

Supporting your child at school

Communicating your parental values and beliefs to the school is important as the concept of high potential can vary between cultures. Working with the school helps create a positive learning environment which helps your child achieve their potential.

Sharing your child's strengths

- Share information about extra-curricular activities or interests.
- Provide samples of what your child is doing at home.
- Share results of any formal external assessments.
- Encourage your child to speak with their teacher/s about their strengths.
- Become involved in your child's school so you are in a position to share information not only formally but informally.
- Share information about awards, competitions or special achievements.

If you believe your child is underachieving:

High potential and gifted children are generally considered to be motivated learners, particularly in their area of interest, but we know this is not always the case. Some children underachieve and are not achieving their potential. There could be a variety of causes, including:

- A lack of challenge.
- Poor motivation or engagement.
- Inadequate access to opportunities.
- Incongruous values, beliefs or expectations.
- Disability.
- Educational or social advantage.
- Lack of English language or proficiency.
- Geographical isolation.
- Health or wellbeing issues.

Strategies to support achievement:

- Understanding the causes of underachievement.
- Working in a positive partnership with the school and other community or external providers to identify and address your child's needs.
- Discovering and supporting your child in their areas of interest or strength.
- Collaborating with your child and setting realistic goals together.
- Ensuring activities are scaffolded adequately so your child experiences success.
- Being patient – experience and celebrate success in small achievable steps.
- Using authentic role models admired by your child to motivate and provide aspiration.
- Encouraging relationships with other interested peers so your child feels they can share your interests with others.
- Targeted remediated which addresses any disability or barrier to participating on the same basis as other high potential and gifted students.