

## **Family Council**

### **Parent Education in Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary Schools**

#### **PURPOSE**

This paper briefs members on the implementation and latest progress of work of the Education Bureau (EDB) in promoting parent education in kindergartens (KGs), primary and secondary schools.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. Parents are key stakeholders in the school education process, playing crucial roles in supporting students' development and learning as well as fostering their proper values, positive attitude and behaviour and whole-person development. In December 2017, the Government invited the Education Commission to set up the Task Force on Home-School Co-operation and Parent Education (Task Force), and submitted a report in April 2019, giving recommendations on further promoting home-school co-operation and parent education. EDB has fully accepted the recommendations of the Task Force, and relevant measures have been implemented progressively. The follow-up plan was reported and discussed at the 41st meeting of Family Council on 27 June 2019.

#### *Curriculum Frameworks on Parent Education*

3. To equip parents with the necessary knowledge and skills for nurturing their children in a more systematic manner, EDB commissioned a post-secondary institution to develop the Curriculum Frameworks on Parent Education for kindergarten, primary school and secondary school, which were launched in 2021, 2022 and May 2024 respectively (collaboratively named as the "Curriculum Frameworks"). The Curriculum Frameworks provide a common basis for schools, relevant organisations or groups to make reference to its content for providing territory-wide, community-based, school-based as well as e-learning parent education courses for parents in different stages.

## *Provision of Grants*

4. Subsequent to the launch of the Curriculum Frameworks, EDB has provided a one-off grant on parent education<sup>1</sup> to KGs joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme (Scheme-KGs) and publicly-funded primary and secondary schools to support them to embark on structured school-based parent education programmes or activities with reference to the Curriculum Frameworks.

5. Currently, all government and aided schools as well as nearly 40% of KGs have set up Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs). To facilitate PTAs of schools to organise more school-based home-school co-operation and parent education activities, starting from the 2019/20 school year, EDB has doubled the subsidy amount for the ceilings of Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities and Subsidy for Joint Home-School Co-operation Project<sup>2</sup> to encourage schools to utilise the additional resources to organise more activities for enhancing parent education. In the 2023/24 school year, about 1 650 schools applied for these subsidies and around 3 690 activities were approved.

6. To support parents in taking care of students' mental health, EDB provided each PTA of all publicly-funded primary and secondary schools with a "One-off Grant for Mental Health of Parent and Students" of \$20,000 in December 2023 for organising activities and training programmes relating to mental health of students and parents.

## *Parent Education Programmes and Activities*

7. At the territory level, the Committee on Home-School Co-operation (CHSC) organises various activities on home-school co-operation and parent education every year, including parent-child talks and workshops. In the 2022/23 school year, CHSC organised, co-organised and supported over 60 activities, assisting parents to support their children in learning, facilitating parents' understanding of school and education policies, etc.

8. Starting from the 2018/19 school year, EDB has been commissioning tertiary institutions to organise territory-wide parent education programmes annually which aim to help parents understand how to support children's learning and physical and psychological well-being through games. In addition, starting from the 2022/23 school year, EDB has commissioned post-secondary

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<sup>1</sup> EDB provided Scheme-KGs with an additional one-off subsidy of \$90,000 to \$100,000 in the 2021/22 school year, and a one-off grant on parent education of \$200,000 for all publicly-funded primary and secondary schools in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years respectively to support schools to make reference to the Curriculum Frameworks to embark on structured school-based parent education programmes or activities.

<sup>2</sup> The ceilings of the Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities and the Subsidy for Joint Home-School Co-operation Project have been increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and \$10,000 to \$20,000 respectively.

institutions and non-governmental organisations to provide territory-wide or district-based parent education courses and talks with reference to the Curriculum Frameworks for parents and grandparents of KG and primary students.

### *Resources on Parent Education*

9. Starting from the 2023/24 school year, resource packages for primary and secondary schools based on the respective Curriculum Frameworks have been developed in phases to facilitate the teachers, school social workers and guidance personnel in mastering the relevant knowledge and skills, and making good use of them to enhance their school-based parent education programmes for the continuous promotion of parent education.

10. Besides, EDB has all along been disseminating important messages for parents, which include parent-child relationship, parenting skills, and emotional management of parents through the one-stop parent education website “Smart Parent Net” ([parent.edu.hk](http://parent.edu.hk)), its Facebook, Instagram pages and the YouTube channel.

11. Starting from the 2023/24 school year, EDB has set up the “Home-School Co-operation Teacher Professional Network” with a view to facilitating schools’ and teachers’ access to the latest information on activities and resources for the promotion of home-school co-operation and parent education.

### *Positive Parent Campaign*

12. EDB has been implementing the territory-wide Positive Parent Campaign (the Campaign) since June 2020 to promote parent education through extensive and diversified channels, with a view to fostering positive thinking, strategies and attitudes in parenting among parents to help children grow up happily. There are Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, animations and short videos on parent education, advertisements at MTR stations and on bus body as well as online platforms, which aim to reach out to parents with different background in the community.

13. This year, EDB has been organising a series of activities under the Campaign, including “Healthy Living, Happy Family Series – Thrive Party for Kids and Families”. It aims to encourage parents and children to develop a healthy lifestyle, so that both parents and children can maintain their physical and psychological well-being to facilitate happy and healthy development of children.

### *4Rs Mental Health Charter*

14. To promote mental health in schools in a more comprehensive and systematic manner, EDB announced in April this year to launch the “4Rs Mental Health Charter” (4Rs Charter) in the 2024/25 school year. The “4Rs” in the 4Rs Charter cover four indispensable elements in fostering students’ mental health, namely Rest, Relaxation, Relationship and Resilience. Schools participating in the 4Rs Charter should set goals and take concrete actions to promote students’ physical and psychological health. Participating schools are required to step up promotion of positive parent education, which include organising programmes or activities for parents every year to promote positive parent education, such as parent-child activities, parent-child community services, and sharing on ways to raise happy and positive children. Besides, the schools should explain the school-based assignment policies clearly to parents and students, and make the policies available on the school website for parents to access so that they can understand the policies and the rationale behind; and also convey to parents and students the importance of sleep for learning, physical and psychological health. The schools should enhance students’ skills in building relationship with others and fostering relationships with parents. As at 30 June 2024, a total of 375 schools have enrolled for participation in the 4Rs Charter.

### *Way Forward*

15. EDB will continue to review and enhance the relevant measures, and collaborate closely with different stakeholders, to strengthen home-school co-operation and parent education, enabling children to grow up healthily and happily.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

16. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and provide views on enhancing parent education.

**Education Bureau**  
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