

# Identifying Gifted Pupils

**Pupils who are gifted in Science are likely to display a number of the following characteristics. Please indicate with a ✓ those which apply for the pupil you are referring:**

	be imaginative
	read widely, particularly Science or Science Fiction
	have scientific hobbies and/or be members of scientific clubs and societies
	be extremely interested in finding out more about themselves and things around them
	enjoy researching obscure facts and applying scientific theories, ideas and models when explaining a range of phenomena
	be able to sustain their interest and go beyond an obvious answer to underlying mechanisms and greater depth
	be inquisitive about how things work and why things happen (they may be dissatisfied with simplified explanations and insufficient detail)
	ask many questions, suggesting that they are willing to hypothesise and speculate
	use different strategies for finding things out (practical and intellectual) – they may be able to miss out steps when reasoning the answers to problems
	think logically, providing plausible explanations for phenomena (they may be methodical in their thinking, but not in their recording)
	put forward objective arguments, using combinations of evidence and creative ideas, and question other people's conclusions (including their teacher's!)
	decide quickly how to investigate fairly manipulative variables
	consider alternative suggestions and strategies for investigations
	analyse data or observations and spot patterns easily
	strive for maximum accuracy as possible (sometimes beyond the accuracy of the instrument)
	make connections quickly between facts and concepts they have learned, using more extensive vocabulary than their peers
	think abstractly at an earlier age than usual and understand models and use modelling to explain ideas and observations.
	understand the concepts of reliability and validity when drawing conclusions from evidence
	be easily bored by over-repetition of basic ideas
	enjoy challenges and problem solving, while often being self-critical
	enjoy talking to the teacher about new information or ideas
	be self-motivated, willingly putting in extra time – (but they may approach undemanding work casually and carelessly)
	show intense interest in one particular area of Science (such as astrophysics), to the exclusion of other topics.

