

Using Your GATE Register

The GATE register differs from the individual pupil profile which is more detailed and which follows the child throughout his or her schooling and goes with him or her to whatever schools he or she is enrolled in. Both, however, can be used for planning purposes.

For example, the school should be able to look at its register and make observations such as:

We're identifying twice as many boys as we are girls. We need to check our teachers understand what to look for with gifted girls.

The students we're identifying as gifted mathematically are opting out of the maths enrichment programme after a semester. A couple of those who've opted out have actually done better in the external exams than those who've stayed in. We need to review the programme.

Next term we're doing an intensive on maps and mapping using computer technology. Which students are most likely to benefit from that?

Since we introduced those new pre-test guidelines in physics, we're getting better results at the end of the term – the students are learning more. Clearly the guidelines are working.

Wise schools include a list, not only of those identified, but also those nominated, as sometimes these children may be “re-visited” when further information about them comes to light.

Some schools borrow Renzulli's idea of a “talent pool” to help them monitor their provision for specific areas of ability, and in their register will flag children who might be particularly suitable for certain programmes, eg a creative writing intensive.

Data from the school GATE register can also be used to support requests to management for budget allocations, resource or personnel acquisition, additional staff PD, and so on.