

## **Introduction**

Hello and welcome to this short course on gifted learners. This booklet sets out for you the information you will need to help you decide whether this course is for you. (Note: We use New Zealand spelling conventions throughout. These may differ from those you are used to).

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions or need more information on any particular point before enrolling. You can either email us directly at [reacheducation@xtra.co.nz](mailto:reacheducation@xtra.co.nz) or phone us on 027 276 0523 (+64 27 276 0523). We look forward to receiving your enrolment and working with you!

## **Why is REACH offering this course?**

Our Certificate course, running since 2006, has won high praise from all those who have taken it as a very sound and practical guide to understanding, recognising and teaching gifted learners. But we realise that not all those who want to know more about this field are able to make the time commitment involved in a 13-module course. Therefore, we have constructed this more compact four-module course for you.

But it is still essential that even a shortened course in this interesting field should reflect research and best practice in professional development as well as in relation to its gifted content. It should:

- involve the development of deep content knowledge
- provide multiple opportunities to learn and practise in real contexts with support occurring over an extended period of time.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, we have retained all the key features which have made the longer course so effective and so supportive for its participants.

## **What are those features?**

- You will work throughout on an individual basis with one of our expert tutors, and will receive continuous guidance and feedback.
- You will be introduced to a very contemporary definition of giftedness to provide a sound foundation for your work in this field.
- You will be shown highly effective practical tools and strategies and supported in trialling these in your own teaching situation.
- You will have access to a small archive of extra material in addition to your set text.
- You will benefit from the flexibility of online delivery, but will have opportunities via Zoom to meet with other participants at least twice during the course.

## **What will the course cover?**

The course will cover:

- understanding what giftedness is and how it impacts on the child or student
- how this shapes the individual's learning needs
- how it can be recognised and tools that can help with this process

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<sup>1</sup> Extract from NZ Ministry of Education, 2014, pp 12-13, 'A NEW approach to centrally funded PLD: Conversations with the profession'.

- what teaching strategies are most effective and also practical for you in the classroom situation
- summary of important information on topics such as cultural difference, grouping, etc.

### ***What will this involve for you?***

The modules will be sent out with three weeks in between.

Each module will contain material for you to read. It will come as a PDF as this retains the original layout of the material regardless of the programme you are using.

It will be accompanied by a separate feedback sheet in an email format. It will set out a task or activity for you to carry out, related to the module content – a reflection on the module content, with the opportunity to ask questions or make comment, plus a practical task. You will be able to type your responses into the feedback sheet and then send it to your tutor.

There are two types of practical task. You will be asked to keep an observation journal to help you build your skill in recognising gifted characteristics – we will show you how to do this – and once teaching strategies are introduced, you will be asked to trial these in your own teaching situation (or working with another teacher if you are not in a classroom yourself).

Your tutor will read your feedback sheet and respond to you with supportive comment and guidance. You will be able to contact your tutor at any time if you have questions about any issue.

### ***Who are the tutors?***

You can find a detailed bio of each of our expert tutors on the REACH website, under “About Us”.

### ***How much time will this require?***

People vary, but our estimate is approximately five hours per module – that is, five hours over a three-week period.

### ***What is the required text?***

*Differentiation Made Practical*, 2010, R. Cathcart, Invercargill: Essential Resources. You will need this by the time the course starts.

Learning Network in Auckland holds copies of this text for this course. Contact them at [resources@learningnetwork.ac.nz](mailto:resources@learningnetwork.ac.nz). (If you are outside New Zealand, Essential Resources also publishes in Australian and the UK).

### ***How will it be assessed?***

Your tutor will evaluate your responses to your feedback sheets, your observation journal and your report on any practical work you have done, using guidelines you will be shown as we move through the course.

Successful completion of the course will result in a Document of Affirmation which will show what you have covered and what work you have completed. There is room for outstanding work to be acknowledged by endorsement of this document. This is not a formal qualification through NZQA, but you will certainly be able to include it in your CV.

### ***How much does it cost?***

\$300 + GST or \$75 per module. Note that your school can reclaim the GST.

### ***When will it begin?***

Starting dates are available from the REACH office – [reacheducation@xtra.co.nz](mailto:reacheducation@xtra.co.nz).

### ***How do you enrol?***

Email the REACH office, or download from the website. We hope to hear from you soon!