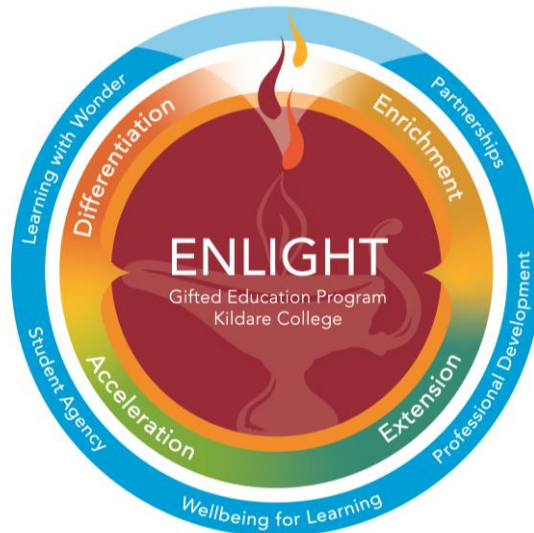




KILDARE  
COLLEGE

# Enlight Framework

## Framework for the Education of Gifted Students



### Differentiation

Differentiation at Kildare College is 'an approach to curriculum and instruction that systematically takes student differences into account in designing opportunities for each student to engage with information and ideas and to develop essential skills' (Jarvis and Tomlinson, 2009). Differentiation refers to deliberate adjustments to meet the specific learning needs of high potential and gifted students and is to be used in all classroom settings. Adjustments may be made to:

- content (what is being taught)
- the learning process (how the instruction is delivered)
- product (the evidence of student learning)
- the learning environment.

Teachers can adjust their teaching for gifted students in the following ways:

- **Content:** use topics of interest relevant to the students and how the world works, provide challenging reading materials, study problems that do not have clear solutions, and opportunities for individual projects.
- **Process:** flexible grouping of students (individual, pair, and small groups), encourage creativity and reward risk-taking, explicit teaching of skills to learn independently, and tiered lessons with instructions for different levels of mastery/ readiness.
- **Product:** conference with student about acceptable product or provide a variety of acceptable assessment types (this may include using Multiple Intelligences or Bloom's Taxonomy), align assessments with student interests (ie- students has interest in anime or podcasting), and tiered assessment design (tasks are designed so that they accommodate all levels of mastery/ readiness).
- **Learning environment:** gifted students have opportunities to work with other gifted students, and humour and creative thinking is rewarded.

Teachers are encouraged to seek support from:

- Gifted Education Key Teacher
- Curriculum Coordinator or Curriculum Key Teacher
- Director of Teaching and Learning
- Resources: <https://differentiationcentral.com/>

STRENGTH AND GENTLENESS



A KILDARE EDUCATION MINISTRIES CATHOLIC COLLEGE IN THE BRIGIDINE TRADITION.

## Enrichment

Enrichment at Kildare College for gifted students includes three interrelated components: excursions and incursions, interest groups, and participation in pilot programs. Interest and needs-based enrichment approaches will be based on the interests of the student and will be identified through the student conferencing process.

- **Existing interest-based opportunities include:**
  - Orchid Club
  - Living Justice Group
  - Student Leadership
  - Debating Club
  - Coding Club
  - Environmental Group
  - Art Club
  - Enlight Threatened Flora Group
  - Instrumental lessons
  - Italian Club
  - Positive Education Student Group
  - Youth Ambassadors Leadership Program
  - SAPSASSA competitions
  - Baking Club
  - State-wide knockout competitions
  
- **Needs-based enrichment opportunities include:**
  - Participation in CESA Pilot Programs
  - Subject Competitions (e.g., Science, English and Maths-based competitions)
  - Negotiated incursions and excursions

## Extension

**Extension at Kildare refers to activities that extend thinking and skills within the classroom.**

Extension (deepening) is a curriculum differentiation strategy in which adjusted tasks are given to gifted students in specific areas so that their knowledge and understanding is extended or deepened. Pre-tests or pre-assessments can be particularly useful for teachers in identifying a gifted student's Zone of Proximal Development so that the teacher can construct appropriate extension materials.

Extension activities are leveled to fit the student. **For gifted students these are challenging, meaning it is not more or busy work, but are instead activities that deepen understanding and generate challenge.** Importantly, extension activities should take the student's interests into consideration. For instance, a student may find a particular topic, such as medicine, interesting, meaning that the teacher can utilize skills or content from the current unit to now be applied to medicine.

In conjunction with extension in the classroom, Kildare College offers some specialist classes to actively extend student skills and understanding. Specialist classes are offered in the areas of:

- Netball
- Soccer
- Dance

One method of extension is Level of Abstractedness – This can be achieved by modifying the approach to task design and the types of questions posed to the gifted student. Research found by Davis and Rimm in 2004 found that for gifted students it is important that they are working in the top 3 areas of Bloom's Taxonomy, or **evaluation, synthesis and analysis**, wherever possible.

See: <https://www.renaissance.com.au/2020/11/17/extending-students-in-the-classroom/>

**Further examples of extension:**

Extension menus: an extension menu is a listing of activities the student can select from once they have completed assigned classwork. They can be arranged in a simple list or set up like a menu. A specific menu can be designed for each subject, or a more general one can be developed with activities that could apply across the curriculum.

See: <https://www.giftedguru.com/menus/>

**Mathematics - if a student is currently working on a unit on geometry, they could:**

- Look at geometry in construction, link it to the golden ratio.
- Work on proofs of geometric principles from Euclid.
- Look at ways to find other geometrical connections between different processes.

**For creative work, students may:**

- Base their characters around themes or abstract ideas instead of being restricted to plot.
- The teacher may also get the gifted student to complete a writer's statement to justify their decisions and deepen their understanding.

**For responding work or analysis, the teacher may:**

- Change the wording or focus of the response to be more complex.
- Similarly, the student may be able to focus on a critical perspective when completing a closed reading to challenge their skills of analysis and evaluation.

## Acceleration

**Acceleration at Kildare involves the individual subject acceleration that may be used with students in areas of strength or passion if students exhibit the ability to undertake tasks one or more years beyond their current enrolled year level.**

Acceleration is currently offered in:

- Dance
- Music
- Mathematics

Other opportunities may be offered if aligned with the Kildare College Gifted and Talented Procedure 2022.

Full year-level acceleration, in which a student is enrolled in a grade level beyond their age peers, may be used in some cases for students who have been categorised with a psychological assessment indicating a student being highly gifted (IQ of 145 or above). Full year-level acceleration will only be done in close collaboration with the practising psychologist, parents/caregivers, and school staff on a case-by-case basis if it is found that differentiation in the regular classroom is not sufficient to meet the needs of the student (see flowchart for identification). Regular conferencing will occur between the Key Teacher/ POR and student to ensure positive wellbeing and to address underachievement. The Key Teacher/POR will be responsible for the case-management of this student.