



# New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education

*Empowering Extraordinary Minds*

## Help a local school open up the world to its gifted kids.

If their gifts are recognised, nurtured and grown, gifted children can do extraordinary things.

But being different and out of step with their peers isn't easy. Without specialist challenge and support, 50% of our gifted kids will underachieve, struggle at school, become disruptive in class, or even drop out.

## The challenge for schools

Schools have a responsibility to identify and support their gifted students, but principals and learning support staff report being overwhelmed by other priorities. Even where schools do want to prioritise gifted kids, few have a teacher who has received meaningful training to identify and support gifted students. And lower decile schools know that their parents are very unlikely to be able to afford to send their children to one of our specialist MindPlus "one day school" programmes - only 5% of our MindPlus OurSchool students come from Decile 1-2 schools.



Our biggest barrier as a low decile school is that our funds go toward providing basic needs - stationery, warm jackets, kai - that aren't even on other schools' radar. Any other funds, and any spare time that our amazing educators have, goes towards behavioural and learning challenges.

There's no way our parents can afford to pay more for gifted education support. Some parents are setting aside \$2 per week over the year to be able to afford camp, while some of our extraordinary kids hide the camp application forms from their parents, so that mum and dad don't have to experience the shame of saying "No".

- **Kasia Jeric**, MindPlus YourSchool Partner Teacher, North Street School.





## Meeting the challenge in partnership with local schools

MindPlus YourSchool is an innovative new programme, launched by NZCGE in 2022, to bring a world class, specialist gifted education programme to local schools across New Zealand and to train new gifted education teachers on the job. Our specialist MindPlus teacher partners with a teacher at the local school, supporting them to identify a cohort of gifted students at the school, to bring them together for a half-day per week at their own school, and to deliver our proven gifted education programme, including by co-teaching online and connecting their students with our wider family of 700 gifted kids throughout New Zealand. Partner teachers can also access ongoing bite-sized professional learning modules and finish the year with certification by us as a MindPlus Partner Teacher.

For schools, including many lower decile schools, who are unable to afford the MindPlus YourSchool programme cost of \$11,400 pa, we offer a **MindPlus YourSchool Fellowship**. The school contributes a teacher, commits to full leadership engagement and support, and \$1,400 pa.

**A sponsoring organisation contributes \$10,000 pa to fund the MindPlus YourSchool Fellowship for a specific school (with an optional addition of \$2,000 for a MindPlus Resource Box - a treasure chest of games, books, tools and educational resources that provide the kids with challenge and growth).**



Seeing our gifted kids come together in a safe spot, a happy place, with other incredible tamariki who are on their wavelength is just phenomenal. At our first session they wrote scrolls and scrolls of paper about their areas of talent and passion. When I said “That is what we are focusing on here”, they literally started jumping up and down and cheering! - **Kasia Jeric, MindPlus YourSchool Partner Teacher, North Street School.**



Watch Kasia share North Street School's story [here](#).

### MindPlus YourSchool enables schools to offer an evidence-based programme that delivers:\*

- Interesting and challenging work (95%)
- A teacher who “understands” me (92%)
- An opportunity to learn about being gifted and what it means for me (95%)
- A chance to learn about new things and have new experiences (94%)
- Time and support to develop my talent areas (90%)

\* Independent impact evaluation by RAD Science.

**If you have any questions about supporting a school to deliver its own gifted programme, please contact Justine Munro, CEO, [justine.munro@nzcge.co.nz](mailto:justine.munro@nzcge.co.nz) | 021 537 790**