



**COOLMINE
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**

**EXCEPTIONALLY
ABLE STUDENTS**

**SCOIL
PHOBAIL
CHÚIL MHÍN**

**POLASAÍ UNI
DALTAÍ
ARDCHUMAIS**

**CLONSILLA, DUBLIN 15.
CLUAIN SAILEACH, BAC 15.**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WE STRIVE TO CREATE AN
ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL
RESPECT WHICH PROMOTES
EXCELLENCE IN ALL
ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE
AND ALLOWS INDIVIDUALS
TO REALISE THEIR FULL
POTENTIAL.

Coolmine Community School –Exceptionally Able Students in Coolmine

1. MISSION, AIMS, VALUES / MISEAN, AIDHMEANNA, LUACHANNA

Mission: In keeping with the schools mission, Coolmine Community School aims to allow all exceptionally able students to reach their potential both academically and socially by acknowledging talent and providing relevant and interesting enrichment and extension experiences.

Aims:

We aim to:

- Maintain an ethos where it is acceptable to be bright
- Encourage all students to be independent learners
- Recognise achievement
- Be aware of the effects of ethnicity, bilingualism, gender, religion and social circumstances on learning and high achievement
- Provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and clubs
- Provide opportunities for all students to work with like-minded peers

Values:

- Inclusion, Respect, Self-improvement, Equality, Loyalty, Security, Challenge, Freedom, Joy, Independent learning

Legal Framework:

The Education Act 91998) obliges schools to meet special education needs of all students including the exceptionally able

2. DEFINITION OF EXCEPTIONALLY STUDENTS/ SAINMHÍNIÚ AR DHALTAÍ ARDCHUMAIS

An exceptionally able student is one who has the capacity for or demonstrate high level of performance in an academic area or within a domain–specific ability in a non-academic area, including:

- Visual and performing arts and sports
- Leadership ability
- Creative and productive thinking
- Mechanical ingenuity
- Special abilities in empathy, understanding and negotiation

3. IDENTIFICATION / SAINAITHINT

An exceptionally able student should be identified using a variety of methods.

The specific procedure will vary according to subject area but will include elements of the following:

Coolmine Community School –Exceptionally Able Students in Coolmine

- Teacher referral
- Assessment results
- Peer referral
- Parental/guardian referral
- Identification by previous teacher, previous school, external agency or organisation
- Self-referral

It is worth remembering that exceptionally able students can be:

- Good all-rounders
- High achievers in one area
- Of high ability but with low motivation
- Of good verbal ability but poor writing skills
- Exceptionally Able with poor social skills
- Keen to discuss their abilities

Everyone in school has a responsibility to recognise and value students' abilities. We are aware that:

- Unnecessary repetition of work is de-motivating and de-motivating students will not always demonstrate potential
- There is sometimes peer pressure to underachieve
- Exceptionally Able students are not always easier to reach than other students

4. RECORD KEEPING / COIMEÁD TAIFEAD

A register will be maintain of those students who have scored in the 9th percentile, or above, across the three subtests in the CAT. A register will be maintained of those students who have scored in the superior or superior range of ability in one or more of the three subtests in the CAT. An electronic register of all students that are referred will be recorded on the S Drive. A list of all students who are nominated for enrichment and extension activities will be recorded on the S Drive. For confidentiality purposes these files should not be removed or copied from this location

5. PROVISION FOR EXCEPTIONALL ABLE STUDENTS / SOLÁTHAR DO DHALTAÍ ARDCHUMAIS

In Coolmine Community School opportunities for extension and enrichment are facilitated in curricular-specific areas ad in extra-curricular activities. We are committed to continuous professional Development that supports teachers in this area. This will focus on creating an environment and providing learning opportunities to maximise the potential of exceptionally able students.

During policy review in September 2013 we shall endeavour to ensure that every curricular area will have a reference to exceptionally able.

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Elements of the following kinds of provision are present in Coolmine Community School.

a. Classroom Differentiation

- Teachers have high expectations
- Tasks are designed to take account of levels of existing knowledge, skills and understanding
- There are planned extension opportunities or open-ended tasks

b. School based provision

This varies according to subject area and is covered using a variety of methods like:

- School based clubs
- School societies/councils
- Enriched opportunities
- Opportunities for performance
- Special teaching
- Mentor programmes

c. Personal Development

The school aims to develop all the abilities of students, including their personal and social skills, especially if these are not strengths. We aim to create a climate in which students are taught to relate well to each other and where differences of all kinds, including ability, are accepted.

d. Leadership and Management roles.

The principal and senior management are responsible overall for the implementation of the exceptionally able policy

e. Process for review and development

On-going review and development will occur within strategic plan, the policy will be reviewed yearly (January 2013).

f. Useful publications / websites available within the school

- Exceptionally Able Students – Draft Guidelines for Teachers NCCA (2007)
- Gifted and Talented Students in (and out) of the classroom, NCCA (2006)
- www.giftedkids.ie
- www.giftedandtalented.ie
- www.dazzleandfrazzle.com



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