

Collaborative Lesson Preparation (Secondary)

In a secondary school in Sai Kung with Chinese as the medium of instruction, all English teachers teaching S1 tried to have collaborative lesson preparation.

Through collaborative lesson preparation, it was hoped to nurture a collaborative culture among English teachers and to foster teachers' professional growth through sharing.

How to implement collaborative lesson preparation in the school timetable

- Appointing a teacher as S1 Co-ordinator who can make a contribution as a curriculum leader
- Reserving a time slot in the time-table so that S1 English teachers can have two common free periods in each cycle
- Joint planning, preparation and evaluation of the S1 English curriculum
- Inviting staff from the School-based Curriculum (Secondary) Section to work as partners with the English teachers
- Making interim and/or year-end reports (verbal/written) to the Principal about the progress of collaborative lesson preparation

Curriculum areas dealt with by S1 English teachers during collaborative lesson preparation

- Setting learning objectives for different ability groups
- Creating theme-related curriculum materials (e.g. teaching materials for the modules "Food" and "Birthday Party") to cater for the needs and levels of students
- Designing different theme-based English tasks and activities for students
- Devising L/T strategies to be adopted (e.g. the use of language games, role-plays, etc.)
- Preparing a variety of L/T resources (e.g. English songs, pictures, etc.)
- Evaluating students' feedback

Benefits of collaborative lesson preparation for teachers' professionalism

- More open and receptive to different L/T strategies and new ideas
- More skilful in designing appropriate theme-based and task-based curriculum materials and activities to suit the needs and levels of students
- More reflective about their own teaching approaches and willing to modify them to match students' needs
- More willing to work as a team in planning, implementing and evaluating the English lessons.

