

The Classroom Quality Standards for Gifted and Talented Education: a subject focus

A resource for leadership teams, leading teachers for gifted and talented education, subject leaders, and classroom practitioners

The Quality Standards: self-evaluation tools for G&T Education

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has developed a suite of National Quality Standards for Gifted and Talented (G&T) Education in England.

This includes:

- the Institutional Quality Standards (IQS) – a whole-school self-evaluation and planning tool, designed for use by senior and middle leaders
- the Classroom Quality Standards (CQS) – a tool to support teachers and other classroom practitioners to reflect on their own practice and to plan further development and action research
- the Local Authority Quality Standards (LAQS) – a self-evaluation tool to be used by local Children's Services Authorities.

All three tools are intended to provide flexible frameworks around which professionals can examine their practice and plan improvement, rather than as prescriptive models of provision.

The CQS are designed specifically to improve classroom practice in gifted and talented education. They have been developed in order to:

- promote a shared understanding and greater consistency in evaluating effective provision in the classroom
- engage teachers and practitioners in classrooms and early years settings in reviewing their practice – individually and in collaboration with others – in order to identify strengths and areas for further exploration and improvement.



The CQS are a key tool for leading teachers for gifted and talented education. They support the role of the leading teacher in working:

- with senior and middle-level leaders to evaluate and plan development of provision as an integral part of the School Improvement Plan
- collaboratively with teachers to improve classroom practice.

Leading teachers offer valuable mediation and moderation of judgments for teachers and other staff using the CQS. They can provide a lead in sharing good practice as well as planning and supporting professional development activities arising from the self-evaluation.

The CQS support classroom teachers in providing for gifted and talented learners within all subjects through:

- generic standards applicable to all classrooms and all stages
- cross-phase subject-specific standards for English, mathematics, science and ICT
- support materials, exemplification and guidance.

The CQS – a layered model

Layer 1- a quick self-review

- helps teachers to gain a quick overview of their current practice in providing challenge for all pupils
- provides a starting point for **all** staff engaging with the CQS
- is a tool for undertaking an initial review across seven key features of effective support and challenge in teaching and learning.

For each feature there is a set of prompts or questions designed to stimulate teachers and practitioners to reflect upon their current practice, before focusing usually on just one or maybe two features in more depth in Layer 2.



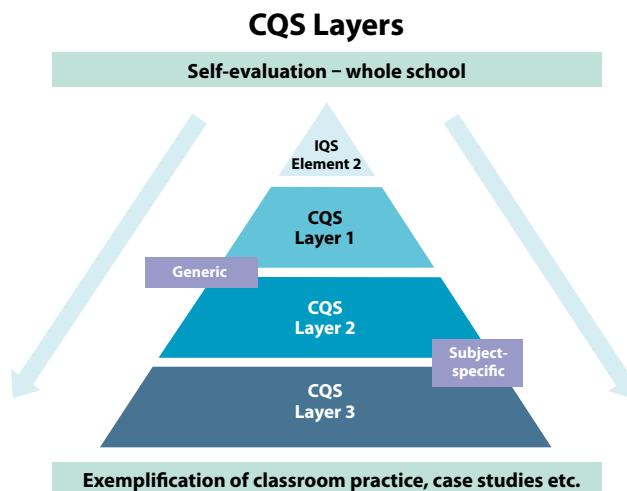
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Layer 2 – a deeper, evidence-based evaluation

- allows teachers to evaluate the quality of current provision and level of challenge for gifted and talented pupils
- develops the key features and prompts in relation to the specific needs of gifted and talented learners, using a generic or subject-focused approach
- describes practice at Entry, Developing and Exemplary levels.

Like the IQS, self-evaluation is to be based upon a 'best-fit' approach.

Layer 3– support for next steps in improvement

- helps teachers to identify ways of improving classroom provision
- is an online resource-base of guidance, exemplification, case studies of action research and other support materials.

It is intended that over time more of these resources will be generated by teachers and schools themselves.

The CQS are available at:

www.nationalstrategiescpd.org.uk/course/view.php?id=183

All schools can obtain a copy of the CQS on DVD, accompanied by a support booklet, from their local authority.

Further copies can be ordered from DCSF publications by calling 0845 60 222 60 or emailing dcsf@prolog.uk.com and quoting ref: 005556-2008DVD-EN

For further information contact your LA gifted and talented lead, primary or secondary strategy manager or email giftedandtalented@nationalstrategies.co.uk