



SMITH'S HILL HIGH SCHOOL

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN A SPIRIT OF TRUST AND COOPERATION

High Potential and Gifted Education Acceleration guidance for parents

What is acceleration?

Acceleration is an advanced learning pathway where students are enrolled in and are working towards learning outcomes beyond their age. Acceleration can be applied across one or more of the domains of potential, that is, intellectual, creative, physical and social-emotional.

Acceleration is not limited to academic achievement

The purpose of acceleration is to provide students with learning that matches their advanced needs. Gifted students learn complex content with greater ease and speed compared to their age peers. Interventions such as acceleration can support these students to remain engaged when learning. When acceleration is in the best interest of a student, this may include options such as:

- single or multiple subject acceleration
- whole grade skipping
- curriculum compacting
- curriculum telescoping

These options are combined with other advanced learning opportunities, extra support and flexible learning pathways that will support their development at SHHS.

Acceleration is not about pushing or 'forcing' your child to learn advanced material or techniques before they are ready, rather it is a highly effective intervention, widely supported by research, that respects the student's individual learning needs and provides the flexibility to accommodate them.

In addition to this general information, it is strongly encouraged parents engage with the information provided in the department [Revisiting Gifted Education Literature Review 2019](#), conducted by the Centre of Education Statistics and Evaluation. [Here](#).

Acceleration Guidance for Parents

Why and when is acceleration considered?

Acceleration is used at SHHS when it is in the best learning interests of a gifted, or highly gifted, student. Some indicators for acceleration include:

- a disconnect between ability and achievement
- boredom
- desire for more challenge
- high-level performance or skill
- the ability to work beyond year/stage level.

These indicators do not in themselves determine that acceleration is required.

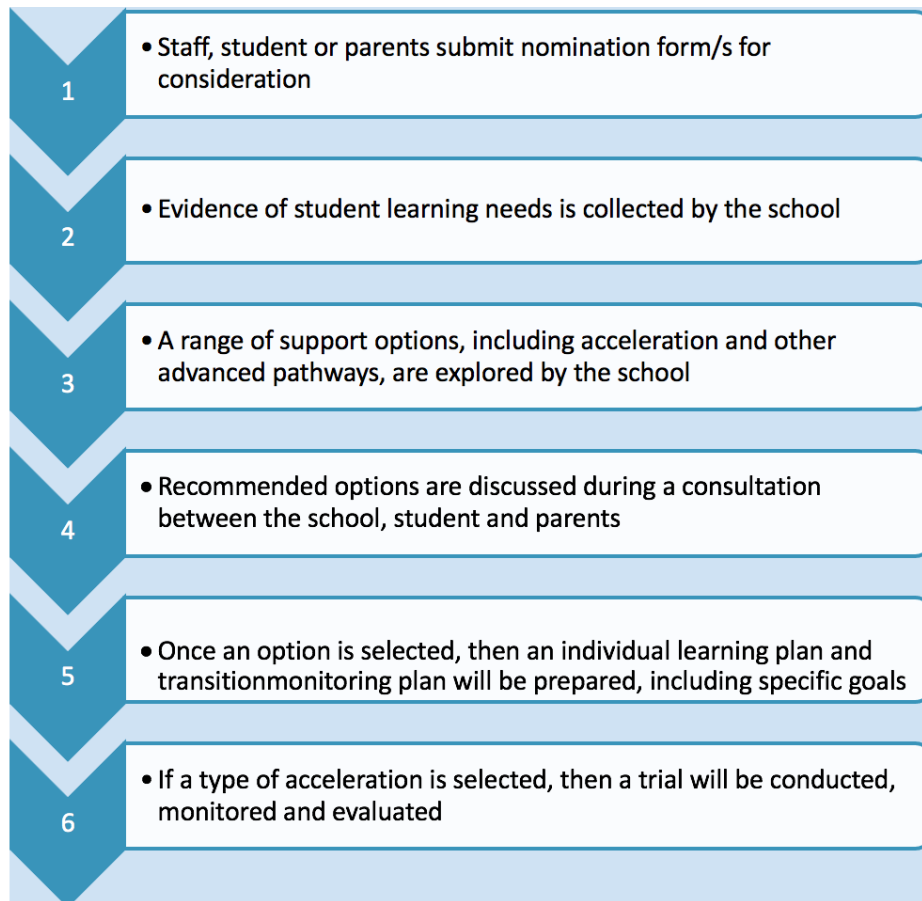
Acceleration may not be appropriate for every student who demonstrates high performance

You can nominate your child for acceleration at any time, although it is recommended that it occur at natural transition points for example, moving from primary school to high school.

What are the benefits?

- students benefit when the curriculum flexibly meets their learning needs
- research very strongly supports acceleration as a highly effective strategy for gifted and highly gifted students
- research consistently shows positive social outcomes in all forms of acceleration
- can increase student engagement and allow students to work with peers with similar interests.
- supportive of students social and emotional wellbeing
- studies have found no observed evidence that acceleration results in negative academic or social outcomes for students.

What is the process of nominating a student for acceleration?



The consultation process that occurs will include you, the student, school staff such as school counsellors, HT T&L, teachers, Learning and Support staff and the Principal. You will need to be prepared to meet and discuss your nomination with some, or all, of these staff.

Acceleration will only be continued while it remains in the best interest of the student.

Before making a nomination consider these questions:

- How do current school provisions support my child's development?
- Is there a gap between my child's potential and how they are developing?
- Do I have enough information to help me? make an informed decision?

Useful websites

NSW DoE High Potential and Gifted Education - [Supporting parents and carers](#)

AAEGT – [Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented](#)

Gifted NSW – [Gifted Families Support Group In](#)