

Slough Music Service treats talented and giftedness in different ways, ensuring all pupils who are considered to be musical can experience additional support in an appropriate context.

The Gifted and Talented cohort will typically be about 10% of those in their setting. This means that those pupils and the required provision for them will be very different in a class, school and borough-wide context. For this reason SMS considers it important to ensure these different catchments are provided for differently, some led by the music service, some led by schools.

The borough-wide catchment, as led by the music service, offers the following provision:

Talented pupils will be able to access bands, choirs and orchestras provided locally to their place of study or residence. SMS strive to ensure pupils are appropriately signposted to these opportunities, and those offered by national organisations. We will also provide, where required, access to enhanced tuition opportunities for the most able, such as masterclasses by leading teachers and small ensembles. Talented pupils are encouraged to take a prominent role in performances and engage with our young leaders programme.

Gifted pupils will have access to performances and creative music making activities, mainly through our Gifted Musicians Programme which takes place in the spring term each year.

IDENTIFYING TALENT

(typically, but not exclusively, those who show exceptional performing skill on an instrument/voice)

- Those who demonstrate outstanding ability, usually through an instrument or voice, which is so evident that they demand additional provision to support and challenge them.
- Talented pupils will typically be pupils who stand out in mixed-ability settings.
- Pupils more often show their musical talent through the quality of their response than the complexity of their response.

IDENTIFYING GIFTEDNESS

(those who show an innate association and response to music without necessarily showing it through instrumental/vocal playing)

Pupils who are talented in music are likely to:

- be captivated by sound and engage fully with music
- select an instrument with care and then be unwilling to relinquish the instrument
- find it difficult not to respond physically to music
- memorise music quickly without any apparent effort, be able to repeat more complex rhythmical and melodic phrases given by the teacher and repeat melodies (sometimes after one hearing)
- sing or play music with a natural awareness of the musical phrase -- the music makes sense
- demonstrate the ability to communicate through music, for example to sing with musical expression and with confidence
- show strong preferences, single-mindedness and a sustained inner drive to make music.

Additionally:

- Musical giftedness is at least as much about demonstrating a higher quality response *within* levels as about attainment at higher levels.
- Musical giftedness can be seen at every level of attainment.
- Pupils who have a gift for music show a particular affinity with sound.