



St. Mary's Road
Buncrana,
Co. Donegal

St. Mura's National School

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Roll No.16854V

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Exceptional Ability and Giftedness Policy

Definition and background:

"An able child is one that achieves or has the ability to achieve at a level significantly in advance of their peer group. This may be in all areas of the curriculum or in a limited range." (Eyre, 1999)

- Children who are considered gifted may have been assessed by a psychologist and found to have a high level of intelligence (an I.Q. score of 130+, 98th Percentile)
- Giftedness is recognized as a "disability" or Special Education condition in the Education Act of 1998.

School Ethos:

We, the teaching staff at St. Mura's, have agreed to cater for those pupils who are exceptionally able in academic areas (i.e. the top 5% of the school population). Those pupils who show exceptional talent in non-academic areas e.g. psychomotor ability, mechanical aptitude, visual and performing arts ability, will be given information regarding the relevant outside agencies.

Procedure for identification and selection of pupils:

1. A range of strategies may be used to identify exceptionally able pupils:
 - Annual standardised tests
 - Curriculum textbook assessments
 - N.R.I.T.
 - Psychological Assessments
 - Teacher observation
 - Peer and parent appraisal
 - Referral by other individuals or organizations
2. From first class onwards, pupils who score on or above the 96th percentile in the Micra and Sigma tests, will then do the NRIT to gain a more definitive guide of their ability

Responsibility and Management:

1. The class teacher is responsible for differentiation within the classroom.
2. The principal will be responsible for:
 - Organisation of extension classes including timetabling
 - Acquisition and distribution of teaching resources for differentiation
 - Acquisition and distribution of information regarding referral and assessment by outside agencies
 - Liaison with parents and class teachers
3. The principal and/or class teacher will meet with parents of exceptionally able and talented pupils to pass on information regarding referral, assessment and programmes at CYTI (Irish Centre for Talented Youth) @ DCU.



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4. When necessary, funding may be made available by the school to cover costs incurred by disadvantaged pupils selected for attendance @ CYTI.
5. According to guidelines for professional developments, costs will be paid by BOM to teaching staff who attend in-service training and courses about giftedness.