



## Mentoring gifted students

### Why mentor gifted student?

Gifted students may have particular social and emotional needs, which may need support:

- ◆ Difficulties with peers:
- ◆ Expectations of teachers and parents: must be aware that emotional maturity is not always in line with intellectual ability and not to expect too much all the time,
- ◆ Decision making and perfectionism – aid children to make appropriate choices and develop a sense of proportion
- ◆ Intellectual arrogance – help children to see the advantages of an open mind and broader perspective and develop their skills for effective teamwork
- ◆ Feelings of isolation and anxiety - - help them to develop perspective and positive view of self.

Mentoring can be seen as a means of providing stimulating and worthwhile experiences for gifted students.

### Forms of mentoring:

- ◆ Academic Mentoring – learning related issues
- ◆ Holistic Mentoring – academic and/or social issues
- ◆ Occupational Mentoring – work place related experience and information

### Key to successful mentoring

- ◆ The purpose of the mentoring identified with both the mentor and the mentee
- ◆ Using questioning as a way of promoting higher order thinking within the mentoring process
- ◆ Considering who will be the mentor:
  1. Peer mentoring
  2. Role of the Learning Mentor
  3. Teachers as mentors