y11 students
- A wide variety of specialist trips; e.g. Rotary engineering trips, Politics conferences and visits to Drax power station, Water treatment works etc
- Careers specialist advice including careers breakfasts with outside speakers
- A broad music programme that includes a number of performances each year, specialist teachers e.g. singing workshops and drumming classes. A range of music specialists that offer in school lessons
- Sporting fixtures, teams and clubs. We have supported students with specialist sports outside of our curriculum reach e.g. sponsorship for motor racing



- The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. The school is a registered assessor for these awards.
- A range of scholarships for academic excellence as well as art, music or sporting excellence

Pastoral Guidance and wellbeing

Our pastoral system ensures that all students are supported with their learning. Heads of Year, form tutors and class teachers all monitor the progress of students and encourage personal, emotional, social and moral and spiritual development of each individual student including the More Able. Support includes setting longer term goals through the academic review meetings, encouraging participation in a range of clubs and extracurricular activities, Parental contact and Parents’ evenings, Referral to the Head of Year.

Continuing professional development

Silcoates holds professional development at the core of its priorities and the training provided has an annual focus on More Able. Training forms part of; staff briefings, whole school INSET and staff meetings. Topics covered over the last 3 years include: The importance of student metacognition, Launch of the reading Strategy, High quality homework, Independent learners, Quality marking and feedback, Interleaved retrieval, Effective questioning, Sparking curiosity and creativity and Developing critical thinking skills.

Quality assurance of the effectiveness of classroom teaching of the most able is monitored in results analysis, work scrutiny, learning walks, lesson observations and is a focus at SLT and Faculty leaders meetings

The School is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the School’s Equal Opportunity Policy document.

Reviewed by:	Mrs Redfearn – Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning)		
Date of last review:	April 2024	Date of next review:	April 2025

