



ST ANDREW'S
CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1885



Gifted and talented education program

At St Andrew's we seek to ensure every learner is engaged and growing every day. This forms the basis of our learning model which demonstrates the attributes of our graduates.

www.sacs.nsw.edu.au

Sydney Square, Sydney



heart
mind
life

Gifted students given every chance to thrive

St Andrew's recognises the educational need to cater for gifted students of high or exceptional academic ability within a mixed ability cohort. We aim to cater for highly able and exceptional students by providing specialised educational programs and learning environments.

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.

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.

Comprehensive research supports providing high ability students with advanced curricula in core learning areas or domains at an accelerated rate." (Van Tassel Baska 2007).

High ability students' needs are met through:

1. The development of appropriate content, processes and learning environments
2. The delivery of academically rigorous curricula that challenges and enhances talent development in core learning areas
3. The fostering of a caring and compassionate approach to the affective development of high ability and exceptional students.

Identification of Giftedness

While psychometric testing like WISC IV or V or Stanford Binet 5 are important tools in the identification of gifted and high ability students, they are not the only measure used at St Andrew's. Multiple criteria identification procedures are used to identify students who display potential giftedness and display high aptitude in domain specific areas.

For a formal identification of giftedness, a student's abilities are identified by a WIAT or Woodcock Johnson assessment. It is preferred that they also have a formal IQ assessment (WISC or Stanford Binet). In the Middle School gifted program, students included in extension class programs must continue to show high performance in standardised and other tests of academic ability.

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.

What is meant by "Twice Exceptional"?

At St Andrew's we recognise that some high ability students may require specific support due to diagnosed disabilities and learning issues.

In order to assist the twice exceptional learner, we examine each student's profile and focus upon developing the whole student through the following provisions: executive functioning support, assistance in scaffolding tasks, research support, and adjustments for examinations and assessments.



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 Penni Maher

*Director of Specialised Learning K – 12
Masters of Special Education (USYD)*

Mrs Rhonda Robson

*Deputy Head of School (Primary)
(Previously a Coordinator of Gifted Education)
Certificate of Gifted Education (UNSW)*

Mrs Emily Edwards

*Coordinator of Gifted Education K-6
Masters of Gifted Education (UNSW)*

Dr Yvonne Hammer

*Leader of Learning, Gifted Education 7 - 12
Certificate of Gifted Education (UNSW)
PhD Children's and Young Adults Literature
(Macquarie)*

Teachers with a Masters of Gifted Education or Certificate of Gifted Education (UNSW)

Mrs Kate Robertson (Junior School music)
Mrs Lucy Birts (Junior School)
Ms Teegan Colusso (Secondary School)
Mrs Emily Adcock (Junior School)
Dr Kaye Chalwell (Junior School)

How we cater for students of high academic ability

Junior School program

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 individualised assistance or benefit by extension programs 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 has broken new ground in facilitating grade skipping for exceptional all-rounders and single subject acceleration for those who excel in one or more areas. Students will only be accelerated if the school believes it to be in the best interests of the student.

Secondary School program

Through differentiated academic programs, gifted or high ability and exceptional students are enriched, extended and accelerated at St Andrew's. Teachers are trained to develop subject specific, academic curricula that challenges students and increases talent development. Programs are differentiated by the use of:

- Compacted curricula
- Faster pace delivery of content
- Acceleration
- Enrichment and extension work
- Individual Learning Plans
- Inquiry Based Learning
- PBLs
- Differentiated learning

Curriculum differentiation is achieved in mainstream classes when teachers:

- allow for the different abilities of gifted students, by providing curriculum compacting, acceleration, and diversity in teaching approaches,

- widen curriculum content to enhance the learning experience of students
- place emphasis on encouragement and positive expectation, with an emphasis on success and not failure
- prepare student programs in units that can be accessed by students independently or in small groups
- allow open-ended contracts
- organise units of work that branch into supplementary content and research support when necessary
- encourage educational and academic stimuli, with real, active and varied choices for student participation.

Gifted Education and the IB MYP

A focus on the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) inquiry-based learning model is a major feature of our Middle School (Year 7-9) curriculum. This prepares students well for either the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme or the Higher School Certificate in Senior College.

Within the MYP framework, we encourage organisational skills, individual research with both interdisciplinary and global connections. The MYP also creates inquisitive learners who integrate their own passion for learning in a holistic way. In Middle School the subjects of English, Maths, Science, Music and Language have extension classes to allow students of high ability to be extended. These classes can change to allow for students who show growing talent in a certain subject area and the classes are regularly reviewed by the Leader of Learning ensuring students are best placed.

In Year 9 the students undertake the MYP Personal Project, lasting 9 months, which is both demanding and rewarding. It is externally moderated by the International Baccalaureate ensuring high global standards. It allows high ability students to follow an area of passion to a high academic level they may not have had the opportunity to study within their subject areas. Skills associated with in-depth study of unit modules are promoted by MYP learning processes.



Challenging opportunities offered to St Andrew's students include:

Junior School

Advanced placement homework
Accelerated classes
Communication Problem Solving
Curriculum compacting
Above level testing
Gifted and Talented profiles
Grade skipping
Drama mentors
Engaging with the experts
Philosophy

Extra-curricular academic opportunities

Budding Shakespeares
ICAS Examinations – full suite
IPSHA and ISDA Debating
Harbourside Network
Future Problem Solving
Da Vinci Decathlon
Gateway 8
HICES G & T Camp
Interschool Chess Competition
Mathematical Olympiad
Maths Challenge Camp
Parent information evenings with guest speaker
Rubik's Cube Club
Writers festival
Write-a-Book-in-a-Day

Secondary school extra-curricular academic opportunities

Da Vinci Decathlon
ICAS Examinations – full suite
HICES Interschool Debating
Sydney Writers Festival
Maths Olympiad
Australasian Philosopher
Australasian Maths Competitions
Gateway 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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