

Opportunity Class Placement:

Helping you make an informed decision

Parent Webinar 2021



Presented by ODPS

Purpose of Presentation

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In this evening's session we will;

- explain what an opportunity class is
- define ***high potential and giftedness***
- describe high potential, gifted education at Oakhill Drive Public School (ODPS)
- summarise the application and selection process



What are Opportunity Classes?

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Opportunity Classes:

- cater for academically gifted Year 5 and Year 6 students with high potential
- help students to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, using specialised teaching methods and educational materials at the appropriate level



Who are typically placed in an Opportunity Class?⁴

Students who:

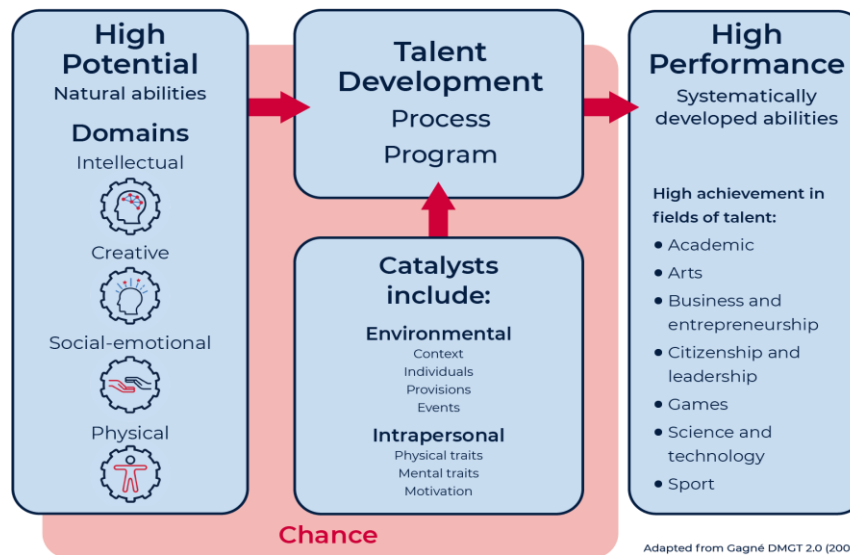
- consistently demonstrate **very high to extremely high academic merit**
- perform above the expected standard across the curriculum and receive **A and B grades consistently.**



Does your child demonstrate high potential, giftedness or talent in a particular domain of learning?

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OC placements are well suited to students who demonstrate high potential, giftedness or talent in more than one domain of learning.



What do we mean by high potential & gifted students?

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VIDEO: What do we mean
by high potential and gifted
students?



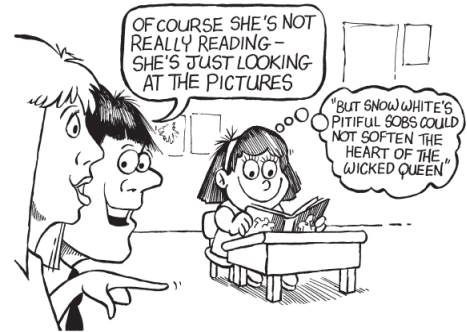
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Signs of High Potential

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High potential and gifted children tend to:

- be intensely curious
- learn new ideas or skills quickly and easily
- display a good memory
- ask complex questions
- be creative
- enjoy thinking in complex ways
- require fewer repetitions when learning new things
- become intensely focused in their area of interest or passion.



Is your child talented?

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- **Talented students** are those whose skills are **distinctly above average** in **one or more areas** of human performance.
- Talent emerges from giftedness via a number of influences, including the teaching and learning opportunities.



Is your child talented?

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VIDEO: What do we mean by talent development?



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In Summary

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- **Giftedness is about potential** and **talent is about demonstration** of this potential.
- OC placement for HPG students aims to **nurture potential** through the domains of learning; intellectual, creative, social-emotional, physical.
- OC will target the learning characteristics in each individual student to give them **the potential to achieve outstanding performance**.

Is your child suited to an opportunity class?

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Does your child:

- like to be challenged?
- demonstrate a rapid rate of learning?
- enjoy opportunities beyond the typical level of other children their age?



Special Considerations

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- How resilient is your child when they receive feedback about their academic performance?
- How resilient is your child when challenged by a highly competitive environment?
- ***Discuss your child's potential with their teacher***



Important to know

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- Successful students attend the opportunity class full time in **Years 5 and 6** at a different primary school to Oakhill Drive Public School
- It is important to consider logistics of school drop off and pick up when considering the schools, you apply for.



A New Environment

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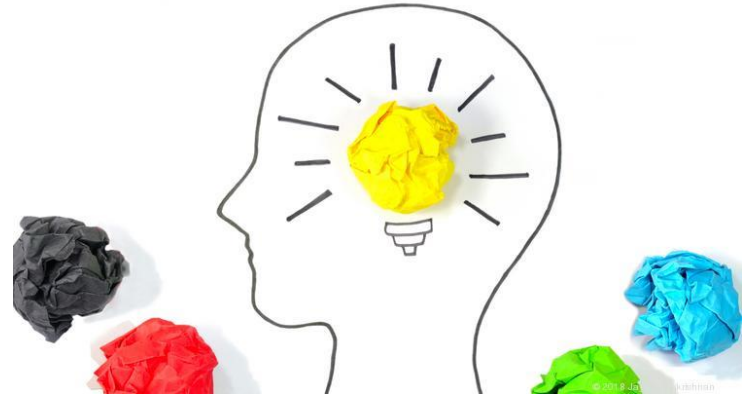


- changing schools will mean that your child needs to negotiate a new social and emotional environment
- exciting to meet new friends
- exciting to have new and different challenges

Challenges of a new environment

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- One size does not fit all
- Opportunity classes are very focused on the academics
- Highly competitive



The challenge of an OC Placement

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- There are 75 OC classes across NSW offering 1700 placements in year 5, with over 11 000 applications to consider.
- ***15 % of the applicants are successful.***

What happens if my child doesn't get a placement?

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At ODPS we follow the NSW High Potential and gifted education policy.

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The policy promotes **engagement and challenge** for **every student**, regardless of background, in **every school** across intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical domains. **It supports every student to achieve their educational potential**, through **talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices** to ensure that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met.



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ODPS meet the needs of High Potential and gifted (HPG) students

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This DoE policy states that:

- **1.5.1** All schools have a responsibility to create learning environments that support high potential and gifted students to experience efficacy, agency and achieve their educational potential



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How we support HPG students at ODPS

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HPG students are supported at ODPS through.

- **The Learning Support Team:** HPG identified students are closely monitored to ensure they are continually challenged with tasks that ***involve rigour and meet their unique needs***, e.g. real world related tasks.
- **Differentiation:** All teachers have the expertise to differentiate learning that challenges HPG students.

Supporting HPG students at ODPS

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- **Cluster Groups:** We group High Potential and Gifted Students (HPG). Research shows HPG students need the opportunity to strive and learn from others whose perspective could enrich their own skills.
- **Acceleration:** provide and support access to acceleration or advanced learning pathways and opportunities.

Enrichment Beyond the Classroom

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- Maths Olympiad
- Gateways Workshops
- Game Changer Challenge
- Tournament of the Minds
- Creative Arts Program: band, dance
- Representative Sporting Teams



Evidence of Success

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- On average 5-10 year 4 **students at ODPS** are offered an opportunity class placement each year.
- **2019: 12 students offered a placement** in a Selective High School and **5 additional students** were placed on reserve lists.
- ODPS students are typically offered placements in **High Potential and Gifted classes at Cherrybrook Technology High School.**

Positive Education at ODPS

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- Leading Positive Education school
- Holistic approach to education
- Areas in addition to academics are ***valued and nurtured.***
- Explicitly teach the importance of relationships, resilience, optimism and personal strengths to ***support life-long learning.***



Opportunity to Flourish

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- At ODPS we value the importance of a positive education and support the social-emotional development and wellbeing of high potential and gifted students enabling them to **connect, succeed** and **thrive**.



Application & Selection Process

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The OC Selection Process

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1. Apply online before **5:00 pm on 7 May 2021**
2. Placement Test: **Wednesday 21 July 2021** (allocated testing centres)
3. School provides assessment scores
4. Parents receive correspondence from the NSW Department of Education regarding the success of their child's application.

OC Placement Test

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- The 2021 Opportunity Class Placement Test has been designed to allow students to demonstrate their abilities across a range of areas, including; **reading**, **mathematical reasoning** and **thinking skills**.
- The test will continue to be paper-based.



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Test Structure

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The test consists of three sections and is structured as follows:

Section	Minutes	Questions	Type
Reading	30	25	Multiple choice
Mathematical reasoning	40	35	Multiple choice
Thinking skills	30	30	Multiple choice



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The Reading Test

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- 25 questions
- 30 minutes completion time
- assesses a range of reading skills
- questions are based on different genres such as non-fiction, fiction, poetry, magazine articles and reports



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Mathematical Reasoning Test

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- consists of 35 questions
- 40 minutes completion time
- multiple choice
- assesses the student's ability to apply mathematical understanding and knowledge to problems
- questions will relate to many content areas of Maths



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Thinking Skills Test

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- consists of 30 questions
- 30 minutes to complete the test
- multiple choice
- assesses the student's ability in critical thinking and problem solving



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School Assessment

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NSW primary schools give school assessment scores to show each student's achievement in English and mathematics in 2021 relative to other candidates from the same school.

At ODPS, we use the following criteria:

- report grades for English and Maths
- standardised test results (eg. Progressive Achievement Tests in reading and numeracy)
- on going, in-class assessment



Placement Scores

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- The placement score is calculated by ***adding the scaled test scores to the school assessment scores.***
- ***The calculated placement score*** will be out of a total of 120 (previously 300). For most students, ***the calculated placement score determines offers of placement.***



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Scaling of Scores

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- The entry score required for each school varies from year to year as ***the score is dependent on the number and the academic merit of students who have chosen the school each year.***
- **The scaling of the test marks** is done on a state-wide basis **regardless of the schools attended by the students.** Each scaled test component is adjusted so they are weighted equally.



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Test Score and School Assessment Scores³⁶

The calculated placement score is expressed as a **score out of 120** and is derived from the **test and school assessment scores** as follows:

Test components

- Reading 33.3
- Math reasoning 33.3
- Thinking skills 33.3



School assessment scores

- English 10
- Maths 10

Total 20



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Preparing for the Test

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Department of Education does not recommend any specific coaching for the test.

Students are encouraged to;

- familiarise themselves with the test format
- practise sample tests and filling out answer sheets quickly and efficiently

Sample tests are found on the OC website:

[OC Sample Placement Tests](#)



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Keep your eye on the dates

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- keep up to date with all the Opportunity Class
- Selection process by visiting; [NSW DoE Opportunity Class Website](#)
- ODPS will also provide regular updates through Skoolbag APP and our newsletter.



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Presentation Summary

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- Understanding of Opportunity Classes (OC)
- Understand and recognise characteristics in 'High Potential and Gifted' students (HPG)
- Placement Test and school assessment
- Making the right decision



