

Higher Achieving and Talented Pupils at the Bishops'



The Vision (or intent...)

At the Bishops' Church of England and Roman Catholic Primary School, we believe that all children thrive when they are part of a culture of appreciation for the talents and skills shown by the children in our school. We provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which provides challenge and takes individual differences into account. We are committed to providing an environment which encourages all children to maximise their potential or personal achievements and this includes children who display a higher form of gift or talent. We celebrate the individual as part of a cohesive and caring school community through recognition, praise, opportunity, challenge and competition.. We are proactive in providing opportunities to develop, to deepen, to achieve and to excel in specific subjects either as individual learners, partners or in teams. This may take place in the classroom or in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and clubs. How this appears will look different in the different subjects, for instance, an opportunity to excel in athletics will be materially different to excellence in English writing but the bridging factor is the opportunity for excellence for all children. We at the Bishops' CE/ RC School recognise that all children have abilities, personal qualities and talents, which parents and teachers strive to identify, nurture and develop. We aim to identify and develop a high level ability (creativity, intelligence and sustained task commitment) and talent (academic, artistic, sporting, practical, social etc.)



*'Live Fully, Laugh Often, Learn Deeply,
Love as God Loves You and Let Your Light Shine!'*

How HAaTs is Taught (or *implemented*)



Implementation: strategies

Where appropriate the pupils will have the opportunity to:

- Development of thinking skills/ mind-sets
- Work in different ability groups
- Work in small withdrawal groups, have opportunities to take part in challenge groups with other HAaTs children
- Work on an individual programme/s
- Work on topics of additional depth within the classroom set-up eg mastery challenge questions
- Experience a range of extracurricular activities, competitions, tournaments,
- Take part in Enrichment activities / weeks / lunchtime or afterschool clubs / coaching opportunities
- Opportunity to take part in band, music lessons, strings group and choir visits to the Royal Albert Hall or O2
- Attend 11+ group for a calendar year from the beginning of year 5 (if certain criteria are met)
- Attend outreach days or coaching at local secondary and Grammar schools targeted at HAaTs pupils
- Take part in sporting competitions / fixtures with other schools or represent the school, Chelmsford or Essex in regional heats



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What else is special about HAAs at Bishops'?



Our 11+ Club has been running since 2010 and provides access to professional tutoring and practice materials to allow children who may not be able to access 11+ preparation outside school to have the opportunity to take part in a planned and progressive approach to a public test. The children are prepared through being taught specific 11+ level skills, allowing time to practise and having appropriate materials to ensure that money is not a barrier to the chance to sit the 11+ test. In September of each school year an evening for interested parents is scheduled with a chance to ask questions and register for an 11+ assessment. Selection for 11+ club is based on aptitude, attainment and discussions with the children's class teachers. Groups are kept small, numbering 12 to allow for a tutoring approach and allow children to deepen their understanding of concepts covered. The sessions are an hour a week with homework tasks set to extend the children's learning. Ability to pay is not a barrier to attendance. Last year 71.4% of pupils attending the club reached the standard where an offer of a place at a suitable grammar school is expected.

What is the *Impact* of all this?



At The Bishops, we understand that we have a partnership between the staff, the parents and the local community. The children can take part in enrichment activities in school to fully develop their skills, themed days to use their creativity, and attend open days and masterclasses at local secondary and grammar school to experience different opportunities and activities. Children may be taken out of school for opportunities to compete in tournaments or through hobby or interest clubs in external competitions. In all of these ways, children develop the confidence to dream big and to compete at a high level – raising their aspirations and ambition.

We collate a register each year to reflect the talents of the children across the school for academic, creative, musical and sporting prowess. Within each year group different skills, talents and abilities can be seen and there can then be opportunities to develop and deepen these aspects within each class.

The success that Bishops' Schools enjoy in sporting, musical and academic pursuits is evidence that *'living fully'*, *'learning deeply'* and *'letting your light shine'* – all part of our school motto – are well embedded and integrated into the life of our school.

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