

# **Towards an understanding of giftedness and its implications for Newton Central Primary School policy and practice**

## ***Definition of Giftedness***

**Giftedness is an extraordinary capacity for processing information and an associated potential for excellence in one or more areas of human endeavour.**

*Comment: There are many characteristics associated with giftedness, and a cursory examination of the relevant literature will provide a wealth of detail in this regard.*

*At Newton Central Primary School, we observe an unexpectedly high proportion of gifted children (currently, between 150 and 200% the expected number, based on estimates of 10% of the population.) We believe that this reflects the special character of the school's kaupapa and community.*

## ***Relevant ethical and philosophical principles***

**Holism:** a child is a whole person, an integrated self, who must be seen and treated as such. All parts of a person's experience, internal and external, bodily, emotional, intellectual and spiritual, are inextricably entwined and intimately affect one another. It is neither right nor possible to separate them. In the same way, a community is a whole, and what takes place in any part of it affects all the other parts, in ways sometimes subtle and sometimes obvious. This includes experiences of fulfillment as well as experiences of frustration.

**Uniqueness:** each person, while having much in common with other people, also has their own unique needs and abilities. In a school setting, the individual learning style and needs of a child are especially relevant. Children have different potentials for achievement, different abilities, and different obstacles to achievement.

**Equitability:** each child deserves to have their experience of their life respected by the people around them: their peers, their educators, their whanau. Each child – each person, in fact – deserves an opportunity to reach their potential. Since some children will only meet their potential with resources and opportunities outside those provided for by the mainstream curriculum, such resources and opportunities should be offered wherever possible.

*Comment: When we consider these principles in relation to our gifted children, what approach will foster the potential of these children? What is it that we wish to achieve in our care of our gifted children?*

## ***Mission Statement***

This is the mission of gifted education at Newton Central Primary School:

**To honour and nurture the extraordinary potential of our gifted children through accommodating their special learning styles and needs.**

*Comment: this mission, together with the definition and principles given above and the concepts and guidelines of Te Whaariki, are the ideas which guide and inform our policy on*

*gifted education.*

## **Policy**

[as per typed sheet with its hand-written corrections in Christine's notebook. Can we get a soft copy of this to work from?]