

## 1. Is our school “gifted-fit”?

What should we look for in order to answer that question? Is it enough to have a regular weekly programme in place for the learners whom teachers see as the most able? How do we know if that programme is effective? Are there other things we need to consider? What if we have no programme at all? Where should we start?



REACH Education has developed a unique PLD package specially designed to help you answer that question for your school.

Carefully structured to meet varying degrees of existing staff knowledge and practical expertise in this field, this package will enable you to assess your school’s current provision for gifted learners in the light of research and best practice.



Our first step will be to conduct a status analysis of your existing provisions including policy, all relevant procedures including enrolment and identification procedures, forms of provision, support procedures such as record-keeping and reporting to parents and whanau, and budget. We will also survey existing staff knowledge.

One of our staff will then work with you to guide you in identifying areas in need of strengthening. We will help you to set priorities and to create an effective development plan tailored to your needs.

For example, some of your priorities might be:

- to help the school become a more welcoming place for gifted learners and their parents and whanau
- to ensure that we have identification procedures which reflect our community make-up
- to make our decision-making better informed about issues like acceleration and grouping
- to create a long-term professional development plan ensuring all staff have at least a basic understanding of the needs of gifted learners
- ultimately, to ensure that our gifted learners experience consistency and continuity of provision during their years with us.

To help achieve priorities like these, your work plan might include tasks like these:

- reviewing enrolment procedures to allow for more parent and whanau input
- investigating ways to improve identification of gifted Māori and Pasifika students
- organising PLD in relation to specific issues identified in the status analysis
- establishing a register to track provision for individual gifted learners
- developing an IEP format adapted for use with gifted learners
- in a high school, looking to create an inter-departmental committee to plan gifted provision across or within different curriculum areas
- committing to in-depth PLD for teachers with special responsibility in this field, including Learning Support Coordinators
- introducing a report on the progress of your work plan into the monthly Board report.



In summary, our aim in working with you is to create programmes and provisions which are sustainable beyond our involvement with you, with the capacity to evolve and self-renew in future years.



### ***Are there costs involved?***

Yes. There is a basic flat rate of \$210 + GST covering making the status analysis, our written report back to you, and a one-hour meeting with you (online or face-to-face, depending on location) to discuss the report's findings and recommendations. We are happy to negotiate further time with you if you wish us to do so.

*If you'd like to find out more about using this programme, please email us at [reacheducation@xtra.co.nz](mailto:reacheducation@xtra.co.nz). We're happy to discuss possibilities with you.*