



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

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The Way Forward

WHAT WILL PRIMARY EDUCATION BE LIKE FOR MY CHILD?

We want our children to grow up to be confident persons, effective communicators, and independent learners. We want them to be resilient, adaptable, innovative and able to work in teams. They should be citizens who are morally upright, have a strong sense of civic responsibility, and who will contribute actively to bettering the lives of others around them.

To prepare our children to thrive in a fast-changing and globalised future, the Primary Education Review and Implementation (PERI) Committee, led by Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Education, recommended a better balance between the learning of knowledge and the development of skills and values, which is key to preparing our children for a more dynamic future. MOE accepted the recommendations of the committee in April 2009.

A range of enhancements will be implemented in primary school education over the next few years. The aim is to make learning enjoyable and meaningful for your child, while developing in him the desired skills and values that will put him in good stead for the future. Here's a brief look at what your child can expect as he embarks on his journey of learning at his primary school.



Balancing Knowledge with Skills and Values

More Engaging Teaching Methods

Your child will look forward to school when teachers make lessons come to life by infusing more active and creative learning strategies in the curriculum.

For example, your child will learn mathematical concepts through investigative tasks and real-life activities, and language skills through role-play and drama. Science lessons will be through doing experiments, making observations and deductions and such lessons can take place both indoors and outdoors, in school and outside school.



Creative teaching methods mean a more enjoyable learning experience

Mdm Nor Hansni, homemaker, is the mother of two girls.

Her older daughter, Nadya is in Secondary One while her younger daughter, Sarah, is in Primary One this year.

I strongly believe that if our children enjoy school, they will be happier and grow up to be life-long learners. I look forward to the changes in primary school education, especially the efforts to make learning more creative and hands-on for children.

My daughter has enjoyed activity-based learning since kindergarten. I would also like her to experience hands-on projects in school, as well as other creative teaching methods, such as exposure to speech and drama, role-play and games, as these make her learning journey more memorable, meaningful and effective.





Learning will continue to expand beyond the four walls of a classroom. The new Programme for Active Learning (PAL) will give your child the chance to discover new interests, learn new skills and build his character, besides providing opportunities for him to develop confidence and forge new friendships.

For two hours a week, your child will have the opportunity to try out activities in the areas of sports and outdoor education, as well as performing and visual arts activities.

These will take place within curriculum time.

MOE will also strengthen the quality of Physical Education, and Art and Music education. These subjects are integral to a holistic education experience for our students. They enable our students to develop physical robustness, enhance their creative and expressive capacities, and shape their personal, cultural and social identity.

Programme for Active Learning



I want my children to spend more time outdoors

Dr Chua Chee Yong, an engineer, is the father of two children, a boy Shawn, aged 16, and a girl Georgia, aged 11.

I look forward to the Programme for Active Learning, as it will encourage my children to take up more sports activities, or develop an interest in performing and visual arts. I believe that many life-skills and values are developed through subjects such as Physical Education, Art and Music.

It is also great that the activities under the Programme for Active Learning are held within school hours so my kids don't have to stay back after school.

Alternative Modes of Assessment to Support Your Child's Development

It's good to focus on all-round development

Mdm Mohiethen Fathima, a sales manager, is the mother of three children. Her two sons are already studying in secondary school, while her youngest daughter is in Primary Two.

As a parent, I value teachers' feedback on my child. Meaningful feedback, not only on my child's academic learning progress but also on her social and interaction skills, and character development, will help me to understand what is expected of my child and how I can help her grow.

I am happy that schools will be moving towards adopting various methods, such as portfolios and presentations, to assess our children's progress in school. This will help them to build confidence and most importantly, make learning a fun experience for them.



Traditional report books provide marks or grades to inform you how your child is doing academically, but little about how he is growing as an individual and his acquisition of life skills and values.

Schools will be shifting the focus of assessment towards building your child's confidence and his desire to learn. Teachers will go beyond pen-and-paper testing and use a wide range of assessment tools, including written and performance tasks, to get a more complete picture of your child's learning. Rather than relying on grades alone, meaningful feedback on your child's progress will help you better understand his mastery of concepts and skills, as well as his strengths and areas for improvement in both academic and non-academic areas.

Teachers will also use information gleaned from assessments to improve teaching and your child's learning in class.



Knowing Your Child

It is important for teachers to know students individually. In this regard, the form teacher plays a key role in caring for his or her students, paying attention to their development in every domain. Primary schools will have a new guidance period for greater interaction between form teachers and their pupils. This period will be very useful for form teachers to know their pupils better and to be able to provide timely and effective encouragement, guidance and support.





A Quality Teaching Force

Caring and Skilful Teachers

Our children deserve caring, committed teachers who are well-qualified, having strong mastery not just in content, but also skilful in bringing their lessons to life. To maintain the calibre of the teaching service, MOE will hire mostly graduates from 2015 onwards.

Our teachers will undergo enhanced training and professional development so they can give their best in educating and nurturing a love for learning in your child.



New Expertise in School Team

We will also be recruiting more Allied Educators to partner teachers in and out of the classroom. Allied Educators (Teaching and Learning) work closely with teachers in the classroom to facilitate learning, while Allied Educators (Learning and Behavioural Support) assist children with special learning needs and Allied Educators (Counselling) look into children's emotional wellbeing. This means that your child's learning and developmental needs will be more comprehensively looked after by his school.





Enhancing School Infrastructure

Single-session Primary Schools

Your child will have a more conducive environment for learning and growing when all Government primary schools transit to a single-session model over the next few years. Going single-session allows more time and space for schools to focus on non-academic aspects such as leadership training and character-building.

Single-session does not mean a full day of school; it only means an extension of one to two hours on certain days to facilitate your child's non-academic activities. Schools will also be given the flexibility to adjust their start and end time based on their specific needs.

Additional School Facilities

New infrastructure will need to be put in place to support the delivery of holistic education. School facilities and spaces will be redesigned, which may include outdoor learning spaces and additional venues for performing arts. An indoor sports hall will allow Physical Education to be conducted even in inclement weather.

WHEN WILL THE CHANGES KICK IN?

Most of these changes will not take place all at once, but will be progressively implemented over the next few years. New initiatives will be piloted in some schools, and the good practices will be shared across schools.

For instance, the transition to holistic assessment will be closely monitored to

ensure that schools make meaningful changes to teaching and assessment.

Different schools will also move towards the single-session model at a different timeframe, as every school must pace its transition based on its local context. PAL will be introduced to all Primary One and Two pupils as schools progressively move towards a single session model by 2016.

Working hand-in-hand

As a parent, you play a critical role as our partner in the mission to prepare our young for the future. We require your support so that your child can achieve the full benefits of a balanced and holistic primary education.

To stay updated on the implementation progress, visit our primary education website at: <http://www.primaryeducation.sg>



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The information contained in this
booklet is correct as of March 2011