

Scholar+ Policy

Scholar+

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Introduction

Here at Arts and Media School, we believe that **every child is a scholar**. Some students however, need that extra push to achieve their maximum potential. We truly believe that Scholar+ pupils are those who will exceed the expectations for their age group, either academically or in other aspects. The Scholar+ are a diverse group and their range of attainment will be varied; some do well in statutory national curriculum tests or national qualifications. However, being Scholar+ covers much more than the ability to succeed in tests and examinations.

For the past years we have developed a culture of high expectations for both students and teachers so that the quality of curriculum delivery, teaching and assessment is high. This begins with identification based on Key Stage 2 data (or other data in more recent years), rigorous target setting and careful tracking and intervention.

Ethos and aims

The Scholar+ system is designed to create a culture of high expectations and foster a collaborative community of practice among our Scholar+ students so that they can perform to the highest level at GCSE and beyond.

Encouraging the Scholar+ pupils is the responsibility of all staff with support from the Senior Leadership Team. The School's philosophy with regards to Scholar+ pupils is shared across the school and also with partner institutions where appropriate.

Thanks to the expertise of our specialist faculty we aim to offer a number of opportunities through our broad curriculum that will embed our cornerstones: confidence, respect, aspiration and reflection.

Roles and responsibilities

Scholar+ Leader

- To promote a school ethos in which success is celebrated and staff recognise a shared responsibility for their Scholar+ pupils.
- To develop and maintain policies and procedures for the definition, identification, provision and monitoring of these pupils.
- To support staff with the identification of and provision for Scholar+ pupils.
- To monitor progress and achievements of Scholar+ pupils and feed back to the Senior Leadership Team.
- To initiate enrichment activities and extension opportunities within and beyond school.

Members of Staff

- To promote a school ethos in which success is celebrated and acknowledge a shared responsibility for Scholar+ pupils.
- To be aware of the different abilities of pupils in their class and support/challenge them appropriately.
- To liaise with the Scholar+ Leader to set individual targets.
- To keep records of attainment and progress to inform future provision.

Procedures

Identification

Scholar+ students may be identified on entry by a variety of methods, but typically the process involves triangulation between previous data, current subject attainment, and recommendations from teachers. Teachers in year 7 use a rubric that allows them to propose candidates that then their data gets checked out by the Scholar+ Leader, the criteria is as follows:

- **Fluency** – able to generate a number of ideas/possible solutions
- **Flexibility** –able to apply a variety of categories or perceptions to the same problem or given task
- **Curiosity** –always probes, asks questions and searches for new understanding
- **Elaboration** –able to add to, or build on, an existing idea/concept
- **Originality** –able to create entirely new, unusual or very different ideas
- **Complexity** –able to produce intricate, multifaceted responses to set tasks
- **Risk-taking** –is courageous and tries new things without needing to be prompted

Provision throughout the school

At AMSI we aim to create a climate where we value success by everybody and where individual differences are acknowledged.

This will involve:

- A Scholar+ register for all year groups
- Provision of appropriate resources
- Encouragement of Scholar+ students to be independent in their learning and taking ownership of their own learning. This will include the provision of opportunities for them to organise their own

work, access the resources they need, work unaided, make their own choices about work, evaluate what they are doing and be self critical

- Flexibility in organisation so they can favour cross-curricular enrichment projects and providing them with opportunities to develop their abilities with students with similar needs and learning levels
- Celebration of achievement
- Regular reviews with class teachers to identify reasons for underachievement of Scholar+ students and implement strategies to address their needs.

Provision within the classroom

The teacher plays an important role in the development of Scholar+ students within the classroom providing an environment that prevents demotivation due to peer pressure or unnecessary repetition or duplication.

Provision within the classroom aims to:

- Provide appropriate challenge
- Extend thinking skills through effective questioning
- Plan work so that extension tasks are always available for Scholar+ students
- differentiate appropriately through stimuli, resources, tasks, outcomes and responses
- set individual targets and homework where appropriate

A number of intervention sessions take place throughout the year and Scholar+ students are highlighted, targeted and invited to stretch and challenge themselves in order to go beyond average expectations. Scholar+ Leader keeps regular contact with Heads of Subject to ensure that this provision takes place.

Provision beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom environment, at AMSI we provide a large number of opportunities for students to develop their potential:

- A wide range of clubs and extracurricular activities for students to explore areas of interest. Some of them are invitational and Scholar+ students are encouraged to take part in.
- Preparation for exhibition of academic, artistic, sporting and dramatic talents.
- Internal awards and commendations in Music, Languages and Art.
- Opportunities for entering competitions.
- The use of outside agencies and experts where appropriate.

Monitoring

The Scholar+ Leader will monitor the progress and achievement of all pupils on the Scholar+ Register and update targets in the light of data and feedback from members of staff. The list will also be reviewed regularly to reflect the ongoing abilities of the cohort.

Policy Review Record

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