



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

GIFTED AWARENESS WEEK

June 15-21 is Gifted Awareness Week – an annual event that honours the legacy of Professor George Parkyn. In 1948 Parkyn wrote New Zealand's first volume on gifted children and their educational needs, advocating for a deeply child-centred approach where every child is a unique individual whose abilities, interests, and needs must be recognized and accepted. He was a keynote speaker at the first World Council for Gifted and Talented Children Conference, held in London in 1975.

MYTH-BUSTING QUIZ As part of the Gifted Awareness Week celebrations, we have put together this short quiz you might like to use with your teams or to test your own knowledge.

MYTH OR FACT?

Can you spot which is which?

- 1. Gifted learners will succeed no matter what
 - A. Myth
 - B. Fact

- 2. All learners are gifted.
 - A. Myth
 - B. Fact

- 3. Gifted learners are gifted at everything.
 - A. Myth
 - B. Fact

- 4. Gifted education is elitist.
 - A. Myth
 - B. Fact

- 5. Gifted learners don't get on with other learners.
 - A. Myth
 - B. Fact

- 6. Gifted learners are naturally loners.
 - A. Myth
 - B. Fact

- 7. There are no gifted learners at our school
 - A. Myth
 - B. Fact

- 8. Grouping gifted learners leads to arrogance.
A. Myth
B. Fact

- 9. Gifted students don't need help to learn.
A. Myth
B. Fact

- 10. Gifted learners should be role models for other learners.
A. Myth
B. Fact

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

- **Gifted learners will succeed no matter what – Myth**
Giftedness can provide some perceived advantages, but success depends on various factors including motivation, effort, opportunity, and support, and gifted students can face challenges and setbacks like any other student.
- 2. **All learners are gifted – Myth**
All learners have strengths, but "gifted" refers to those learners with exceptional abilities and qualities that are significantly above average.
- 3. **Gifted learners are gifted at everything – Myth**
Giftedness is often domain-specific; a learner may excel in one area but be average or struggle in others.
- 4. **Gifted education is elitist – Myth**
It is about meeting learning needs, just like support for other learners, not privileging a group. All learners have the right to be engaged, progressing and achieving to their potential.
- 5. **Gifted learners don't get on with other learners – Myth**
Most gifted learners form positive relationships; social challenges vary by individual. Some gifted children may struggle with peer relationships due to differences in interests or maturity levels
- 6. **Gifted learners are naturally loners – Myth**
Some may prefer solitude, but many enjoy social interaction and friendships. However, when presented with a "true" peer, gifted children often prefer spending time with that person rather than being alone.
- 7. **There are no gifted learners at our school – Myth**
Gifted learners are found in all schools and communities, though they may be overlooked.
- 8. **Grouping gifted learners leads to arrogance – Myth**
When done well, grouping supports learning without promoting arrogance; it often improves confidence and collaboration.
- **Gifted students don't need help to learn – Myth**
While gifted learners may grasp concepts quickly, they still benefit from tailored

instruction, enrichment activities, and support to fully develop their potential across various domains.

- **Gifted learners should be role models for other learners – Myth**
They can model good habits but should not carry responsibility for others' learning or behaviour.

MORE INFORMATION

We have some further, updated information that will be available on Tāhurangi shortly. In the meantime, for those working with gifted learners, we highly recommend the toolkit for Learning Support Coordinators which is available here: [Supporting Teachers of Gifted Learners – A Toolkit for LSCs](#). You will also find more detail about each of the above myths on page 21 of the toolkit.

Gifted learners possess unique abilities, strengths and ways of thinking that require specialised support and understanding within the educational system. The toolkit provides a robust starting point that for recognising, understanding and supporting gifted and twice-exceptional learners in your educational setting.