



**New Zealand Centre
for Gifted Education**
Empowering Extraordinary Minds

Information Pack 2019



MindPlus



Small Poppies



Gifted Online



Resource Base



Consultancy

WELCOME!

Welcome to the New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education (NZCGE). We exist to serve New Zealand's gifted young people. We do this by maximising their potential through recognition, access and support. Our priority focuses are to see that all young gifted New Zealanders are recognised and celebrated and have equitable access to quality gifted education and a network of support.

The Centre is dedicated to delivering evidence-guided, quality programmes directly to gifted learners. We are gifted education specialists – we know what gifted children need and how best to meet those needs. We deliver a number of student services and work hard to aid equitable access to our programmes and to gifted education opportunities delivered by others.

This information pack has been put together to give you some background information about the Centre and the different programmes and services we offer. We hope you join us soon.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education is a not-for-profit charitable business established in 2014 which provided services for gifted children. We are funded by fees, donations and grants from parents, schools and contestable funding, and receive no financial support from the Ministry of Education. Our vision is a future New Zealand in which extraordinary minds do extraordinary things.



MindPlus - *where like minds grow together*

MindPlus is a programme for gifted 6-13 year olds that provides intellectual, creative, social and emotional learning and support. Children come together, with a specialist teacher, for one day each week. They engage in differentiated, strength-based learning experiences to further develop their gifts and talents and a greater understanding of themselves.



Small Poppies - *big things have small beginnings*

Small Poppies is a programme for gifted early-years children and their parents or caregivers. Children and their parents/caregivers come together with a specialist teacher for 2½ hours each week to engage in stimulating learning experiences and explorations that are based on the children's interests and abilities.



Gifted Online - *a space where I can connect*

Gifted Online uses technology to connect gifted children with each other, with specialist teachers and with challenging and engaging learning opportunities. Originally designed to provide gifted children from rural New Zealand with access to quality gifted education, Gifted Online is now available to all gifted learners, worldwide.



Consultancy Service - *working together to create change*

Our Consultancy Service works alongside educators, parents and other adults to help them better support their gifted children. We share practical advice, guidance and resourcing support. Our consultancy team are highly experienced and knowledgeable in both gifted education theory and practice and all have experience in teaching and/or parenting gifted children.



Resource Base - *tools for the journey*

The New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education has an extensive collection of resources to support the teaching and parenting of gifted children, curriculum design for gifted programmes and academic study in gifted education. These resources are available for lending within New Zealand.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education (NZCGE) curriculum underpins all student programmes delivered by the Centre.

Purpose and Scope

The NZCGE Curriculum is a specialised, differentiated curriculum designed to help meet the needs of gifted learners in New Zealand. Its purpose is to guide teaching and learning for preschool, primary and secondary level programmes delivered by NZCGE, outside of the regular classroom.

Giftedness

At the Centre, we have a multi-categorical view of giftedness. We see giftedness as natural, well above-average ability in one or more areas, such as intellectual, creative, cultural, social, spiritual or physical. We believe that giftedness can be nurtured, resulting in outstanding achievement. We acknowledge that culture has a strong influence on concepts of giftedness and we are mindful of this when identifying and catering for gifted children. We acknowledge that giftedness is broad ranging and far reaching, and that a “broad brush” needs to be applied when considering who our gifted and talented learners are.

Principles

NZCGE follows eight principles and these are the foundation of our specialised curriculum decision making. They are the essence of the educational experience that we provide for our gifted learners. They are learner-centred and apply equally to every aspect of our specialised curriculum:

- personalisation
- challenge
- collaboration
- the Treaty of Waitangi
- strength focus
- holistic focus
- authentic learning
- future focus

Key Competencies

The New Zealand Curriculum identifies five key competencies:

- thinking
- using language, symbols, and texts
- managing self
- relating to others
- participating and contributing

The Centre values the importance and essence of these key competencies for New Zealand learners. The NZCGE Curriculum differentiates these key competencies so that they can best align with the needs of our gifted learners.

Learning Strands

Learning strands in the NZCGE Curriculum include three content strands and three process strands:

Content Strands

- Personal Development
- Conceptual Development
- Talent Development

Process Strands

- Research
- Complex Thinking
- Communication

Progress in the learning strands is demonstrated in two ways: increasing breadth, depth, sophistication and complexity in students' understanding and products of learning, and increasing self-direction in the pursuit and application of their learning.

While each of the learning strands is included as a separate component, they are integrally connected. At MindPlus, process skills are taught within the context of the content strands.





MindPlus

Where like minds grow together.



MindPlus is a programme for gifted 6-13 year olds that provides intellectual, creative, social and emotional learning and support. Children come together, with a specialist teacher, for one day each week. Together they engage in differentiated, strength-based learning experiences to further develop their gifts and talents and a greater understanding of themselves. The MindPlus programme implements the NZCGE curriculum in its entirety.

MINDPLUS PROGRAMME AIMS

The MindPlus programme brings learners of like mind together to:

- develop an understanding of self as a gifted individual;
- explore and develop gifts, talents and passions;
- engage in abstract and complex learning;
- experience and embrace new challenges;
- create and innovate.

We achieve our programme aims through our learning strands.

CONTENT STRANDS

Personal Development

Personal development is about the exploration, understanding, development and acceptance of intra- and interpersonal knowledge and skills. The key focus for this curriculum strand is understanding giftedness and the associated implications for managing self, relating to others, and participating and contributing.

Talent Development

Talent development is about the in-depth exploration and development of strengths, talents, interests and passions, moving in a deliberate and planned way towards expertise. To further their giftedness, students need to participate in challenging learning experiences that extend from their talents, abilities and interests.

Conceptual Development

Conceptual development involves complex and in-depth identification, exploration and formation of deep understandings related to universal concepts and big ideas. Conceptual development is accelerated, abstract and interdisciplinary learning.

PROCESS STRANDS

Learning through the process strands aims to equip gifted learners with the necessary skills and tools to manage, transform and communicate complex and abstract content. Within the MindPlus programme, learning processes are interwoven through the content strands. The main process skills developed through the curriculum are research, thinking and communication skills.

WHY MINDPLUS IS GREAT FOR CREATIVELY AND ACADEMICALLY GIFTED CHILDREN:

- Children connect with like-minded peers who think like them and understand each other.
- Learning is challenging and applied, and stretches children's abilities and ways of thinking.
- Small class numbers enable personalised learning that focuses on each child's strengths and interests.
- Our specialist teachers understand gifted learners and what makes them tick.



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REFERRAL/ENROLMENT PROCESS- Entry Selection

The function of the Entry Selection Process is to determine suitability of the child for the programme, considering a match between the child's abilities and potential and those that could be developed further in the MindPlus programme.

The New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education uses a multi-categorical, triangulated approach to selecting children for MindPlus. Information regarding a child's intellectual, creative, and personal abilities and traits are collected from their home, school and from the child themselves. This information is analysed to determine whether the child would benefit from attending MindPlus. This process is designed for entry selection to MindPlus. It is not designed to assess giftedness, in general.

Referrals can be submitted by either schools or families, but ultimately, both need to support the referral.

To help us determine if attending the programme is going to benefit the child we:

1. Collect referral information from home and school. (An individual educational psychologist assessment report can be included as supporting information.)
2. Require children to attend a half-day entry selection workshop.

The Referral Pack is made up of three sections:

1. Principal Approval Form
2. Teacher Questionnaire
3. Student Referral Form and Parent Questionnaire

Once the referral pack has been completed and that data entered, we then organise and facilitate the Entry Selection Workshop. Entry Selection Workshops consist of groups of children engaging in a selection of stimulating and challenging activities that allow our specialist assessors to observe for and assess the intellectual, creative and personal abilities that the programme seeks to further develop. The workshops are three hours and very interactive.

OUTCOMES

New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education conducts its Entry Selection Process for several hundred children nationwide each year. Our team personally reviews all of the data for each student referred. At the end of the Entry Selection Process, one of the following outcome recommendations will be provided: Yes, Trial, Relook or No.

LOCATIONS

MindPlus has Units in:

- Auckland (4 locations)
- Hamilton
- Rotorua
- Wellington (2 locations)
- Hutt Valley
- Christchurch
- Wakatipu

MindPlus delivered by NZCGE Centres in:

- Waiheke
- Taranaki
- Lincoln
- Mid-Canterbury
- Dunedin
- Invercargill





Small Poppies

Big things have small beginnings



Small Poppies is a child-centred environment designed specifically to meet the needs of young gifted children and their parents or caregivers. It draws on the NZCGE Curriculum to provide an enrichment and extension programme in which a range of challenging learning experiences are offered that allows gifted children to work at their own pace and level, with children of similar abilities and interests. It also provides an opportunity for parents to meet others facing similar parenting challenges. Emphasis is placed on stimulating the child's learning process, rather than on achieving any specific end result or product.

Children and their parents/caregivers come together with a specialist teacher for 2½ hours each week to engage in stimulating learning experiences and explorations that are based on the children's interests and abilities. Class sizes are capped at 12 children.

SMALL POPPIES OBJECTIVES

- To challenge and 'feed' the minds of the children present, at a level that is appropriate to their needs.
- To provide an opportunity for gifted children to develop social contact with their peers.
- To provide support for parents of young gifted children and to assist them to meet the needs of their children at home.

Why Small Poppies is Great for Young Gifted Children

- Learning is hands-on and engaging, feeding inquiring and creative young minds.
- Children connect with like-minded peers who think, talk and feel like them.
- Our teachers understand gifted learners and what makes them tick.

REFERRAL/ENROLMENT PROCESS

Referrals are usually initiated by parents but can also be initiated by Early Childhood Centres or Schools (5 and 6-year olds only). Principal agreement is required for a school child to attend Small Poppies during school time.

To help us determine if attending the programme is going to benefit the child we require a parent questionnaire to be completed and for the children to attend a two hour entry selection workshop, called a Poppy Peek.

Poppy Peeks consist of groups of children engaging in a selection of activities that allow our specialist teachers to observe for and assess the intellectual, creative and personal abilities that the programme seeks to further develop. The workshops are two hours long, very interactive, and are based on the Small Poppies programme. They help parents and children to decide on future options for more able/gifted pre-schoolers or 5-6 year olds.

Places on a Poppy Peek are strictly limited and must be booked in advance.

Attendance at a Poppy Peek, coupled with a recommendation from the Poppy Peek teacher, allows entry into the Small Poppies programme before your child turns 7.

Referrals cannot be progressed until the completed parent questionnaire is received, along with payment. Families will be emailed at this stage to confirm a place in a Poppy Peek.

OUTCOMES

At the end of the Poppy Peek families are provided with one of the following recommendations:

- Yes, Trial or No

If there is a space available in preferred location, children who are accepted (yes or trial) will be offered a place in a class.

LOCATIONS

Small Poppies has classes in various locations in Auckland and Christchurch and is looking to re-establish in Wellington.





Gifted Online

A space where I can connect



Gifted Online (GO) is a suite of online programmes for gifted children. Initially set up to meet the needs of rural New Zealand children, these programmes now also accept children from New Zealand cities and from overseas.

The range of programmes caters for different interests and needs and follow the same curriculum as MindPlus. Children joining a GO programme have access to a secure website where they choose their tasks, share their work, and can view the work of other students. Online browsing time beyond the secure website is also useful for the completion of the majority of tasks. Online chats add a real-time dimension to communication with teachers and with small groups of other students.

GO DAY

GO Day lessons are engaging and varied, with a range of options to ensure students can work on challenging and interesting tasks in each lesson.

GO Day lessons are designed to increase the breadth, depth, sophistication and complexity of gifted students' knowledge and abilities, and to increase students' self-directedness in their learning. GO Day follows the NZCGE curriculum and covers all six content and process strands:

Each GO Day lesson takes approximately 5-6 hours to complete, which can be completed in one day or across the week. GO Day consists of the online lesson, an online meeting each week with other GO students, and time to complete the suggested activities.

Entry to GO Day is via completion of a Student Referral Form, Parent Questionnaire, Teacher Questionnaire and Principal Support Form.

For more information and sample lessons: <http://giftededucation.ultranet.school.nz/WebSpace/1436/>

GO SESSION

GO Session provides students engaging and varied lessons each week, with options to provide optimal challenge and interest. GO Session uses a smaller section of the NZCGE curriculum:

- conceptual development
- personal development
- communication development
- research development
- complex thinking development

Each session takes approximately 2 hours to complete, which can be completed in one sitting or spread over 2 one hour blocks. GO Sessions consist of the online lesson each week, an online meeting on Tuesdays (using Zoom), and time to complete the suggested activities.

Entry to GO Session is via completion of a Student Referral Form, Parent Questionnaire, Teacher Questionnaire and Principal Support Form.

For more information and sample lessons: <http://giftededucation.ultranet.school.nz/WebSpace/1351/>

GO TALENT

GO Talent programmes provide engaging and varied lessons each week in a range of interest and talent areas, with options to provide optimal challenge and interest. GO Talent uses a smaller section of the NZCGE curriculum, focusing on talent development and process skills in research, complex thinking, and communication.

GO Talent is designed to work with students' existing strengths to increase the breadth, depth, sophistication and complexity of students' knowledge and abilities, and to increase students' self-direction in their learning.

Entry to all GO Talent programmes is by way of completion of a Student Referral Form and Principal Support Form.

GO Talent: Storymakers - an online club for students who are passionate about writing, in one form or another. A storymaker can be a writer who writes, or a writer who doesn't. Some children think up the best stories but just don't like writing, or find it very difficult. Students can make audio files, animations or cartoon strips, or have someone else write their thoughts down for them.

For more information and sample lesson: <http://giftededucation.ultranet.school.nz/WebSpace/410/>

GO Talent: Readers - an online club for students who are passionate readers, who relish opportunities to get their teeth into interesting reads, who dream about their books and who would love to work with other passionate readers. For more information and a sample lesson: <http://giftededucation.ultranet.school.nz/WebSpace/1419/>

GO Talent: Designers - students who are passionate about designing, building, making and creating will love these online lessons about design theory, graphics, coding, animation, gaming, modelling, presentation, colour theory, invention and innovation.

For more information and sample lessons: <http://giftededucation.ultranet.school.nz/WebSpace/1476/>

GO Talent: Problem Solvers - is all about using mathematical, logical and creative thinking to puzzle out solutions to problems - from maths, the real world, and our imaginations. Maths, creative, critical and caring thinking skills, research, inventing and innovating skills are used to solve all sorts of problems.

For more information and sample lessons: <http://giftededucation.ultranet.school.nz/WebSpace/1471/>



Consultancy Services

Working together to create change

The NZCGE Consultancy provides services for educators, parents and the networks who support gifted learners. Our Consultancy offers advisory, learning, practical and resourcing support, bringing specialist knowledge and experience of what is recommended in the education of gifted students and what works for them in practice.

- PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- PROGRAMME DESIGN
- IDENTIFICATION
- MENTORING
- RESOURCE TEACHER SUPPORT
- ITINERANT TEACHER SUPPORT

Many of these services are targeted directly to the needs of the child, the family and/or the school.



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Resource Base

Tools for the journey



NZCGE has a large and varied collection of books, journals and other reference material that can be loaned to schools, teachers and families of children attending an NZCGE Programme.

ACCESS

The online library can be found at nzcge.libib.com

COSTS

Access to the Resource Base is by annual membership or via casual borrowing:

Annual school membership (Membership School):	no charge
Annual school membership (non-Membership School):	\$57.50 inc GST
Annual individual membership (with attending child):	no charge
Annual individual membership (without attending child):	\$40.25 inc GST
Casual (non-member) loan:	\$5.75 inc GST per item per 6 weeks

Annual membership holders are entitled to unlimited borrowing at no additional per item charge. Return postage costs are in addition to any membership or borrowing charges..



NZCGE 2019 Costs and Assistance

A series of Terms and Conditions are shared with families before their children start the programme.

COSTS

All Programmes

Administration Fee (one off) \$25.00 inc GST

MindPlus

Weekly Attendance Fee \$75.00 inc GST

Voluntary Donation \$15.00 per term/\$50.00 for all 4 terms (does not include GST and is tax deductible)

Small Poppies

Poppy Peek Session (one-off) \$40.00 inc GST

Weekly Attendance Fee \$40.00 inc GST

Gifted Online

Weekly Attendance Fee \$50.00 inc GST – GO Day

\$30.00 inc GST – GO Session

\$20.00 inc GST – GO Talent: Storymakers / Readers / Designers / Problem-solvers

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

MindPlus

- NZCGE does have a Financial Assistance programme, providing partial subsidies when funding allows. Those who receive financial assistance will be required to sign a separate application and acceptance form.
- If financial assistance is required in order for your child(ren) to attend, this assistance must be in place before the child(ren) will be allowed to start.
- Financial assistance is offered from the date of application through to the end of the same year.
- Financial assistance must be reapplied for each year.
- If your situation changes, and financial assistance is no longer required, or you would like a review of your application, please contact Head Office immediately.
- There is currently no financial assistance programme in place for Small Poppies or Gifted Online.





NZCGE Contact Information

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MINDPLUS

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GIFTED ONLINE

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