

*Meánscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Cill Chainnigh*  
**Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny.**

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**EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE, GIFTED, TALENTED STUDENTS  
SEN POLICY Feb 2025**

<b>School Name:</b>	Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny
<b>School Address:</b>	James's Street, Kilkenny
<b>School Details:</b>	CBS Kilkenny is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education and is a single sex (boys) school.
<b>School Management:</b>	The Board of Management of CBS Kilkenny is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

## **Mission Statement**

Inspired by its founder, CBS Kilkenny aims to provide Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The school endeavours to be a caring Christian Community which promotes to the best of its ability the personal, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of its students.

## **Ethos**

As an Edmund Rice School, CBS Kilkenny seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership in the school community
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

In this policy, the term “Parents” refers also to legal guardians.

## **Students with Special (or Additional) Educational Needs (SEN)**

With the mission statement above as its guiding principal, the school believes that all students should be valued equally irrespective of individual needs or differences. The school is committed to providing an environment which enables all students to progress towards achieving their potential. Inclusion to this end needs a whole school approach. Our school culture acknowledges, values and celebrates excellence.

## **Relevant Legislation**

The Education Act (1998) obliges schools to meet SEN of all students, including the exceptionally able.

## **Aim**

The aim of this policy is to provide a framework for the identification and ongoing support of exceptionally able, gifted and/or talented students to ensure that they have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. This aim is shared by the whole school community in a collaborative approach.

## **Objectives**

- To help support these students to avail of activities which will allow them to achieve their full potential
- To encourage these students to become independent learners
- To provide opportunities for these students to work together especially in the context of extra-curricular activities and competitions and thus reduce the potential for isolation.

## **Definitions**

### **Definitions of Exceptionally Able, Gifted, Talented:**

- The identification of exceptionally able students is linked to context, and in every school there will be a group of students who require extended educational opportunities, regardless of how they compare to exceptionally able students in other schools. With that in mind approximately 5-10% of the school population may be exceptionally able and will demonstrate very high levels of attainment in one or more of the following areas: general intellectual ability, specific academic aptitude, visual and performing arts, sports, leadership ability, creative and productive thinking, mechanical ingenuity and special abilities in empathy, understanding and negotiation.
- *Gifted* refers to students who achieve or have the ability to achieve at a level significantly in advance of their year group nationally, in one or more subjects in the state curriculum.
- *Talented* refers to students who show exceptional ability in an extra-curricular field.
- *Exceptionally Able* refers to the most able of the gifted and talented students.

## **Identification**

We aim to identify gifted, talented and exceptionally able students using a variety of methods.

- We identify gifted students by analysis of performance data from entrance assessment tests and other assessments during their school life.
- We identify talented students by teachers' analysis of students in music, art, PE etc.
- We identify our exceptionally able students by:  
Prior attainment (1<sup>st</sup> Year assessments), as well as via teacher recommendation.  
Internal assessment and examination results.
- We promote the early identification of gifted, talented, and exceptionally able students using information passed on by primary schools and the exchange of information within the school.
- Teachers as part of the whole school approach will be encouraged to use their professional judgment and experience through observation of a student's rates of progress in acquiring relevant knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Parents are likely to have a detailed knowledge of their children's abilities, and can be a very useful source of information in identifying a student with exceptional ability. We aim to work in partnership with parents to further develop these exceptionally able, gifted and talented students.

The specific procedure will vary according to the subject/activity area but may include elements of the following:

- Teacher nomination
- Year Head nomination
- Coach/Mentor nomination
- CAT/PPAD-E/standardised testing data (scoring 125 + in subsections)
- School based assessment
- Assessment results outside school
- External agency/organisation
- Parental/self-nomination

The following areas are considered:

- Intellectual ability
- Specific academic aptitude or talent
- Problem solving ability
- Leadership ability
- Sports/Performing Arts
- Special abilities in empathy, understanding and negotiation.
- Creative and productive thinking
- Mechanical ingenuity

## **Record-Keeping**

- Information regarding exceptionally able students is available to teachers through senior management, within the limits of GDPR.
- Parents are informed where appropriate. We aim to work in partnership with parents to further develop these exceptionally able, gifted and talented students.
- Records of the students' performances are maintained and stored securely in line with GDPR.

## **Provision in place for our gifted and talented students**

We strive to ensure that we:

- Recognise all achievement.
- Provide the opportunity for all students to get involved in a wide range of extracurricular and co-curricular activities through our extensive range of programmes. Encourage all students to take ownership of their learning.
- Use an array of assessment tools, including standardised assessments and in-class testing (both formative and summative), to generate comprehensive data relating to student attainment levels.
- Analyse the data generated to track the academic progress of students throughout their school journey.
- Identify students who need further support to extend their learning. We aim to work in partnership with parents to further develop these exceptionally able, gifted and talented students.
- Provide staff with opportunities to develop differentiating activities through TeachMeets and other educational meetings.
- Affirm academic achievement through the termly reports and the end of year ceremony.
- Regularly affirm student's exceptional talents through the merit system, school app, social media, termly newsletters and end of year award ceremonies.
- Provide leadership opportunities within curricular, extracurricular and co-curricular aspects of school life for gifted and talented students.

## **Teacher/Student Skill Development across the Curriculum**

We recognise that all students are entitled to develop their potential to the full. As a result, we believe in promoting challenges for all students. We aim to work in partnership with parents to further develop these exceptionally able, gifted and talented students.

- We will endeavour to promote this development through the enhancement of the teacher's own awareness and skills.
- We will ensure the development of questioning, thinking and problem solving skills
- We will provide opportunities to develop effective research techniques and ICT skills especially in relation to STEM subjects.
- We will encourage the development of communication skills, leadership skills and the application of empathic intelligence.
- We will promote a culture of pride in achievements.
- We will encourage and celebrate the expression of special abilities - musical, sporting, theatrical and artistic, through presentations, commendations and the awarding of certificates at appropriate times during the school year.

## **Differentiation (for the Gifted, Talented and Exceptionally Able)**

- Students are encouraged to be autonomous learners.
- Students are provided with opportunities to work with like-minded students.
- Students and parents are informed about CTYI, STEM, e.g. Trinity Walton Club.
- Students are encouraged to take up opportunities such as, but not limited to:
  - Applied Maths
  - Maths Olympiad
  - Science Olympiad
  - Linguistic Olympiad
  - Coder dojo
  - EREBB Leadership Certificate
  - Tráth na gCeist
  - Gaisce award
  - School musical
  - BT Young Scientist
  - Rotary Youth Leadership
  - Microsoft Office Suite
  - Debating
  - UCD Ad Astra Scholarships
- Extra-curricular activities such as science and maths quizzes, debating and public speaking are promoted to these students.
- Resources are made available for the development of these students as appropriate and where feasible.
- Scholarships for third level are highlighted through careers classes and at parent information evenings.

## **Teacher Professional Learning/Continuous Professional Development (TPL/CPD)**

The school may, from time to time as appropriate and dependent on resources, assign staff training days or allow staff to attend inservice training in the implementation of this policy.

### **Useful Websites**

[www.ctyi.ie](http://www.ctyi.ie)

[www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

## **Approval**

This policy has been approved by CBS Kilkenny Board of Management.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management