

## **More able in sport**

The governments guidelines of 'gifted and talented' in PE is a child who is performing at county level or above in a sport. In core subjects, the combination of high-level classroom teaching and extra work done at other times in their day leads to their outstanding ability. Although high quality PE will be a contributor to a child's ability to perform at county level and above, the biggest contributor will come from quality practice at specialist clubs/teams. The Physical education curriculum is more holistic, and because of this children's practise is varied across sporting types, not focused on one specific aspect/sport.

## **Why more able and not 'gifted and talented?'**

The term 'gifted and talented' (G&T) implies that children were born with ability. Children who normally fall into this category have had greater opportunities to practice specific skills than peers who are 'not talented'.

For example, Middleton had child who played Badminton for England, and on the face of it when seen in comparison to her peers she seemed to have 'special abilities' they did not possess. However, she trains 3 hours a day, 6 days a week, and it has done for 7 years. This focused practise was the reason she was so far ahead of her peers.

Secondly, if the children on the G&T list have to be already playing at county level, this neglects children who have the potential to play at that level and have yet to do so. We have therefore chosen to identify all children who are more able in PE as a subject, rather than just those children who excel in a single area. By doing this we have a group of children who excel at a variety (but not necessarily all) sporting activities, and will make provision to accelerate their progress. Furthermore, by labelling a child G&T you are telling them they *are* better than their peers, neglecting their hours of practise to get to that level, which is likely to demotivate them to further dedicate themselves to improvement. We want to recognise that practise, dedication and opportunity is the key to continued improved sporting success.

## **How do you identify a more able child?**

They are:

- Quick to learn skills or activities
- Confident and responsive to new challenges
- Motivated to practise and keen to perform
- Without fear of failure
- Able to reflect on how they performed and suggest ways of improvement
- Keen to take the lead
- Fit for their age
- Fluent and co-ordinated in their movement
- Spatially aware

## **What provision is put in place for more able children?**

- Lessons are planned to meet their needs and extend these children

- Through sports provision we aim to identify attributes/potential in different sporting areas and use our club links to find them a sporting pathway. We have done this on numerous occasions.
- By delivering a varied curriculum and offering a range of competitive sports, these children will experience a broader physical, creative and cognitive development. Early specialism in a single sport (for example only taking part/excelling in a Gymnastics) would will limit this development
- By offering the above in our program, children may develop skills in a number of sports. If a 'G&T' child faces a major setback in their specialism (rejection, injury etc.) they may not have developed skills that could lead to success in other sports. Talent identification carried out by the British Olympic association now lends itself to performers with a good all round ability with certain sport specific physical attributes.