

Recommended Websites

www.globalgang.org.uk	Global Issues from Christian Aid
www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/index.html	NASA kids club – games etc. Or home page for information about space
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com	Kids games, animals, photos, places, stories and more
www.tryscience.org	Experiments to try, games, parents site
www.funbrain.com	Reading resources, puzzles and games
www.show.me.uk	
www.sparkisland.com	Activities
www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Games/Index.html	
www.nrich.maths.org	Maths problems and investigations
www.howstuffworks.com	Excellent for those with an interest in science
www.brainboxx.co.uk	Parents advice section and children's puzzles.
www.boffinsquad.co.uk	Games and puzzles

For more information please contact Pauline Hinchliffe
Pauline.hinchliffe@southwark.gov.uk
02075255020

Provision For Primary Gifted & Talented Pupils Information For Parents

What is 'Gifted and Talented?'

National guidelines state that 'gifted and talented' children are those who have the ability to achieve at a level significantly higher than children of a similar age.

The term 'gifted' refers to children who have the potential to excel in one or more of the 'academic' subjects –English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities. 'Talented' refers to those children who have the potential to excel in Art, Music, Drama, PE or Sport.

Schools identify children who would appear to have particular ability in comparison to other children in the school. This may change over time, as intelligence is not static, and children develop at different rates.

How are Children Identified?

Schools identify gifted and talented children by a variety of means, most importantly by providing opportunities in the classroom for children to think creatively or logically, solve problems, conduct investigations and ask questions. A broad and balanced curriculum, with opportunities for enrichment and extension will give all children the chance to show their gifts and talents.

Other means of identification include teacher assessments, tests, observation, and consultation with parents.



What do Schools Do Then?

Schools aim to help children of all abilities to reach their full potential, by carefully monitoring and tracking progress and attainment, and by setting appropriately challenging targets.

Gifted and Talented children will be given differentiated work and tasks in class, which will provide them with a greater level of complexity and challenge in their areas of strength. They may also be encouraged to work on individual projects and research based topics.

Each school has a member of staff with specific responsibility for gifted and talented, and they will take a particular interest in identified children. They will also advise other staff members, provide resources, advise parents and liaise with external partners and organisations. The local authority also employs a senior consultant who has responsibility for gifted and talented provision across the borough (see below).

Schools provide a wealth of enrichment opportunities, many taking place at lunchtime or after school. This gives children opportunities to follow their interests and try new skills. In addition, the local authority organises activities specifically designed to extend gifted and talented pupils. Some of these take place in school time, some after school and some during school holidays. Your child's school will be able to provide you with information about these.

Local Authority Provision

Southwark Local Authority employs a senior consultant whose role it is to provide advice on matters pertaining to gifted and talented children. The borough consultant is Pauline Hinchliffe, who can be contacted on 0207 525 5020, email Pauline.hinchliffe@southwark.gov.uk

Provision in Southwark includes training opportunities for teachers and also courses for identified children. Some of the children's courses take place during school time, others take place after school or during school holidays. Places on these are offered to children via their schools, who put forward the names of identified children. Courses are often oversubscribed, so not all children who apply may get a place.

National Provision

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has set up 'Young Gifted and Talented' an organisation to provide opportunities for gifted and talented pupils as well as advice for teachers and parents.

Children who have been identified as gifted and talented by their school will be enrolled as a member of the 'Learners Academy' and will be eligible to attend courses. For more information, please see the website:

<http://ygt.dcsf.gov.uk>

Museums/Art Galleries and Place to Visit - Continued

Imperial War Museum

10.00 to 18.00 daily

Closed 24, 25, 26 December.

This museum is housed in a former psychiatric hospital, known as "Bedlam". It includes memorabilia from all modern British conflicts since World War I. Items range from medals, weapons and ration books through to tanks and a fragment from the Berlin Wall.

By tube: Waterloo, Elephant and Castle

By bus: 1, 3, 12, 45, 53, 59, 63, 68, 100, 159, 168, 171, 172, 176, 188, 344, C10

British Museum

10.00 – 17.30 daily

Closed 1 January, Good Friday, 24, 25, 26 December

The British Museum was founded in 1753 and began with three privately-owned public collections. Over the next fifty years, Egyptian antiquities and the Elgin marbles from the Parthenon in Athens were added. The museum now holds around 13 million items.

By tube: Holborn, Tottenham Court Road, Russell Square, Gode Street, Covent Garden, Euston

By bus: 1, 7, 8, 10, 14, 19, 24, 25, 29, 38, 55, 59, 68, X68, 73, 91, 98, 134, 168, 188, 242, 390,

Museum of London

10.00 to 18.00 daily

Closed 24, 25, 26 December.

The Museum of London is quite simply about everything London, from the prehistoric to modern times. opened in 1976 in the rather bleak-looking Barbican Centre, it is an excellent place to learn about London's social history, and the lives of Londoners and those who immigrated here. Exhibits include the popular Great Fire of London interactive display, Roman and medieval coffins and the Lord Mayors carriage, which is still used in the annual Lord Mayor's Parade.

By tube: Barbican, St Paul's, Moorgate

By bus: 4, 8, 25, 56, 100, 25, 172, 242, 521,

V & A Museum

10.00 to 17.45 daily

10.00 to 22.00 Fridays (selected galleries remain open after 18.00).

Closed 24, 25 & 26 December

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) is the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design. Its permanent collection of over 4 million items spans 5000 years and every continent. It holds items such as costumes, ceramics, prints, photographs and drawings and houses the world's largest collection of post classical sculpture.

By tube: South Kensington

By bus: C1, 14, 74, 414,

Museums/Art Galleries and Places to Visit - Continued

Pumphouse Museum

09.00—17.00 Monday - Thursday
Closed School Christmas Holidays

The Pumphouse Educational Museum is a unique venue on the Rotherhithe peninsula. It houses the Rotherhithe Heritage Museum and a variety of historical exhibitions and in addition offers further educational opportunities in the environmental study centre using the Lavender Pond and Nature Park, an oasis of peaceful relaxation in an urban environment.

By tube: Rotherhithe, Surrey Quays, Canada Water
By bus: 225, 381

Science Museum

10.00 to 18.00 daily

Closed 24, 25, 26 December.

Founded in 1857, the museum holds over 300,000 items including Stephenson's Rocket, Puffing Billy and a working version of Charles Babbage's Difference Engine (considered by many to be the "first computer".) The museum also houses many.

By tube: South Kensington
By bus: 14, 49, 70, 74, 345, 360, 414, 430, C1,

National Maritime Museum

10.00 to 17.00 daily

Closed 24, 25, 26 December.

This museum, at Greenwich, is situated in the impressive buildings of the former Royal Naval School, part of Maritime Greenwich which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. The museum holds maritime artwork, maps, drawings, ship models and instruments

By bus: 53, 54, 177, 180, 188, 199, 202, 286, 380, 386, 943

Natural History Museum

10.00 – 17.50 daily

Closed 24, 25, 26 December

The Natural History Museum, housed in an impressive building opened in 1881, contains 70 million items within 5 main collections: Botany, Entomology, Mineralogy, Palaeontology and Zoology. Many of its items were collected by Darwin himself on his various expeditions.

By tube: South Kensington
By bus: 14, 49, 70, 74, 345, 360, 414, C1,

Horniman Museum

10.30 – 17.30 daily

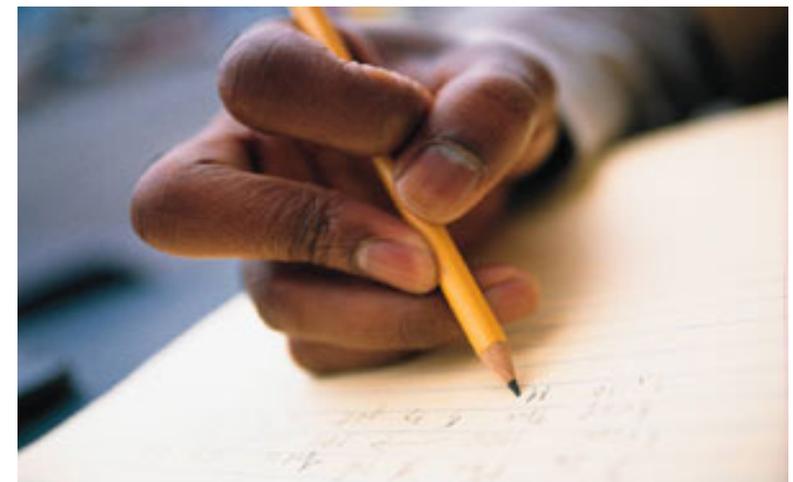
Closed 24, 25, 26 December

The Horniman, through its collections and related exhibitions and events, seeks to encourage a wider appreciation of the World, its peoples and their cultures, and its environments.

By bus: 176, 185, 197, 356, P4,122, 363, P13

Establishing Good Work Habits at Home

- Establish a routine. For example, homework before the television goes on, reading together before bed. Some children may prefer to do their work almost immediately upon their return from school, whilst others may prefer time to unwind or play first. Let them decide - involving your child in the planning will give them ownership, and make them more willing to stick to it.
- Don't allow your child to spend long periods of time working. Split the time up into chunks of 15-20 minutes, with five minute breaks between – children cannot concentrate effectively for long periods of time
- Think about where your child does their work. If it is in the same room as the television, make sure it is turned off. Try to keep distractions (e.g. younger siblings, computers, telephones) to an absolute minimum.
- Music in the background is not necessarily a distraction. Some people find that it helps them to work. However, some don't – you need to discover which category your child falls into.
- Show an interest in your child's work, however busy you are. Provide Support (such as showing them how to look something up) but don't do it for them. If they are struggling, it may be that you need to clarify, or talk through the instructions.



Suggestions for Supporting Able Primary School Children at Home

- Value all gifts or talents equally. If your child is a talented artist or musician then it is just as important to encourage and develop this talent as it is the more 'academic' abilities. Be careful not to allow your own values or abilities to influence you.
- Encourage your child to read, and join a local library, to make sure that they have access to good quality fiction. Check that your child is reading material that is appropriate for their age and ability – seek the advice of their school if you are unsure. (*see also the reading advice sheet*)
- Even if they are fluent readers, read to them, and with them.
- Talk to your child, individually, for at least ten minutes every day, and encourage discussion from an early age.
- Find time to play games with them. Puzzles, crosswords, word games, card games and board games can all help to develop thinking skills, and will develop your child's social interaction skills.
- Look out for, encourage and support, personal interests. Encourage your child to learn about and participate in a wide variety of things – art, nature, sports, music as well as literacy, maths and science.
- Give them as broad a range of experiences as you can. There are many museums and places of interest in the Southwark area that are free of charge – make time to take your child to visit them (*see list*).
- Actively encourage your child to participate in after school clubs and activities, and holiday/after school activities offered by the borough.
- Able children ask a lot of questions! Handle these carefully, and don't fob them off with simplified answers – it won't satisfy them. They will sometimes ask questions which you can't answer. Don't be afraid to admit that you don't know, and try to find the answers together.
- Be aware of potential frustrations. For example, ideas that come from eight year old minds may be difficult to produce with five year old hands.



Museums/Art Galleries and Places to Visit - Continued

Brunel Museum

10.00 - 17.00 daily

Closed 25, 26 December, 1st January

Children under 16 free, Adults £2

Award winning Museum spanning Brunel's career. First project the Thames Tunnel is the birthplace of mass urban transport. Last project the Great Eastern is the first modern ocean liner

By tube: Canada water

By bus: 47, 188, 381

Museum of Childhood

10.00 – 17.45 daily

Closed 25, 26 December, 1 January

Also known as the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, this museum holds the largest collection of childhood objects in Britain. Items include toys, games, dolls houses, rocking horses, childhood equipment and costumes. It also holds exhibits related to the

By tube: Bethnal Green

By bus: D6, 8, 26, 48, 55, 106, 254, 309, 388

Royal Air Force Museum

10.30 – 16.30 Weekdays

10.00 – 18.00 School Holidays and Weekends

Closed 5 - 9 January

The Royal Air Force Museum is Britain's only national museum dedicated wholly to aviation and science of flight. It has two sites: one in London and one in the Midlands. The London site contains over 100 aircraft in 5 themed aircraft halls ranging from the "Milestones of Flight" to the powerful and emotive "Battle of Britain Hall".

By tube: Colindale

By bus: 303

Sir John Soanes Museum

10.00 – 17.00 Tuesday to Saturday inclusive

Also on the first Tuesday evening of each month, 6-9 pm. This interesting museum was established during Soane's lifetime by an Act of Parliament requiring the house and its contents to be retained as near as possible to how they were

By tube: Holborn

By bus: 1, 7, 8, 19, 25, 38, 55, 59, 68, 91, 98, 168, 171, 188, 242, 243, 521,

Museums/Art Galleries and Places to Visit

Tate Britain

10.00 – 17.50 daily

10.00 - 22.00 on the first Friday of each month

Closed 24, 25, 26 December

The home of British art from 1500 to the present day. Tate Britain is the national gallery of British art. Located in London, it is one of the family of four Tate galleries which display selections from the Tate Collection.

By bus: 53, 54, 177, 180, 188, 199, 202, 286, 380, 386, 943

By tube: Pimlico, Westminster

By bus: 2, 3, C10, 36, 87, 88, 159, 185, 436, 507.

Tate Modern

10.00 – 18.00 Sunday – Thursday

10.00 – 22.00 Friday & Saturday

Closed 24, 25, 26 December

Tate Modern is the national gallery of international modern art. Located in London, it is one of the family of four Tate galleries which display selections from the Tate Collection. The Collection comprises the national collection of British art from the year 1500 to the present day, and of international modern art.

By tube: Blackfriars, Southwark

By bus: RV1, 45, 63, 100, 344, 381

Royal Observatory

10.00 – 17.00 daily

Closed 24, 25, 26 December

Find Out how stars and planets are born. See how the universe was formed, try our interactive exhibits that will intrigue and amaze you and see our onscreen experts answer the big questions. Try your hand at being an astronomer, guide a space mission or touch a meteorite that is over 4.5 billion years old.

By bus: 177, 180, 188, 199, 286, 386, 54, 202, 380, 943.

Cuming Museum

10.00—17.00 Tuesday—Saturday

Closed 22 December - 5th January

The Cuming Museum, home to the rich and unusual collection of the Cuming family and the museum of Southwark's history.

By Bus 12, 35, 40, 45, 68, 148, 171, 176, P5, 343, 468

Suggestions for Supporting Able Primary School Children at Home—Continued

- Make sure your child has the space and free time to simply 'play'. They should not have so many formalised engagements and activities that they can't just play, or engage in activities of their own choosing.
- It is important that your child knows that you are proud of who they are, not simply of what they can achieve.
- Turn failure and mistakes into a positive experience. We all learn from our mistakes, and children must not be afraid (and indeed need to learn how) to fail. Focus on effort rather than outcome, to ensure that your child is not under pressure to succeed simply to please you.
- Build a good relationship with your child's school. They are there to help you and your child. Don't be afraid to go and speak to the teachers to ask for information, or to seek their advice when necessary.
- If your child complains about being bored, or seems unhappy at school, take this seriously, and seek solutions with the school. If you have worries or concerns about your child's progress at school, talk to the class teacher initially. However, be careful not to involve the child – this can make them uncomfortable and may cause conflicts of loyalty.
- If contact with the class teacher does not seem to resolve the situation, make contact with the teacher responsible for Gifted and Talented provision within the school. If concerns persist, you may wish to speak to the Headteacher.
- Advice is also available from the Local Authority. Contact the Consultant for Gifted and Talented (Pauline Hinchliffe) on 02075255020



Reading with your Child

Reading is a vital part of a child's development. It helps to develop language, and stretches the imagination. It should always be a pleasurable experience. There is a wealth of excellent children's literature available, to cater for all ages and tastes, so make the most of it. Make visits to the local library a regular part of your routine, and buy books as presents. Remember that charity shops, jumble sales and school fetes are a good source of children's books, often at very little cost.

- Guide your child's choice of books, but don't force it. If their choice is too easy, encourage them to read it aloud, perhaps to younger siblings or other members of the family. If it is too difficult, read sections for them, perhaps alternating sentences or paragraphs.
- Your child may want to re-read favourites. If they do, encourage rather than discourage this.
- Remember that reading aloud builds fluency and confidence. Sometimes just part of a story will be sufficient.
- Be a good listener when your child reads. Make comments on the story, to show that you are listening.
- If your child encounters a word they don't understand, simply tell them its meaning. Stopping to look up words in a dictionary interrupts the thread and will spoil the enjoyment. You can re-visit the word at a later stage.
- Don't ask *too* many questions, as this also interrupts the flow, but do ask questions that require thought rather than 'yes' or 'no' answers. For example, 'What would have happened if --?' 'What do you think might happen next?' 'Why do you think --- did that?'
- Praise your child when they read quietly to themselves for a

BRIGHT CHILD

The following information may assist you in better understanding the nature of a gifted child.

Knows the answers

Is interested

Has good ideas

Works hard

Answers the questions

Top group

Listens with interest

Learns with ease

Enjoys peers

Grasps the meaning

Completes assignments

Is receptive

Copies accurately

Enjoys school

Absorbs information

Technician

Good memoriser

Enjoys straight forward sequential presentation

Is alert

Is pleased with own learning

Is alert

GIFTED LEARNER

Ask the questions

Is highly curious

Has wild silly ideas

Plays around yet tests well

Discusses in detail, elaborates

Beyond the group

Shows strong feelings/opinions

Already knows

Prefers adults

Draws inferences

Initiates projects

Is intense

Creates a new design

Enjoys learning

Manipulates information

Inventor

Good guesser

Thrives on complexity

Is keenly observant

Is highly self-critical

Ask the questions