

‘More Able’ Frequently Asked Questions.

1. What does being more able really mean?

The DfE and Ofsted define the more able in terms of those whose progress significantly exceeds age related expectations. The National Association for Able Children in Education describe, *'exceptionally able pupils are those who have the capacity to achieve or perform at the very highest levels'* across the curriculum subjects.

2. How are more able learners identified?

During the first term every year, teachers highlight around 5 % of their class who they feel qualify as more able learners this is usually about 3 children. However, sometimes this might be more or less, depending on the mix of children. The register of more able learners is reviewed again before the end of the academic year.

3. Why might my child be identified?

The reasons learners are identified as more able might be for their abilities as outlined in point 1. They could of course be identified for more than one area.

4. Why is my child not on the register?

There are occasions when learners have not been highlighted as more able by the class teacher, but as a parent you feel they should be. Please contact your child's class teacher, where you can discuss your concerns and share any areas of ability the school might not be aware of.

5. What criteria are used for identification?

Schools have the discretion to decide how best to identify their more able learners, but are likely to obtain the best results by drawing on a wide range of information. There are no official identification criteria for children at Primary School age, but we use a recognised list of criteria and make a judgement based on an analysis of various sources of information including:

- Teachers' Observations, discussions with learners, work scrutiny
- Test scores e.g. SATs /diagnostic spelling, reading and maths
- Parent, peer or self-nomination
- Parent observations and comments

6. Will my child always be on the register?

Sometimes learners are on the register one year and not the next. This is often due to learners changing over time and progress is not always consistent. Also, it may be because they are not in the top 5%, as the make-up of the class has changed over time.

7. What will happen when they go to secondary school?

At secondary school, there is a national set of standards and they still choose about 5% of each year group. It is important to note that this may result in children who have been identified at Primary School, not

appearing on the register at Secondary School or vice versa. This obviously depends on the intake for that particular year group.

8. How will I know if my child is on the more able register?

Parents should be informed that their child is on the register at the first Parents Evening of the academic year. This will give parents an opportunity to discuss any issues and allows teachers to explain fully why their child has been selected. It is often more complex than simply being 'good' at something.

9. How will my child be supported?

After the identification process, every teacher has a clear understanding of those learners in their class who have been identified as well as the reasons for this identification. When teachers plan, every lesson has specific activities, questions or expectations for those learners who are on the more able register, as well as for other specific groups of learners. Also, learners will be invited to join more able clubs and workshops throughout the year to develop certain skills. Recent clubs have included the development of our more able learners in Art, Science, ICT and Literacy.

10. Who should I contact if I don't feel my child is getting enough support?

If after speaking to your child's class teacher you still feel that they are not receiving the appropriate support, please make an appointment to speak to Mrs Scutt or Mrs Surch.

11. Should I do extra work at home?

As each child is an individual, it is best to talk with your child's class teacher for suggestions. For some learners additional work is seen as a challenge which they thoroughly enjoy, for others additional work can very easily de-motivate them. Success always follows a joint decision made between school and home.

12. Where can I get more information?

Mrs Dye is our More Able Co-ordinator and is always pleased to speak to parents about the provision for more able learners.

Further information regarding more able learners can be found at:

<http://www.nace.co.uk/node/24>

<http://www.potentialplusuk.org/>