



ST ANDREW'S
CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1885



Gifted and talented education programme

At St Andrew's we seek to ensure every learner
is engaged and growing every day

www.sacs.nsw.edu.au

Sydney Square, Sydney



heart
mind
life

Gifted students given every chance to thrive

St Andrew's Cathedral School recognises that all students have gifts and deserve to have their specific learning needs met. The St Andrew's Cathedral School's Gifted and Talented Educational Programme is designed to target students whose learning needs differ significantly enough to warrant a special programme.

From our core values, we believe it is important to develop the talents of academically gifted students, just as we do any other student who may possess sporting, musical or other talents. The school's intention is to provide a level of support to all students to ensure every student is engaged and learning every day.

Definition of Giftedness and Talent

Gagné's definition states that:

Giftedness is the potential to perform at a level considerably superior to one's age peers in one or more domains of ability.

Talent, by contrast, is defined as significantly superior achievement or performance in one or more fields of human performance.

Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent clearly defines the process by which **potential ability** may be guided along an educational continuum leading to the realisation of **talent** and **skill**. This model serves as a guide for identification of student giftedness and the emergence of ability at every age level.

St Andrew's Cathedral School's Coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Education Programme, Mrs Emily Edwards, explains how gifted students are often neglected in our Australian culture.

"Gifted and talented students are the most under-represented group of students," Mrs Edwards says. "There have long been provisions

What is meant by "Twice Exceptional"?

At St Andrew's we recognise that some highly able students also have an identified physical, emotional or learning issue or deficit (such as auditory or visual impairment, Asperger's Syndrome, or those with auditory or visual processing issues).

Learning can be very difficult for these students because they have so much intellectual capacity but they may not be able to write a sentence or articulate what they are thinking. At St Andrew's, we examine each student's profile and focus on developing the whole student through their strengths, ensuring they have "successes" and can build on these achievements.



providing learning support at the other end of the spectrum. Gifted students need to be catered for and they need support just as much as those students who need help to keep up with their year group. It is a myth that 'they'll just get by on their own' and it is not meeting their needs at all.

"Students who are bored and not challenged are at risk of becoming school haters, and developing behavioural issues and even depression."

Our school's learning model is flexible and open-ended, making it suitably challenging and engaging for gifted students.

Scholarships

Academic Scholarships and Music Scholarships are offered at a number of entry points across the school. Information about these scholarships is available on the School website.

Specialised staff (qualified and experienced in Gifted Education)

We have a number of highly qualified and experienced staff with post graduate qualifications in Gifted Education:

Mrs Emily Edwards

Coordinator of Gifted Education K – 10
Certificate of Gifted Education, (currently completing a Masters of Gifted Education at UNSW)

Mrs Rhonda Robson

Head of the Junior School
Previously Coordinator of Gifted Education
Masters of Education (Counselling Psychology)
Certificate of Gifted Education (UNSW)

Mr Philip Baldock

K – 6 Support Teacher
Masters of Special Education
Certificate of Gifted Education (UNSW)

Mrs Penni Maher

Head of Support Education
Masters of Special Education

Teachers currently undertaking the Certificate of Gifted Education

Mrs Nikki Bowden (Junior School Teacher)
Danielle Taylor (Junior School Teacher)
Miss Kate Scarfo (Music Teacher)
Alicia Coffee (Middle School Teacher)
Teegan Colusso (Senior School Teacher)
Kate Layhe (MYP Coordinator)

Accelerated classes (high ability class groupings)

Junior School

At St Andrew's Junior School we ensure all students are challenged at their ability level, with differentiated spelling, reading and maths groups within each class. School-wide assessment and screening processes occur regularly, tracking the progress of all students to identify those students who may need individualized assistance or benefit by extension programmes or provisions beyond the core curriculum.

Those high ability students assessed as being in the gifted category are placed in year group or stage-based high ability classes, called **Accelerated Classes (also known as opportunity classes)** from Year 3 to Year 6. The Gifted Education Committee decides which students would benefit most by placement in the Accelerated Class or cluster groupings. Accelerated Classes focus on creating momentum in learning, meaning the curriculum is compacted and students learn at a faster pace, with less repetition, alongside like-minded students.

St Andrew's believes the social and psychological benefits of placing like-minded students together in a classroom is just as important as the academic outcomes for these students. They are offered a plethora of opportunities to excel, seize, soar and compete.

St Andrew's is breaking new ground in facilitating **grade skipping** for exceptional all-rounders and **single subject acceleration** for those who excel in one or more areas. This

ensures we are catering for every student's needs and challenging and extending them. Students will only be accelerated if the school believes it to be in the best interests of the student and follows a transparent, collaborative, research based, data rich and deliberated process.

Secondary School

A focus on **inquiry-based learning** is a major feature of our **Middle School** (Years 7 to 9) curriculum, with the introduction of the **International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP)**. Within the framework of encouraging organisational skill, individual research and both inter-disciplinary and global connections, inquisitive learners have opportunities to flourish. Research into the learning styles of gifted students has recommended this approach to curriculum for its integration of knowledge, process of inquiry and holistic perspectives within the learning environment.

In St Andrew's **Middle School** (Years 7 to 9), the students are **streamed** in core subjects and students have the opportunity to be extended in their learning through competitions and a wide range of activities and events.

In St Andrew's **Senior College** (Years 10-12), both the Higher School Certificate and **International Baccalaureate Diploma** are offered, with the academically rigorous IB Diploma considered to be most suited to all-round achievers, who thrive on being challenged. Students of high ability may also be offered other opportunities, including Subject Acceleration and early entry to university.



Some of the exciting events and challenging opportunities offered to St Andrew's students include:

Event/ Opportunity	Junior School years	Senior School years	Event/ Opportunity	Junior School years	Senior School years
Advanced placement homework	K – 6		I Q 20 Debates (Ethics.org.au)		7 – 10
Australasian Philosothon		7 – 11	ICAS examinations – full suite	All	7 – 10
Bright Sparks Breaky	3 – 6		Interschol Chess Competition	5, 6	
Confronting Concepts KINGS		7 – 10	Interest Inventories	5, 6	7 – 10
daVinci Decathlon	5, 6	7 – 10	Mathematical Olympiad (APSMO)	5, 6	
Drama Mentors	4 – 6	10 – 12	Mathematics Challenge Camp	6	
Engaging with the Experts presentations	K – 6	7 – 10	Maths Mentors	5, 6	11, 12
Enrichment meta cognition quizzes	K – 6		MCA – Visible Thinking ATL Sessions	3 – 6	7 – 10
Extension Classes, curriculum compacting, above level testing, grade skipping	K – 6		Mentor Programme		7 – 10
Extension Math group placement	3 – 6		Parent Information Evenings with speaker	All	All
Future Problem Solving	5, 6	7, 8	Personal projects	K – 6	
G & T Profiles	K – 6	7 – 10	Philosophy/ Philosothon/ Community of Inquiry	K – 6	7 – 11
Gateway8	5, 6	7 – 10	POP classes (Power of Potential)	4 – 6	7 – 9
GATSA-Events		7 – 10	Socrates and Slices (Philosophy)		7 – 10
HICES G & T Camp	5, 6		TOM – Tournament of the Minds	3, 4	
HICES Interschol Debating	5, 6		Write-a-book-in-a-day	5, 6	7 – 9
			Writers workshops	5, 6	7, 8

St Andrew's:

St Andrew's Cathedral School is a coeducational K-12 Anglican school, located in the heart of Sydney's CBD.

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