



New Zealand Centre  
for Gifted Education  
*Empowering Extraordinary Minds*

# For Schools MindPlus YourSchool



## Summary

**MindPlus YourSchool brings world-class specialist gifted education to your primary or intermediate school.**

As a MindPlus Partner School with the New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education, you can offer your own half-day weekly programme for the gifted learners at your school, with the confidence that you are using a world class, proven curriculum and are actively supported by our dedicated specialist gifted education teacher.

## The challenge for schools

5% of children are gifted, which means they are born with innate high abilities, along with particular personal qualities, that can be seen in one or more domains - intellectual, creative, cultural, social, spiritual or physical. 30% of gifted children also have other neurodiversities such as ASD, ADHD and dyslexia.

**What that means is that, in each of your classrooms, at least one of your students is gifted, and they may well have another neurodiversity which can make spotting them as gifted even more challenging.**

Whilst some gifted kids may cope in a normal classroom without specialist support, many won't.

Without the special challenge and support they need, half of these gifted students will underachieve. They may struggle or even drop out. They might become disruptive in class. They could feel isolated or develop anxiety and depression.

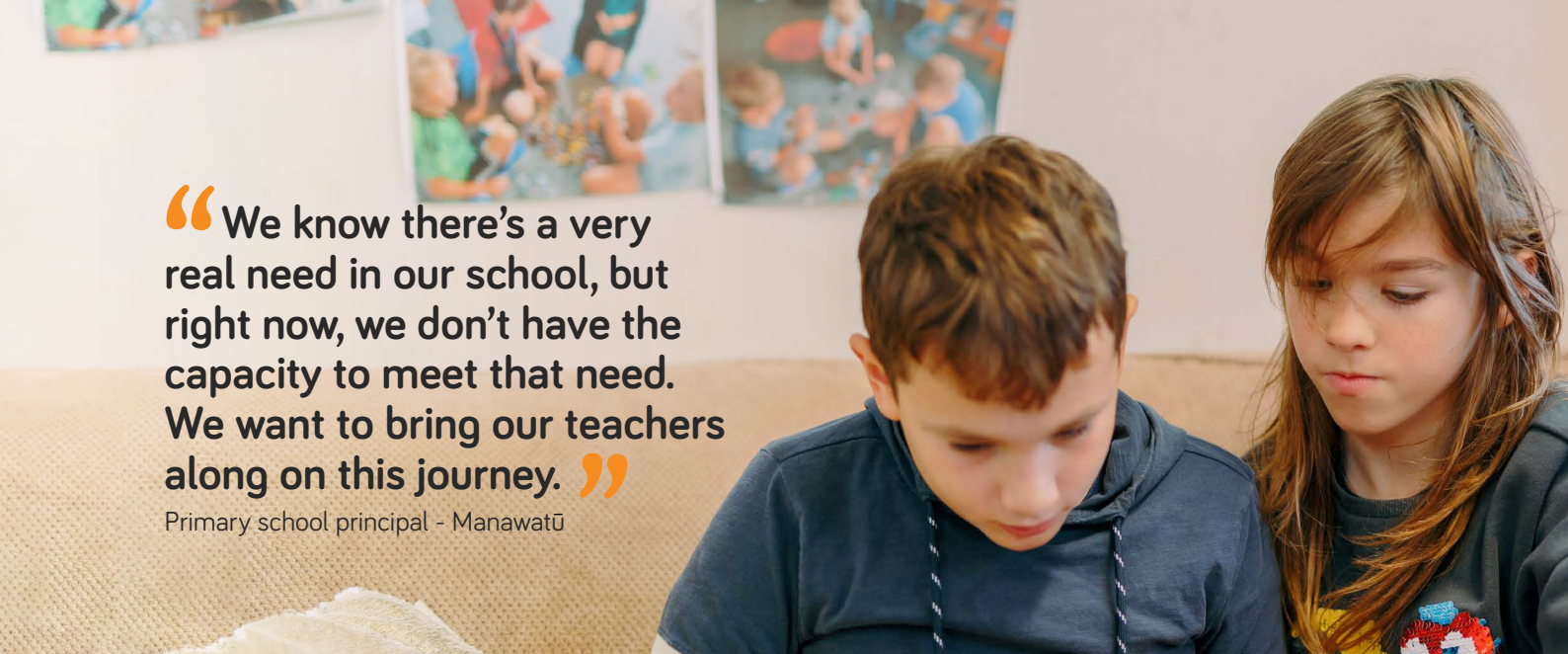
As a school, you know who these children are and know you have a responsibility to provide them with specialist support. But you may well be at a loss for how to provide that support effectively - particularly given your SENCO or RTLB is struggling to keep up, and you have no specialist gifted education teacher on staff.

**“ We’ve been looking hard for better ways to support our gifted kids - we just don’t know what these are right now. ”**

Primary school deputy principal - Auckland







“We know there’s a very real need in our school, but right now, we don’t have the capacity to meet that need. We want to bring our teachers along on this journey.”

Primary school principal - Manawatū

## The opportunity

**MindPlus YourSchool** offers a solution. As a MindPlus Partner School, you can deliver a half-day a week, world class specialist gifted education programme at your own school, wherever you are in Aotearoa. Your school provides your own gifted students with the specialist support they need, and you provide one of your own teachers the opportunity for high quality professional learning and development in gifted education.

**We’ve made it easy so that you can ensure your gifted ākonga can achieve their potential to do extraordinary things, wherever they live, whatever their ethnicity and whatever their parents’ income.**

## What schools get

- **Support to identify your gifted children.** Some gifted children are unmissable, but many go hidden. Girls and students from minority ethnic backgrounds often mask their abilities to fit in. Other neurodiversities like ASD, ADHD and dyslexia can also make giftedness tough to spot.
- **A half day once a week programme.** The NZ Centre for Gifted Education is the only nationwide provider of specialist gifted education. We’ve been doing it for 25 years and we’ve developed our own specialist gifted education programme that works, focusing on conceptual thinking, talent development and social and emotional learning. We support you to run that programme in your school in a way that fits with your unique needs and strategy as a school.
- **A specialist educator.** We have handpicked our staff of specialist gifted education teachers and we ensure they are up-to-date with the latest in gifted education. One of our MindPlus educators works directly with you: helping to design your own programme on the basis of our specialist curriculum; planning jointly with your teacher; leading a 45 minute Zoom session with your kids each week and providing feedback on their work; and mentoring and supporting your teacher.
- **Professional learning.** We all know that seminars and workshops can only go so far to build professional expertise. What really works is hands-on, just-in-time learning with a highly skilled mentor. Your teacher gets what they need to get started with an online introduction to gifted education, builds their expertise each week in the classroom supported by our teacher, deepens their learning with self-paced injections of extra content throughout the year, and reflects on their learning in the context of professional relationships with our other MindPlus Partner Teachers across the country. At the end, they receive a NZCGE Partner Teacher certification and digital badge.
- **“Just for you” support.** Schools working to support gifted and neurodiverse children can face many challenges. For example, schools can struggle to build specialised support plans for individual children with high needs. Schools can also struggle with how to define giftedness in the context of their own communities. As an add-on to the **MindPlus YourSchool** programme, we can help you work through all these challenges.

## How it works

<p>1. Sign up</p>	<p>From October 2021, we are signing up 10 diverse MindPlus Partner Schools around New Zealand. Get in touch with our Head of Programmes, Madelaine Armstrong Willcocks if you are keen to be one of them. We will then enter into an agreement together so we're all clear on how it works and our mutual responsibilities.</p>
<p>2. Pick your teacher</p>	<p>A successful <b>MindPlus YourSchool</b> experience will come down to the teacher you pick to lead the programme as your MindPlus Partner Teacher. Make sure they have a passion for meeting the needs of diverse learners, and that you can give them the time to run the programme and upskill professionally. You will need to release them for at least half a day each week. It's a great opportunity for someone you see as high potential to add to their professional toolkit.</p>
<p>3. Plan logistics</p>	<p>For <b>MindPlus YourSchool</b>, you'll need to have a quiet dedicated space - a classroom or part of the library perhaps - for the MindPlus kids to gather and work together with their teacher for half a day each week.</p> <p><b>MindPlus YourSchool</b> runs online, using Google Classroom, and our teacher will Zoom in for 45 minutes during each session. That means you'll need a Chromebook or laptop for each of the students and internet connectivity.</p> <p>In terms of timetabling, you may need to juggle to ensure that the MindPlus kids get their half day every week. Consistency matters so make sure to protect MindPlus time</p>
<p>4. Get up to speed</p>	<p>Your MindPlus Partner Teacher will begin their learning journey from January 2022 with a self-guided online <b>Introduction to Gifted Education</b> programme. It's fun, interactive and practical, covering four issues: (1) what is giftedness; (2) how to identify gifted students; (3) what makes quality gifted education; and (4) working with the NZCGE curriculum. There's also a mini version for other staff members keen to upskill.</p>
<p>5. Identify students</p>	<p>At the start of the 2022 school year, you'll want to get underway identifying the gifted students you'd like to be part of MindPlus at your school and seeking their parents' permission for them to participate. We suggest a minimum of 6 kids and a maximum of 15. We suggest you bring together a multi-year group, recognising that students can be working across many different age levels and your teacher can differentiate their learning. You may want to invite gifted learners from other schools in your Kahui Ako to join in.</p> <p>We provide you with an Identification Guide which you can modify to fit your schools needs. We suggest you work through our Identification Guide with teachers, families and students. If you need extra support, we can provide this as an add-on service.</p>

<p><b>6. Plan</b></p>	<p>Once everything is in place, your Partner Teacher and our MindPlus Teacher will come together over Zoom to plan the programme at your school!</p> <p>Our MindPlus Teacher will share a basic outline of the MindPlus programme and, together with your teacher, they'll weave in key approaches, ideas and activities from your school to create a plan for the year, with a more detailed plan for the term ahead. We have a huge bank of resources to draw on!</p> <p>The YourSchool team will also plan for how they are going to work together through the year, including the weekly 45 minute class Zoom led by our MindPlus Teacher; our MindPlus Teacher's weekly review of one piece of student work each; and weekly support and planning catch-ups.</p>
<p><b>7. Get going</b></p>	<p>We're all set to go! Your gifted kids, your Partner Teacher and our MindPlus Teacher are ready to kick off a fantastic year of specialist gifted education that extends, challenges and inspires your kids.</p>
<p><b>8. Reflect and iterate</b></p>	<p>Each term, your Partner Teacher and our MindPlus Teacher will review how your class is going, agree any areas that need work, and identify opportunities for further learning for your teacher from our suite of online professional development materials.</p> <p>At the end of the year, students, their families and their regular classroom teachers will also undertake our annual Impact Survey looking at how MindPlus has impacted on student learning and social and emotional outcomes. We'll also take a look at how the MindPlus programme has impacted on teacher understanding of gifted students more generally in your school. These results will provide the basis for reflection and potential change to the programme the following year.</p>

## What does it cost?

The MindPlus YourSchool programme costs your school \$300 (excl GST) per week over 38 weeks or \$11,400 per annum. Generous support from donors enables us to provide a **MindPlus YourSchool Fellowship** to a number of schools who would otherwise be unable to afford the programme. The school contributes its teacher, commits to full leadership engagement and pays \$1,400 pa. We can also provide a **MindPlus TreasureChest** to Fellowship schools - a treasure chest of games, books, tools and educational resources.

Schools can also purchase "just for you" add-ons, like:

- Assistance to identify gifted kids using our own specialised assessment processes
- An introductory workshop for all staff
- Help to build specialised support plans for specific students

**To learn more, please contact:**

**Madelaine Armstrong Willcocks, Head of Programmes**  
[madelaine.willcocks@nzcge.co.nz](mailto:madelaine.willcocks@nzcge.co.nz)

