

“We from the Austrian Research and Support Centre for the Gifted and Talented are very glad to be able to work together with NAGC as their knowledge and expertise is absolutely invaluable to us. In our opinion, NAGC is certainly the best in Europe when it comes to supporting parents and we hope to learn a lot from them.”

Austrian Research and Support Centre

Campaigning and Lobbying

We believe it is not enough to raise awareness of the needs of gifted and talented children and their families.



We also need to be a powerful force for change in the way they are treated both by Government at a national level and within the education system at a local level. An essential part of our work is therefore the campaigning and lobbying we do on behalf of families, the education of gifted and talented children in general and wider policy and strategy.

How this service delivers public benefit

This service delivers public benefit in a number of ways, including:

- It helps to bring to the forefront of political debate those issues of concern to the parents and carers of gifted children
- It can have a major impact on improving the lives of gifted children and their parents/carers
- It helps to ensure that parents/carers are treated with respect as equal – but different – partners in the education of their gifted child. Campaigning for their voices to be heard and achieving real changes as a result helps to increase their confidence and levels of engagement for the benefit of their child

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PACT:GT

Parents from the UK, Austria and Turkey met at the University of Warwick to exchange their ideas and experiences of bringing up a gifted child and set the agenda for a federated network of parents' organisations.



In 2008-2009 the achievements of this work included:

- Working with MPs and others from the political parties in opposition to understand their stance and to lobby for their support
- Lobbying on issues of concern to parents/carers about the education of their gifted child as a member of the CfBT/DCSF Stakeholder Group
- Establishing a partnership project with Turkey and Austria – PACT:GT following funding from Europe as a first stage to looking at initiatives such as the formation of a federation of similar bodies across Europe to lobby international government for change

What we would have liked to have done better:

- We wanted to launch an 'Every Gifted and Talented Child Matters' Charter to ask MPs, schools and the wider public to support our belief in equality for gifted and talented children but had to postpone this
- We were not able to obtain funding to establish a research programme to provide evidence for our campaigning work
- We would have liked to find more imaginative ways to feed in the views of parents/carers into the lobbying process

In 2009-1010, we want to:

- Develop and pilot 'Parents' Voice' as a way for parents/carers to support each other and lobby for change at a local level
- Develop a gifted and talented Parents' Charter as part of the PACT:GT project and aim to get 10,000 signatures to support it over the next 12 months
- Develop a charter for schools outlining their commitment to supporting gifted children and their parents and to launch this as part of a Gold School Membership package
- Carry out research and produce a report which can be used as a lobbying tool for changes in how carers of gifted children are supported