

Family Council

**The Education Bureau's Information Websites for
Supporting Students with Special Educational Needs and
Promoting Students' Mental Health**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs members on the information websites launched by the Education Bureau (EDB) for supporting students with special educational needs (SEN) and promoting students' mental health.

BACKGROUND

2. The Government attaches great importance to supporting students with SEN and is very much concerned about students' mental health. The EDB has been engaging schools, teachers and different stakeholders to work in collaboration to help students with SEN overcome their limitations and realise their potential. In addition, the EDB encourages schools to adopt the Whole School Approach directed at the Universal, Selective and Indicated levels to promote students' mental health and support those with mental health needs, so as to create a caring environment where students can fully enjoy school life.

3. The EDB specifically launched the "SENSE" and "Mental Health @ School" information websites in 2021 to facilitate access to the latest information and online resources on integrated education (IE), special education (SE) and promotion of students' mental health by schools, parents and the public.

"SENSE" Information Website on IE and SE

4. There are five dedicated pages on the "SENSE" website. The "IE" and "SE" pages introduce the related policies, measures and resources in ordinary schools and special schools respectively, and through schools' sharing of practical experience, parents and the public can better understand their measures and the effectiveness in supporting students with SEN. The "Professional Support" page introduces the professional support of the EDB, including the School-based Educational Psychology Service, School-based Speech Therapy Service, Special Educational Needs Coordinator,



sense.edb.gov.hk

Enhanced Support Service for Students with Hearing Impairment, Resource Support Programme for Visually Impaired Students and School Partnership Scheme, etc. The “Professional Development of Teachers” page contains information on SE training for teachers, such as details of enrolment and handouts, etc. The “Types of SEN” page provides evidence-based and targeted support measures and resources for each of the nine types¹ of SEN.

“Mental Health @ School” Website on Student Mental Health

5. The “Mental Health @ School” website provides diversified information on promoting mental health among students and there are dedicated pages at the three levels of “Universal”, “Selective” and “Indicated”. The “Promotion at the Universal Level” page provides appropriate resources for schools, students and parents, with a view to promoting understanding of mental health among stakeholders, discouraging stigmatisation that results in resistance to seeking help, and strengthening students’ resilience and mental health. The “Early Identification at the Selective Level” and “Support at the Indicated Level” pages consist of information on early identification of students in need and provision of support for students with mental illness respectively. Teachers could refer to the handbooks and reports available there to promote related work. Furthermore, information and handouts of professional development activities for teachers and information of support programmes, such as the “Peer Power – Student Gatekeeper Training Programme” and Parent Workshop on Gatekeeper Training, etc., have been uploaded onto the “Professional Development of Teachers” page and the “Support Programmes” page respectively.



mentalhealth.edb.gov.hk

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to note and offer views on the information websites launched by the EDB for supporting students with SEN and promoting students’ mental health.

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¹ The nine types of SEN include Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Mental Illness, Specific Learning Difficulties, Physical Disability, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment and Speech and Language Impairment.