

P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood
A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme (Special Schools)
(2009/2010 to 2011/2012)



Frequently Asked Questions

Project Design

1. What is the content of the Tier 1 Programme?

For the units covered in the Tier 1 Programme, please refer to [the website of the Research Team](#).

2. Can individual schools implement Tier 1 Programme in non-standard modes according to their schools' teaching time-tables?

Generally speaking, schools should choose one of the four proposed modes. If schools have special needs, they can state the mode they are planning to adopt and justify with reasons on the application forms. Nevertheless, the guiding principle is that the Tier 1 Programme should not be implemented in an over-intensive manner and the number of hours should not be less than the proposed number of hours.

3. As the Tier 1 Programme is developed by academics, is the programme too theoretical and not practical?

Academics, psychologists, social workers and teachers with front line experience have been involved in the development of Tier 1 Programme. As such, we are conscious of the practical needs of the schools. Besides, we hold focus groups with teachers and social workers to collect feedback on the programme and carry out pilot attempts on the materials developed to ascertain their practicality.

4. The Project has great vision and the right orientation. However, can the objectives of the Project be achieved within the 20-hour Full Programme?

With the implementation of the 20-hour Full Programme in Secondary One, Secondary Two and Secondary Three respectively, the students will altogether receive 60 hours of training in junior secondary years. With reference to the literature, this number of training hours is considered sufficient to promote the positive development of young people.

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5. **Does the Research Team provide teaching manuals for the Tier I Programme of the Secondary One, Secondary Two and Secondary Three levels?**

Yes. Teaching manuals for the Tier I Programme of Secondary One to Three (both Chinese and English versions) are provided to the participating social workers and teachers. In addition, 20-hour training at each level is also provided to facilitate them to implement the programme.

6. **Do the programmes of the Project include any outdoor activities?**

For the Tier I Programme, the Research Team has designed some units that can be implemented outside the classroom setting.

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Delivery of Programmes

- 7. Each unit in the Tier 1 Programme lasts for 30 minutes. If the lesson of a school lasts for 40 minutes, how should the school deal with this situation? Can teachers and social workers modify the proposed number of hours of training?**

If the lesson lasts for 40 minutes, the social worker or the teacher can use the 40 minutes to run the 30-minute unit. It is acceptable that the number of implemented hours exceeds the proposed number of hours. On the contrary, it is unacceptable if the number of implemented hours is less than the proposed number of hours.

- 8. Must the Tier 1 Programme be implemented during lesson time?**
Tier 1 Programme can be implemented during or outside lesson time.

- 9. Should the activities be carried out in a large group or small group format?**

The basic unit of implementation for the Tier 1 Programme is class (i.e., the activities are conducted in each class). During the implementation process, some activities can also be conducted in small groups.

- 10. What are the qualification requirements and working experience for the social workers implementing the Tier 1 Programme?**

The social workers primarily responsible for the implementation of the Tier 1 Programme are required to have fulfilled all the three conditions as listed below:

- Being a Registered Social Worker;
- Holding a university degree or having at least two years' social work experience in young people service; and
- Having received the 20 hours of training under the Project.

- 11. What are the roles of schools and teachers in the implementation process?**

The successful implementation of the programme depends very much on the full support of the schools and teachers. If the teachers have difficulty in participating in the Tier 1 Programme, social workers could solely undertake the task. The Tier 1 Programme is designed in a way that it can be undertaken by one worker. If teachers can participate in implementing the programme, they will receive 20 hours of training before implementation of the programme.

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12. **For social workers or teachers who have not received the training in relation to the Tier 1 Programme, can they join to implement the Project?**

Yes, provided that social workers or teachers primarily responsible for implementing the Project have received the training.

13. **Can the programme be implemented by social workers of the Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres in collaboration with school social workers?**

Yes, provided that the social workers primarily responsible for the implementation of the programme have fulfilled all the three conditions as listed in Question 10 above.

14. **Does the Research Team provide any support to schools during the implementation process?**

The Research Team launched the "Co-Walker" Scheme (「同行者」計劃) on 1 December 2006. Under this scheme, a colleague of the Research Team serves as a resource person to provide support service for a participating school. The designated resource person will also visit schools regularly to enhance communication and provide additional support. In addition, sharing sessions and conferences are held to promote exchange among workers in the field.

15. **Will P.A.T.H.S. provide a senior secondary curriculum? In order to tie in with the 'Other Learning Experiences' in the New Senior Secondary Curriculum, can schools choose to implement part of the Tier 1 Programme in Secondary 4 to 6 levels?**

The existing Tier 1 Programme is tailor-made for Secondary One to Secondary Three students and there is no senior secondary curriculum for P.A.T.H.S. Due to the integrity of the Project, schools participating in the Tier 1 Programme are expected to teach the content of each unit to the corresponding class level according to the teaching manuals designed by the Research Team.

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Development of Project

16. What is the way forward for P.A.T.H.S.? Will there be a third cycle of the Project?

The second cycle of P.A.T.H.S. (2009/2010 to 2011/2012) is the last cycle of the Project. Participating schools are expected to consolidate experiences through the second cycle as well as to integrate the Tier 1 Programme into their school curriculum for junior secondary levels and develop a school-based project that fits the school culture and meets their students' needs, hence facilitating the healthy development of young people.

17. Given the proven effectiveness of P.A.T.H.S., will the Education Bureau consider incorporating P.A.T.H.S. into the formal curriculum?

The Education Bureau encourages schools to participate in P.A.T.H.S. The Bureau is considering re-organising part of the junior secondary curriculum and will take account of P.A.T.H.S. in this process.

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Training for Social Workers and Teachers

18. Will there be any 20 hours of training provided to social workers and teachers who participate in the Tier 1 Programme in the new cycle of the Project?

Yes, there are 20 hours of training for social workers and teachers each year to facilitate their implementation of the Tier 1 Programme in Secondary One, Two and Three in the new cycle of the Project. However, to cater for the needs of social workers and teachers, the Research Team has restructured and redesigned the format of the training programme. Under the new arrangement, the three-day course (20 hours) is divided into two parts: 7 hours of e-learning where participants can take the training course through the Internet; while the second and the third days of the training programme are delivered in workshops in an interactive mode (13 hours in total, 6.5 hours per day).

19. What is included in the 20 hours of training programme for social workers and teachers?

The content of the training includes concepts and theories on positive youth development, Secondary One to Secondary Three curriculum for the Tier 1 Programme, group work skills and experiential learning

20. Is there any provision for schools to employ supply teachers, so as to release and enable teachers to attend the training in relation to the Tier 1 Programme? What is the quota allocated for each school in terms of training places for teachers and the provision for employing supply teachers?

Yes, additional funding is provided for schools to employ supply teachers to release those teachers who attend the training in relation to the Tier 1 Programme. Each participating school can send at most one teacher per level to the 20-hour training each year. After teachers receive the certificate for the completion of the 20-hour training programme, schools can claim an allowance of \$2,100 per teacher from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. Schools are given flexibility in using the allowance, either to recruit supply teachers or for teacher professional development purposes.

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- 21. If a participating school employs new staff in August before the start of the school year to implement the programmes, is there any training for the newly employed staff?**

Training programmes are organised from May to October of each year in the new cycle of the Project. For newly employed colleagues who cannot attend the training during the period, those having received the training may assist in training the newcomers and a web-based training kit is also provided by the Research Team.

- 22. What is the relevancy of the training programme for social workers and teachers to Liberal Studies?**

The target of the Project is junior secondary students while that for the Liberal Studies is senior secondary students. The training programme of the Project is regarded as solid foundation for Liberal Studies. It helps better equip the teachers in delivering Liberal Studies. To recognise teachers' participation in the training programme of the Project, schools are encouraged to count it as part of teachers' Continuing Professional Development. In the past few years, participating schools generally recognized the training of the Project as teachers' Continuing Professional Development.

- 23. Does the training programme for social workers and teachers only cater for schools that have joined the Project?**

Yes. Due to resource constraint, only the social workers and teachers from schools that have joined the Project will be invited to participate in the training programme.

- 24. Does the Project provide training programme conducted in Putonghua or English?**

The Project does not have training programme conducted in Putonghua or English at the moment. If necessary, participating teachers or social workers may contact the Training Team for special arrangement.

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Funding Provision (Tier 1 Programme)

25. What is the funding provision for Tier 1 Programme in special schools in the new cycle of the Project? How should special schools apply for the funding?

If special schools with ordinary curriculum join the Tier 1 Programme of the Project, they can apply for a subsidy of \$10,000 per participating class from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust through the Education Bureau.

26. Is the subsidy for Tier 1 Programme affected by the number of students in the class?

The calculation of subsidy is based on the number of classes, while the number of students in the class is not taken into account.

27. Can schools utilise the funding to employ additional staff for implementing the Project?

Schools can flexibly use the funding to implement the programme in order to meet the needs of their students. Apart from paying for programme delivery, the funding can be used flexibly for, but not limited to, the following purposes:

- i. employing additional staff or teaching assistants to help the teachers and social workers to deliver the P.A.T.H.S. programmes to students;
- ii. as teacher relief subsidy for additional teachers to attend the Tier 1 training workshops; and
- iii. paying for photocopying, printing, stationery, supplies and so on. For procurement of equipment valued at \$5,000 or above, schools should justify their needs and consult The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust before such procurement.

28. What is the payment arrangement?

Schools participating in the Tier 1 Programme are required to report the number of participating classes at each level to EDB in September each year. The subsidy is normally released to each participating school in one instalment in October.

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29. **For the Secondary One students admitted in the 2011/2012 school year, will they join the Project for one year only? Will there be any additional resources for the programme when these students are promoted to Secondary Two and Secondary Three?**

Secondary One students of the 2011/2012 school year may participate in the Project but the funding from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust will expire by the end of the 2011/2012 school year. Schools are encouraged to explore other alternatives to provide continuous support for the students concerned, including integrating Tier 1 Programme into the school curriculum.

30. **For special schools implementing the Tier 1 Programme, can any surplus resources in the school year be brought forward to the next school year?**

Special schools should make the best use of resources within the school year to implement the Tier 1 Programme. If special schools have surplus funds (including the surplus in the 2008/09 school year), The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust allows schools to carry forward the funds to the next school year and to use the surplus funds flexibly on different participating class levels. However, schools are required to return all unspent balance to The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust upon completion of the new cycle of the Project in the 2011/12 school year.

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Application

31. If a school joins the Project in the first year of the new cycle, can it withdraw in the next year?

Participation in this Project is voluntary. However, due to the proven effectiveness of P.A.T.H.S. by different modes of evaluation, schools concerned are strongly encouraged and advised to complete the programme according to the implementation schedule of the Project and integrate the Tier 1 Programme into their school curriculum for junior secondary levels and develop a school-based project that fits the school culture and meets the needs of their students, so as to facilitate the healthy development of young people. The implementation schedule of the Project is as follows:

	School Year		
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Participating schools	Secondary One, Two & Three	Secondary One, Two & Three	Secondary One, Two & Three

32. Does a participating special school need to submit application for each academic level in each year?

Yes. Depending on the nature and needs of the students, special schools adopting ordinary curriculum normally run Tier I Programme only. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust invites application and interested special schools are required to submit applications for respective academic levels according to their students' needs to the Education Bureau on a yearly basis.