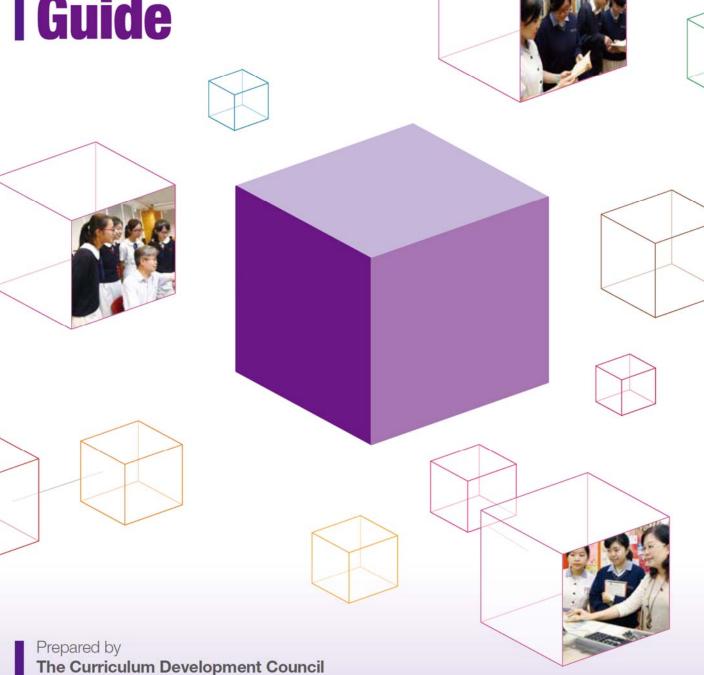
# Secondary Education Curriculum Guide



Recommended for use in schools by

The Education Bureau

HKSARG

2017

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#### **Purpose**

The Secondary Education Curriculum Guide (SECG) is prepared by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) to advise secondary schools on how to sustain the Learning to Learn curriculum reform efforts which have yielded notable results in the last decade or so, and to focus on areas essential for further improving students' learning to learn capabilities for whole-person development.

The SECG supersedes the *Basic Education Curriculum Guide* (*Primary 1 - Secondary 3*) and the *Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide* (*Secondary 4 - 6*) issued in 2002 and 2009 respectively. For details of the curriculum and assessment of the senior secondary subjects, the Curriculum and Assessment (C&A) Guides which were jointly prepared by the CDC and Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) could be referred to.

The SECG, which serves to inform key stakeholders of the latest development of the ongoing curriculum development and updating, to provide guidelines for schools to advance their curriculum development according to the central curriculum, and to give insights into curriculum planning, is prepared especially for school leaders and teachers who are responsible for setting the directions for curriculum development and actively involved in curriculum implementation.

School heads are strongly advised to encourage their teachers to read the SECG. Under the notion of "distributed leadership", every teacher has the right and responsibility to play a role in the ongoing curriculum development and updating.

Professional development opportunities related to the implementation of the SECG will be continuously provided to support schools and teachers, and updated information will be provided on the EDB website (<a href="www.edb.gov.hk/renewal">www.edb.gov.hk/renewal</a>). Feedback, suggestions and enquiries on the SECG are welcome and may be sent to:



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Remarks: This Guide has been translated into Chinese. If there is any inconsistency or ambiguity between the English version and the Chinese version, the English version shall prevail.

## **Structure of the Secondary Education Curriculum Guide**

Part I	Ongoing Curriculum Renewal – Focusing, Deepening and Sustaining
Booklet 1	Ongoing Renewal of the School Curriculum
Part II	Curriculum Planning, Pedagogy and Assessment Cycle
Booklet 2	Learning Goals, School Curriculum Framework and Planning
Booklet 3	Effective Learning and Teaching: Developing Lifelong and Self-
	directed Learners
Booklet 4	Assessment Literacy and School Assessment Policy
Booklet 5	Embracing Learner Diversity
Booklet 6	Four Key Tasks: Towards Major Renewed Emphases
Booklet 6A	Moral and Civic Education: Towards Values Education
Booklet 6B	Reading to Learn: Towards Reading across the Curriculum
Booklet 6C	Project Learning: Towards Integrating and Applying Knowledge
	and Skills across Disciplines
Booklet 6D	Information Technology for Interactive Learning: Towards Self-
	directed Learning
Booklet 7	Life-wide Learning and Experiential Learning
Part III	Smooth Transition
Booklet 8	Interfaces between Key Stages 2 and 3 and Key Stages 3 and 4
Booklet 9	Career and Life Planning – Multiple Pathways for All Students to
	Excel
Part IV	Enabling Environments
Booklet 10	Quality Learning and Teaching Resources
Booklet 11	Professional Development and Schools as Learning Organisations

#### List of Abbreviations

AE Arts Education
ApL Applied Learning

C&A Curriculum and Assessment

CDC Curriculum Development Council
CDI Curriculum Development Institute

CLE Chinese Language Education
CLP Career and Life Planning
CoP Communities of Practice
CRE Career-related Experiences
EC Education Commission

EDB Education Bureau

ELE English Language Education

HKAGE Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education
HKDSE Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education

HKEAA Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

HKECL Hong Kong Education City Limited

ICT Information and Communication Technology

IEP Individualised Education Programme

IES Independent Enquiry Study

IMC Incorporated Management Committee

IT Information Technology

IVE Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education

JS Junior Secondary KLA Key Learning Area

LaC Language across the Curriculum

L&T Learning and Teaching

LS Liberal Studies

LWL Life-wide Learning

MCE Moral and Civic Education
ME Mathematics Education
MI Multiple Intelligences

MRE Major Renewed Emphases

NGO Non-government Organisation
OLE Other Learning Experiences

PD Physical Disability

PE Physical Education

PSHE Personal, Social and Humanities Education

RaC Reading across the Curriculum REO Regional Education Offices

S1/2/3/4/5/6 Secondary 1/2/3/4/5/6
SBA School-based Assessment

SBSS School-based Support Services

SECG Secondary Education Curriculum Guide

SEN Special Educational Needs

SE Science Education

SLP Student Learning Profile

SMC School Management Committee

SOP Student Option Programme

SRR Standards-referenced Reporting

SS Senior Secondary

SSB School Sponsoring Body

STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

UGC University Grants Committee

TE Technology Education

VPET Vocational and Professional Education and Training

VTC Vocational Training Council

WebSAMS Web School Administration & Management System

## Glossary

Term	Definition
Applied Learning	ApL is an integral part of the senior secondary curriculum.
(ApL)	Students at all ability levels could take ApL courses as
	elective subjects. The design principles of ApL courses are
	the same as those of other school subjects, focusing on the
	development of knowledge, generic skills, values and
	attitudes. Through application and practice, ApL aims to
	provide learning experiences in professional and vocational
	contexts for students to understand fundamental theories and
	concepts, develop beginners' skill set and generic skills, and
	explore career aspirations and orientation for lifelong
	learning. A flexible combination of ApL courses with core
	subjects, elective subjects and Other Learning Experiences
	broadens students' learning experience and enhances
	diversification within the senior secondary curriculum for
	holistic learning.
Assessment	It refers to actions taken to obtain information about student
	learning. It is closely connected with learning and teaching.
	Assessment involves collecting evidence about student
	learning, interpreting information and making judgements
	about students' performance. Depending on its objectives,
	assessment can function as assessment of/for/as learning to
	achieve different educational purposes.
Assessment of	It refers to the assessment designed to provide evidence for
Learning	making judgements on student achievement against learning
	targets, objectives or standards at a certain point of time. It is
	often summative in nature and results in a grade or
	certification.
Assessment for	It is a formative and diagnostic kind of assessment where
Learning	teachers collect ongoing information about students' learning
	progress, provide timely and quality feedback and adjust
	their teaching strategies for improving student learning.
Assessment as	It refers to students' use of learning tasks and feedback to
Learning	enhance their own learning. During the process,
	metacognition is involved as students actively develop an

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	understanding of their learning, critically assess their
	learning effectiveness, adjust learning strategies, plan for
	follow-up actions, and set future learning goals. When
	implementing assessment as learning, feedback from
	teachers or self- and peer assessments helps students reflect
	on their own learning and identify their strengths and areas
	for improvement.
Assessment Literacy	It refers to the knowledge and skills that teachers possess for
	designing or selecting appropriate assessment tasks to
	achieve assessment purposes, and for making optimal use of
	assessment data and information to adjust teaching strategies
	for improving student learning.
Biliterate and	The Government's language policy is for our students to be
Trilingual	biliterate (i.e. master written Chinese and English) and
	trilingual (i.e. speak fluent Cantonese, Putonghua and
	English).
Career-related	In the context of Applied Learning (ApL), career-related
competencies	competencies refer to the knowledge, skills and workplace
	requirements within a vocational field; and knowledge and
	skills specific to an ApL course.
	Career-related competencies can be developed through
	understanding the context of a course within the wider area
	of studies; understanding and interpreting workplace
	requirements through practising the basic skills in an
	authentic or near authentic environment; and developing and
	applying conceptual, practical and reflective skills to
	demonstrate entrepreneurship and innovation.
Central Curriculum	The central curriculum recommended by the Curriculum
	Development Council for schools includes the overall aims
	of the school curriculum, seven learning goals, five essential
	learning experiences, and the curriculum frameworks
	comprising the eight KLAs, Liberal Studies (S4-6), Applied
	Learning (S4-6), etc. Other components include suggested
	lesson time allocated to each KLA and the specific
	requirements of individual KLAs.
Co-construction	The approach of "learning and teaching as co-construction"
	is different from direct instruction and enquiry learning. Co-
	construction emphasises the learning community formed by

	both teachers and students in the learning process and the joint participation of both parties. This process contributes to the general building up of knowledge.
Coherent Curriculum	It refers to a purpose-built and well-organised school
	curriculum ensuring vertical continuity across levels and
	lateral coherence across different KLAs, subjects and/or
	curriculum areas in learning, teaching and assessment. A
	coherent curriculum helps eliminate unnecessary repetitions,
	identify gaps for improvement and synergise efforts in
	enhancing student learning.
Community of	A community of practice refers to a group of practitioners
Practice	who come together to share common concerns, problems,
	interests and knowledge with the aim of enhancing
	professional capacity through an ongoing collaborative
	learning process.
Curriculum	A curriculum framework provides a structure which helps
Framework	schools flexibly plan and develop their own curricula based
	on the central curriculum to meet the varied needs of
	students. The major components of a curriculum framework
	are knowledge and concepts, generic skills, and values and
	attitudes relevant to each KLA. The framework sets out what
	students should learn and develop at different key stages.
Deep Learning	It promotes among teachers and students an active and
	critical examination of new facts, and attempts to apply them
	in existing cognitive structures and real-life contexts, and to
	make relevant links between ideas. Features of deep learning
	include looking for meaning, focusing on the central
	argument or concepts needed to solve a problem, interacting
	actively, distinguishing between argument and evidence,
	making connections between different modules of learning,
	relating new and prior knowledge and interpreting the
	meaning of course content in real life.
Direct Instruction	It is a structured approach with a high degree of teacher
Direct instruction	direction and control, and the effective management of time.
	It allows students to learn and apply knowledge
a Lagrania a	systematically in the process.
e-Learning	It refers to an open and flexible learning mode involving the
	use of the electronic media, including the use of digital

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	resources and communication tools to achieve the learning
	objectives. The essence of e-learning is to enhance learning
	and teaching effectiveness in schools and to develop
	students' necessary qualities (e.g. self-directed learning
	capabilities). Teachers may develop an e-learning repertoire,
	thereby enhancing, modifying and complementing some
	existing learning and teaching strategies.
Elective Subjects	They include a total of 20 senior secondary subjects, a wide
	range of Applied Learning courses and six Other Languages
	in the senior secondary curriculum from which students may
	choose to develop their interests and abilities. They open up
	a number of pathways for further study and careers.
Enquiry Learning	It refers to a learner-centred approach which enables
	students to acquire knowledge through active participation in
	the learning process. It emphasises higher-order thinking
	skills which include analysis, problem solving, discovery
	and creative activities. Students are responsible for
	processing the data they are working with to reach their own
	conclusions.
Entrepreneurial Spirit	It refers to the inquisitiveness to conceive new ideas and turn
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	ideas into actions. It includes taking initiatives, creativity,
	ideas into actions. It includes taking initiatives, creativity, innovation, taking calculated risks, preparing for possible
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	whole-person development.
Four Key Tasks	They include Moral and Civic Education: Towards Values
·	Education, Reading to Learn: Towards Reading across the
	Curriculum, Project Learning: Towards Integrating and
	Applying Knowledge and Skills across Disciplines and
	Information Technology for Interactive Learning: Towards
	Self-directed Learning. They are implemented in/across
	different KLAs to help students develop independent
	learning capabilities.
Generic Skills	Introduced in 2001, the nine generic skills are refined in
	2017. The refined generic skills include Communication
	Skills, IT Skills, Mathematical Skills, Self-management
	Skills, Self-learning Skills, Collaboration Skills, Critical
	Thinking Skills, Creativity and Problem Solving Skills.
	According to their nature, the generic skills are grouped
	under three categories: "basic skills", "thinking skills" and
	"personal and social skills", and are refined to promote their
	integrative use, such as collaborative problem solving and
	holistic thinking.
Hong Kong Diploma	The HKDSE is the qualification awarded to students after
of Secondary	completing the three-year senior secondary curriculum
Education (HKDSE)	(implemented since 2009) and taking the public assessment.
Key Learning Area	It is a way of organising the school curriculum around
(KLA)	fundamental concepts of major knowledge domains. It aims
	at providing a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum for
	all students through engaging them in a variety of essential
	learning experiences. The Hong Kong school curriculum
	encompasses eight KLAs, i.e. Chinese Language Education
	(CLE), English Language Education (ELE), Mathematics
	Education (ME), Personal, Social and Humanities Education
	(PSHE), Science Education (SE), Technology Education
	(TE), Arts Education (AE) and Physical Education (PE).
Key Stage (KS)	There are four stages of schooling from lower primary to
	senior secondary levels, i.e. Key Stage 1 (P1-P3), Key Stage
	2 (P4-P6), Key Stage 3 (S1-S3), and Key Stage 4 (S4-S6).
Knowledge	A systematic process through which the intellectual capital
Management	of an organisation is promptly captured, shared, refined and
	distilled to create value to achieve the organisational goals,

	inform future practices and sustain growth and renewal.
	Intellectual capital includes explicit and tacit knowledge,
Information Literacy	with the former more easily shared in writing.
Information Literacy	It is an ability or attitude that guides an effective and ethical
(IL)	use of information. It aims to help students i) identify the
	need for information; ii) locate, evaluate, extract, organise
	and present information; iii) create new ideas; iv) cope with
	the dynamics in the information world; and v) use
	information ethically (e.g. upholding intellectual property
	rights and understanding online respect and responsibility)
	and refrain from immoral practices (e.g. cyber bullying and
	infringement of intellectual property rights). The Four Key
	Tasks will provide opportunities for students to develop and
	apply IL.
Language across the	LaC premises on the notion that language learning can also
Curriculum (LaC)	take place in non-language KLAs, which provide authentic
	contexts for learners to apply their literacy skills to construct
	knowledge and to facilitate their development into lifelong
	learners. While English/Chinese language teachers focus on
	helping learners master the accurate use of the language (e.g.
	vocabulary and grammar) as well as to recognise the
	importance of coherence, cohesion and appropriateness in
	texts, teachers of non-language KLAs can facilitate the
	transfer of such language knowledge and skills by
	emphasising the use of relevant language features for
	presenting the subject content and providing opportunities
	for application of relevant knowledge and skills.
Learner Diversity	It refers to the variations in learning ability and outcomes
(LD)	among students receiving the same instruction. Their
	differences may be due to divergence in abilities, motivation,
	interests, socio-economic backgrounds, etc. Teachers may
	differentiate their instruction and flexibly group the students
	to turn LD into new learning opportunities in the classroom.
Learning Community	It refers to a group of people who have shared values and
	goals, and work closely together to generate knowledge and
	create new ways of learning through active participation,
	collaboration and reflection. In the school context, a learning
	community may involve not only students and teachers, but
	community may involve not only students and teachers, but

	also parents and other parties.
Learning Outcomes	Learning outcomes refer to what students are expected to
	master by the end of a particular stage of learning. They are
	developed based on the learning targets and objectives of the
	curriculum for the purpose of evaluating learning
	effectiveness. Learning outcomes also describe the levels of
	performance that students should attain after completing a
	particular key stage of learning.
Learning Targets and	Learning targets set out broadly the knowledge/concepts,
Learning Objectives	skills, values and attitudes that students need to learn and
	develop. Learning objectives define specifically what
	students should know, value and be able to do in each strand
	of the KLA/subject in accordance with the broad targets at
	each key stage. They are to be used by teachers as a checklist
	for curriculum, lesson and activity planning.
Ongoing renewal of	It builds on the Learning to Learn curriculum reform
the school curriculum	implemented since 2001 in response to the local, regional
	and global contextual changes in economic, scientific,
	technological, social and political aspects. With a view to
	keeping our school education abreast of the times and
	maintaining our competitiveness, the Hong Kong school
	curriculum embarks on a new stage of ongoing renewal,
	which aims to deepen and sustain the accomplishments and
	to focus on the new directions for curriculum development.
Lifelong Learning	It refers to the continued pursuit of knowledge and skill
	development throughout life so as to live and work
	effectively, and to participate in society actively.
Life Planning	Life planning is an ongoing and lifelong process for personal
	fulfillment, with different foci at different stages of the
	lifetime. At the schooling stage, life planning education
	plays a significant role in fostering students' self-
	understanding, personal planning, goal setting, reflective
	habits of mind and articulation to progression pathways. It
	connects with the school's curriculum components, and
	through it students are equipped with the knowledge, skills,
	and values and attitudes to make wise choices in accordance
	with their interests, abilities and orientations. They are also
	guided to integrate their career/academic aspirations with

	lifelong learning and whole-person development.
Life-wide Learning	It refers to student learning in real contexts and authentic
(LWL)	settings. Such experiential learning enables students to
	achieve certain learning goals that are more difficult to attain
	through classroom learning alone. For instance, the
	development of problem solving skills in daily life, and
	certain positive attitudes towards the improvement of society
	and mankind in general requires contact with a lot of
	different people and a variety of environments and
	situations. The experiential learning acquired through life-
	wide learning helps students achieve the aims of whole-
	person development and enables them to develop the
	lifelong learning capabilities that are needed in our ever-
	changing society.
Metacognition	It is a process of thinking about one's own thinking.
	Metacognitive skills include the ability to monitor one's own
	learning and an awareness of one's own knowledge.
Major Renewed	Under the ongoing renewal of the school curriculum at the
Emphases (MRE)	secondary level, MRE are brought on board to better respond
	to the changing needs of society as reflected in the updated
	seven learning goals. With reference to their own contexts
	and stages of development on various curriculum areas,
	schools can adjust and/or integrate the MRE for coherent
	and systematic implementation in their school development
	plans by observing the guiding principles for the Learning to
	Learn curriculum alongside the school priorities for the next
	three to six years. The MRE are:
	• strengthening values education (including moral and
	civic education and Basic Law education)
	• reinforcing the learning of Chinese history and Chinese
	culture
	• extending "Reading to Learn" to "Language across the
	Curriculum"
	<ul> <li>promoting STEM education and ITE</li> </ul>
	• fostering an entrepreneurial spirit
	• diversifying life-wide learning experiences (including
	those for VPET)
	stepping up gifted education

	• enhancing the learning and teaching of Chinese as a
	second language
Other Experiences	OEA is one of the factors in addition to achievements at the
and Achievements	HKDSE Examination results which the Joint University
(OEA)	Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) participating
	institutions and the Study Subsidy Scheme For Designated
	Professions (SSSDP) institutions will consider. Such
	information will serve as important additional reference for
	admission selection and can also be used as a framework for
	discussions during selection interviews.
Other Languages	Other Languages are Category C subjects of the HKDSE
	Examination. They include French, German, Japanese,
	Spanish, Hindi and Urdu. Students can take these languages
	as electives and sit for the Cambridge International
	Examinations arranged by the HKEAA.
Other Learning	OLE is one of the three major components of the senior
Experiences (OLE)	secondary curriculum. It complements the other two
	components, namely the core and elective subjects
	(including Applied Learning courses and Other Languages)
	for the whole-person development of students. These
	experiences include Moral and Civic Education, Community
	Service, Career-related Experiences, Aesthetic Development,
	and Physical Development.
Reading across the	RaC aims to provide opportunities for students to broaden
Curriculum (RaC)	their knowledge base, and apply and consolidate reading
	skills and strategies developed in language lessons. Non-
	language KLAs provide authentic contexts for the promotion
	of RaC. Teachers of non-language KLAs can select
	appropriate English/Chinese reading materials with related
	themes/topics to help students connect their learning
	experiences and raise their awareness of the language
	features typical in these texts.
Seven Learning	The updated seven learning goals of secondary education are
Goals	to enable students to:
	• become an informed and responsible citizen with a sense
	of national and global identity, appreciation of positive
	values and attitudes as well as Chinese culture, and
	respect for pluralism in society

School-based Assessment (SBA)	<ul> <li>acquire and construct a broad and solid knowledge base, and to understand contemporary issues that may impact on students' daily lives at personal, community, national and global levels</li> <li>become proficient in biliterate and trilingual communication for better study and life</li> <li>develop and apply generic skills in an integrative manner, and to become an independent and self-directed learner for future study and work</li> <li>use information and information technology ethically, flexibly and effectively</li> <li>understand one's own interests, aptitudes and abilities, and to develop and reflect upon personal goals with aspirations for further studies and future career</li> <li>lead a healthy lifestyle with active participation in physical and aesthetic activities, and to appreciate sports and the arts</li> <li>SBA is administered in schools as part of the learning and teaching process, with students being assessed by their subject teachers. Marks awarded will be counted towards students' results in the local public examinations conducted</li> </ul>
	by the HKEAA.
Self-directed Learning (SDL)	It refers to a learner who takes initiative and responsibility for learning with or without the assistance of others. A self-directed learner may identify his/her learning needs, formulate goals, and choose resources and strategies for learning. SDL enhances students' sense of agency or control and metacognitive skills. SDL may be interpreted as self-regulated learning, self-learning or independent learning in other contexts.
Standards-referenced	SRR is a reporting system adopted in the HKDSE
Reporting (SRR)	Examination. Candidates' performance is reported in terms
CTEM E 4	of levels of performance matched against a set of standards.
STEM Education	STEM is an acronym that refers collectively to the academic
	disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. In the local curriculum context, STEM
	education is promoted in the Science, Technology and
	_
	Mathematics Education KLAs. It aims at developing among

	students a strong knowledge base in step with the latest
	changes in these disciplines, and strengthening their ability
	to integrate and apply knowledge and skills, so as to nurture
	their creativity and innovation, collaboration and problem
	solving skills.
Student Learning	SLP is the supplementary information built up by senior
Profile (SLP)	secondary students to reflect their learning experiences in
	life-wide learning and achievements, in addition to their
	academic performance in the HKDSE Examination. SLP
	includes the following:
	Academic performance in school
	Other Learning Experiences
	Awards/achievements gained outside school
	• Student's self-account (e.g. learning experiences, career
	goal setting)
	Information in SLP could be considered in students'
	application for further study and recruitment.
Students with Special	Students with SEN have different talents and potentials in
Education Needs	academic abilities. They include students with Specific
(SEN)	Learning Difficulties, Intellectual Disability, Autism
	Spectrum Disorders, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity
	Disorder, Physical Disability, Visual Impairment, Hearing
	Impairment and Speech and Language Impairment.
	Schools can make use of the opportunities to instil in all
	students the values of equal opportunities and social
	inclusion and to adopt " Whole School Approach" to catering
	for students with SEN.
Values and Attitudes	Values and attitudes are generally referred to as one but
	carry different meanings.
	Values indicate how one assigns different values to and
	affect his/her understanding and judgment of thing.
	Nurturing positive values in students enables them to
	understand and judge right from wrong, analyse and evaluate
	an event or an issue with positive values as the foundation,
	and have the courage to act according to the values for the
	well-being of the community, the nation and the world.
	Attitudes are one's perception and position on things, which
	have a critical influence on his/her behaviour. Developing
	nave a critical influence on his/her benaviour. Developing

	students' positive attitudes towards life helps them face the
	challenges and adversities of life with an optimistic and
	positive attitude, and treat people and things around with an
	appreciative and receptive mind.
Values Education	Schools are recommended to promote positive values and
	attitudes among students through values education. By
	incorporating elements of values education into
	KLAs/subjects, as well as providing diversified learning
	experiences within and beyond the classroom, values
	education not only enables students to deepen their
	understanding of positive values from multiple perspectives,
	but also guides them to learn how to uphold positive values
	in different situations and put them into action.
Whole-person	It refers to enabling students to have all-round and unique
Development	development in the areas of ethics, intellect, physique, social
	skills and aesthetics according to individual potential. It is
	realised through the five essential learning experiences of
	school education.
Whole-school	It enables schools to provide students with essential learning
Curriculum Planning	experiences through the holistic planning of a broad and
	balanced curriculum. The planning of the whole-school
	curriculum involves four interrelated levels of curriculum
	planning, namely the whole-school level, KLA level, year
	level by subject and class level by lesson blocks. Coherence
	among these four levels helps ensure schools set priorities in
	terms of vision, curriculum goals, major concerns and MRE
	to enhance student learning.

Remarks: In alphabetical order

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