



The Gifted Education Centre

To Go Beyond the Known

Working with Gifted Online Starting your GO Team

A GO Team is a new way of offering Gifted Online that is more cost effective for families. At present, GO Teams are operating on a trial basis at a trial price of \$15.00 per child per week, based on a term-by-term commitment between us and your school. We appreciate your feedback, as this will help us to serve the needs of gifted children in your community.

Our goals include:

Keeping great minds in rural communities.

Supporting gifted children, their families, and their teachers.

Providing an online opportunity for gifted children to meet and share work with other children of similar ability.

Providing a supportive online community in which teachers can develop their skills in ICT and gifted education.

First Steps at your school:

1. Locate documents showing how you identify gifted children at present. These may include a policy, a procedure, or another clear set of guidelines used by your school. Send us this documentation as soon as possible so that we can talk to you with a clear understanding of what giftedness means at your school. Offering places to children who schools have identified as gifted in accordance with their own policies is a new approach that we are trialling, and open communication about your identification practices will help us to fine tune this process. We still offer our own multidimensional assessment, at a charge of \$285.00 per child.
2. Identify the teacher who will support GO students at your school. This teacher will need a minimum of one hour's release time each week to meet with your GO Team, and to liaise with classroom teachers about GO.
3. Consider who your gifted children are, and within this group consider who you feel most confident about trying something new with. We suggest no more than 8 students for your first GO team. If possible, begin with children who are older, have independent work habits, are confident with computers, and will be supportive of a teacher who is trying something new.
4. Have a plan about how to bring new children on board as your GO Team teacher becomes confident in working with the programme. In your second term with GO, for example, you may bring in gifted children who need support with computer skills, and in your third term, you may bring in twice exceptional children. A plan that shows how GO can be offered to all the children you identify as gifted will be useful for talking to parents of children who are not in the programme yet, and for talking to ERO.
5. Communicate to parents privately about their child's giftedness and the opportunity to participate in GO. Parents appreciate this discretion. They also like to know what your school can or cannot offer to meet the needs of their child if they choose not to participate in GO.
6. There are likely to be parents who want their child to be involved in GO after hearing about it from friends. Their child may or may not be a student you have identified as gifted. You may or may not have space on your programme. Ways to deal with this might include having a waiting list or asking the parents to have us assess their child for our GO Solo programme. This is a programme in which we support the child rather than your GO Team liaison teacher supporting the child. The cost of assessment is \$285.00 and the cost per week is \$50.00.

The Role of your GO Team Teacher:

1. Meet with your GO Team regularly to brainstorm ways in which open ended tasks can be handled, facilitate any co-operative work, and to give support and feedback. Monitor time management. Make sure that GO Team members are getting adequate time for independent GO work within their regular classes.
2. Liaise with us about any problems you encounter, and about your own learning needs in gifted education and ICT. Your learning needs as a teacher are important to us.
3. Communicate with parents about their child's progress within the GO Programme. Note that parents can log in using their child's details. This enables them to view work, and to support their child.
4. Give us feedback about how the programme is working out in your school. We would appreciate a written communication twice during your first term with us summing up both barriers to the success of the programme and positive aspects of your schools involvement in Gifted Online.

What We Provide:

1. Planned lessons differentiated for the needs of gifted learners. Most tasks have a low threshold and a high ceiling, meaning that children of mixed abilities will find a point of engagement, while children who are gifted across the board will be able to handle the tasks in adult-like ways, and find ample challenge.
2. An online community where your able learners can share their work with other gifted students. This offers challenge and stimulation above that which one school can offer alone, and is comparable to the benefit sporty children experience through placement in a representative team.
3. Weekly chat sessions which your students and GO Team teacher can attend. Some chats include voice communication, but text only chat is available, and is less disruptive if a child is "chatting" from a regular classroom.
4. Parents' chat via Skype once per term.
5. Partner teacher chat once per term (GO Team teachers and teachers of GO Solo students).
6. Telephone and email support for your GO Team teacher.