

## Learning characteristics

High potential students are those whose potential exceeds that of students of the same age in one or more domains: intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical. These characteristics, listed below, may be found in all learners but are strongly evident in high potential and gifted learners.

### **Intellectual**

- capacity for greater analytical depth
- fewer repetitions needed for mastery
- greater capability in abstract reasoning
- relative ease in making connections between disciplines
- advanced reading ability and comprehension
- knowledgeable in areas of passion
- processes information in complex ways
- enjoys hypothesising
- thrives on complexity and can see many points of view
- thinks in analogies

*NB: These learning characteristics should be used as only one source of evidence to assess and identify student needs. This is not an exhaustive list nor is it a checklist.*

### **Social-emotional**

- advanced organisational and management skills
- advanced social and communication skills
- emotional stability
- empathy
- demonstrated leadership and decision-making skills
- resilient and self-aware
- foresees consequences and implications of decisions
- respected by peers
- self-confident
- task analysis and backwards mapping abilities
- social justice advocacy

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### **Physical**

- subtlety in movement and control of body
- self-disciplined
- coordinated, balanced and confident in physical activities
- high energy levels
- superior understanding of spatial relationships
- endurance, stamina and persistence in physical activities

- suitability of body build for area of physical high potential
- demonstrates prowess in physical activities common amongst age peers
- competitive
- 'hands on' learning preference

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### **Creative**

- educational risk-taking
- tolerance for ambiguity
- makes unusual associations between different ideas
- demonstrates creative thinking across domain areas and in the different disciplines
- demonstrates novel thinking in written and oral expression
- flexibility and divergence in thinking
- unusual ability for expressing self through art, dance, drama, music
- creates several solutions to a given problem
- synthesises a variety of ideas in original ways

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