

## ***Gifted and Talented Students***

**Meeting Their Needs In New Zealand Schools  
- From Ministry of Education publication**

To serve the range of abilities and interests of gifted and talented students, schools will discover that no option works on its own. Ideally a continuum of provisions should be offered.

This continuum will begin in the regular classroom. From there it is expanded to include other options suited to individual student needs.

### The Regular Classroom Programme

New Zealand classrooms are particularly suited for gifted and talented students when teachers make decisions based on the assessed learning needs of students and adapt instruction to individual levels.

### Beyond the Regular Classroom

While gifted and talented students may have most of their needs met within the regular classroom, they may experience optimal learning experiences outside that structure. Withdrawal programmes involve setting aside part of the regular school time for gifted and talented students so that they can be grouped together with other students of similar interests and abilities.

### Special Programmes

Another range of provisions for gifted and talented students exists outside of school hours and operations by way of specialized programmes (after school programmes, camps, seminars, competitions, workshops, on-line learning).



**New Zealand's First Intermediate School  
Established 1922**

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**Kowhai  
Intermediate  
School**

***We Learn. No Exceptions.***

***How does Kowhai  
meet the needs of  
gifted students?***



## ***Kowhai offers gifted & talented students...***

### **Their Own Teacher and Classroom**

We believe that children at this age need the security of a regular classroom and a teacher who knows them really well and understands them. The regular classroom provides the setting in which they can safely develop independence and build friendships among children of diverse backgrounds, talents and interests (just like the real world!). Their regular classroom becomes a home away from home — a place for learning, fun and social interaction. Developing the social skills of our children is at least as important as academic learning and friendships are not always based on brain power!



### **Sports Camp**

On top of the termly interschool sports competitions, our best sports people attend Intermediate School Sports Camp.

### **Academic Streaming Within the Classroom**

Each class has 4 streams of learning in the critical curriculum areas of literacy (reading, writing and communication) and mathematics. These four streams cater for children who are learning at Level 2-3, Level 3-4, Level 4 and Level 4/5. (Students working beyond Level 5 will be working to an individualized programme prepared by our lead maths teacher). Streaming within the classroom is important because students who are gifted in mathematics, for example, are not always gifted in writing. Streaming within the regular classroom allows such a child to learn at a level well above the majority of their

peers in mathematics, while receiving instruction at their appropriate level in reading or writing. Students who have gifting in both literacy and mathematics learn in the top stream within their classroom.



Extension and self-directed learning opportunities are available for gifted students to choose from, in learning centres (elective activities relating to current study topics) or on-line.

### **Principal's Homework**

Gifted students have special open-ended, self-directed investigative homework. This includes fortnightly sharing sessions with the principal, discussing their research with like-minded students and making presentations for promotion on our website.



### **Inquiry Learning**

Important knowledge areas such as science, health and social studies are taught using the inquiry approach. This integrates thinking skills, research and information skills with important understandings in those content areas. Our gifted students drive their inquiry into areas of high personal interest and motivation. The open-ended nature of our inquiry learning model and the access to experts outside the school provide mind-expanding enrichment and extension.

### **Co-Curricular Classes**

After school (3.15-4.15pm) French and Technology classes are available for a modest fee. Students are taught by expert teachers with a view to providing a strong foundation for further second language study at high school and to develop the practical problem-solving skills that working with technologies offers.

### **Open Minds**

Gifted students working well above usual academic levels are withdrawn on Friday mornings to spend three hours with like-minded peers pursuing high order thinking, integrating mathematical, scientific, technological, creative and language skills. *Future Problem Solving* and other learning approaches requiring the integration of a number of disciplines are employed. Two experienced teachers work with a group of up to 30 students, based in the library.



**Many of our gifted students choose to learn a musical instrument or join the choir, orchestra or a performance group.**

