



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Higher Attainers Policy

Version 1.3 March 2022

(Previously Most Able Policy, Version 1.1 July 2017)

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CHURCH ROAD
LAVERSTOCK
SALISBURY
SP1 1QY

Success Criteria:		
Context/Aim: At St Joseph's we believe that education is the basis that underpins a positive successful adult life. This policy provides guidance as to how we will meet the needs of our higher attaining pupils, as identified by KS2 SATs results, CAT scores and by other relevant sources of information.		
Monitoring Procedures:		
By Whom: Governors' Academic Committee	When: Biennially	How: Reports to the Governors' Academic Committee
Evaluation:		
By Whom: Head teacher and the Governors Academic Committee	When: Biennially	How: SLT and the Governors to review Policy

Revision History:			
Version	Approved and Ratified	Review Date	Additional Notes
1.3	March 2022	March 2024	Additional Partnerships included: St John Fisher School, SWGS, Elevate & Strategies for Success
1.2	January 2020	January 2022	None
1.1	July 2017	July 2019	Changed to Higher Attainers from G&T
1.0	May 2017	May 2018	None

Vision Statement:
<p>St Joseph's is a co-educational, 11-16 Catholic voluntary-aided school in the diocese of Clifton and the county of Wiltshire. Our aim is to provide a caring educational environment where each person is valued and is given the dignity due to a child of God.</p> <p>At the heart of our school is the Christian vision of the human person. We want each member of our community to grow as an individual witness to the gospel values of love, truth, and justice. We want each pupil to be healthy in mind, body, and spirit.</p> <p>Each member of our community should feel safe and secure in the learning environment. We aim to develop a sense of self-discipline and responsibility in our pupils. Everyone in our community should show respect for themselves, respect for others and respect for the environment.</p> <p>We believe that each pupil should have the opportunity to enjoy and achieve to their full potential. We are committed to praising and celebrating achievement. We want our pupils to have high expectations of themselves to understand the value of service to others and our responsibility as stewards of the environment. Everyone has a contribution to make in helping to build the common good. We aim to equip our pupils with the ability to make good choices in their lives based on the positive relationships and values they have learned in St Joseph's.</p> <p>We aim to help each of our pupils to develop morally and spiritually. We want them to achieve economic well-being while being mindful of the needs of others who are less fortunate.</p> <p>We are committed to aspiring for excellence in all that we do for the sake of the Gospel.</p> <p>Head teacher</p>

National Policies and guidance/courses referred to and incorporated into SJCS Policy:	
Document/Course Title:	Document/Course Date:
NPQSL Project: Raising Attainment of Higher Attainer Learners at SJCS	Academic Year 2019–20
Educational Excellence Everywhere: Department for Education	March 2016
The most able students: an update on progress: Ofsted	March 2015

Other SJCS Policies that relate to this Policy:
Curriculum Policy
Safeguarding Policy
Child Protection Policy

Rationale:

We believe that each pupil should have the opportunity to enjoy and achieve to their full potential, and we provide appropriate learning experiences for pupils of all abilities. This policy provides guidance as to how we will meet the needs of our most able pupils by meeting the following objectives:

- To identify our higher attaining pupils (HA)
- To ensure staff are able to identify the HA pupils in their class
- To offer pupils identified as higher attainers in each year group a place in a class specifically for HA learners, so rapid and sustained progress can be achieved (mixed ability teaching will remain in GCSE option subjects)
- To address the needs of our most able pupils; higher attainers and talented pupils, through providing support and teaching which makes their learning challenging, stimulating and enables them to reach their full potential
- To provide enrichment activities outside the classroom for our higher attaining pupils
- To develop independent learning and to support self-reliance and motivation
- Ensure awareness of HA booklets in each subject, available to all, on the school website
- To raise aspirations for higher attaining pupils
- To liaise with the parents/carers of HA pupils to ensure awareness and support
- To actively engage in action research with staff about the most effective ways of stretching the most able students

Definition and Identification of Higher Attainers

There are a number of ways in which higher attaining pupils are identified.

- Initially through Key Stage 2 SATs (although during the pandemic this has not been used for the years 2020 and 2021)
- This has been cross referenced with FFT Prior Attainment band
- For all year groups, CAT tests¹ undertaken at the start of Year 7 (118+ = higher attainers; very high 126+; 112–118 for disadvantaged learners)
- Using the Assessment Point data from all staff, three times a year

Higher Attaining learners will be placed in a class together where rapid progress and a greater depth of learning will be further encouraged to take place. At KS3, the HA learners will be taught in this class at all times. At KS4, HA learners will be taught in this class for the core subjects, but Option subjects will remain mixed ability.

Pupils that show particular ability and progress greatly above expectation in a finite number of subjects (e.g. two) will be tracked, monitored, supported and challenged by the department in that subject. There are also pupils who are defined as 'talented' who show ability in Music, Drama, Art, or P.E. It is expected that these pupils will be supported and stretched within the relevant subject area.

Provision

In-class approaches that are used by our teachers include:

- Provision for all HA pupils in lesson planning
- Opportunities for HA pupils to work with others of the same ability within classes
- The management of student groupings in both set and mixed ability sets
- The provision of stretch and challenge activities and tasks in order to further/deepen knowledge and understanding
- Tracking and monitoring of all HA pupils by teachers, Heads of Department, Director of Learning and the Assistant Head teacher so that those not making expected progress are offered the intervention and support they need to achieve their targets
- The development of independent learning strategies to allow pupils to organise their own work, evaluate it and also develop critical awareness – this is provided in house and also by external agencies such as Elevate and Strategies for Success as well as working in collaboration with South Wiltshire Grammar School for Girls
- Consistent support to achieve ambitious targets for our HA cohort

¹ CAT tests (Cognitive Abilities Test) are a suite of tests developed to support schools to understand pupils' abilities and academic potential. The set of four scores obtained from the assessment provides a profile of a pupil's level and pattern of abilities across a range of skills, and also provides a useful summary of their reasoning abilities across the four areas.

Enrichment Activities

All HA pupils are offered additional enrichment experiences in each subject area that complements the enrichment that is offered to all pupils; each department has the responsibility of planning and developing the activity. Some departments choose that the Key Stage 4 Most Able pupils support the enrichment offered to Key Stage 3 learners, others prefer separate activities to further knowledge, understanding and experiences. These activities are reviewed and modified annually.

HA pupils in Year 10 are offered an opportunity to visit the University of Oxford in the summer term.

HA pupils across the school are also offered enrichment activities with South Wilts Grammar School, such as attendance at talks and the 2020 SWAT Challenge Day and regular study skills workshops for Year 11 pupils

In 2022 we have introduced a new partnership with Saint John Fisher School and will be holding a Golden Jubilee Quiz with them with a view to doing other events with them in the future

HA Booklets for the pupils in Year 7 & 8 to access and work through voluntarily.

Parents

The parents/carers of every pupil identified as HA will:

- Receive information about the individual activities taking place that their son/daughter has been invited to so they can discuss participation at home
- Receive regular updates on progress
- Be informed if their son/daughter is not achieving their targets either by the subject teacher or Assistant Head teacher and the support that will be put in place for targets to be achieved
- Be made aware of invitations to participate in department and whole school activities specifically designed for the most able

Roles and Responsibilities

The Assistant Head teacher working with the Director of Learning with responsibility for HA learners has overall responsibility for:

- Ensuring that the policy is implemented
- Coordinating the monitoring of progress after Assessment Points for HA T learners
- Liaising with parents on HA events and issues
- Supporting departments in planning for their HA learners
- Ensuring information about HA learners is available from feeder/previous schools for staff to utilise

- Keeping the Governing Body informed about the progress of Higher Attainers
- Ensuring that our Most Able learners receive the stretch and challenge they need in lessons to aid their progress

Heads of Department and class teachers are responsible for:

- Reviewing provision in MTPs and LTPs for HA learners
- Using strategies to aid pupils identified as HA
- Researching, planning, and executing experiences that will benefit the pupils
- Monitor the progress of pupils identified as HA at department meetings and after Assessment Points, in order to ensure rapid progress is made
- Identifying learners that are making extremely rapid progress that might benefit from moving to a HA set
- Support teachers in ensuring all HA pupils achieve and attain at St Joseph's.