

16 August 2024

**Education Bureau Circular No. 16 /2024**

**Personal, Social and Humanities Education Key Learning Area  
Religious Education Curriculum Guide (Secondary 1-3)**

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors/Heads of all Government Schools, Aided Schools (including Special Schools), Caput Schools, Private Secondary Schools, and Secondary Schools under the Direct Subsidy Schemes – for action; and
- (b) Heads of Sections – for information.]

**Summary**

The purpose of this circular is to announce the *Religious Education Curriculum Guide (Secondary 1-3)* (2024) (the *Guide*) prepared by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) for use in schools at Secondary 1 starting from the 2024/25 school year.

**Background**

2. The Religious Education curriculum is a junior secondary subject in the Personal, Social and Humanities Education Key Learning Area aiming at nurturing the adolescents with religious wisdom, so that they can become physically and mentally healthy, caring and respectful; taking care of students' personal growth and spiritual development, and laying the foundation for the pursuit of a good life. Schools with religious affiliation can offer this curriculum to systemically convey their mission in education and promote values education, as well as enable students to lay the knowledge foundation required for studies at the senior secondary level (including Ethics and Religious Studies).

3. The Education Bureau (EDB) issued EDB Circular No. 6/2023 on April 19, 2023, which announced the *Religious Education (Secondary 1-3) Revised Curriculum Framework* to replace the *Syllabuses for Secondary Schools: Religious Education (Secondary 1-3)* (1999). A school survey conducted in April 2023 showed a positive response to the revised curriculum from the education sector. The *Guide* was accepted by the Curriculum Development Council

in June 2024. The EDB recommends the curriculum be implemented from Secondary One in secondary schools with religious background in September 2024.

## Details

4. The *Guide* comprises six chapters. The main contents include:
- Chapter 1 “Introduction” explains the development background, rationale, aims and learning objectives of the curriculum. It emphasises the rationale and direction for development of the curriculum is to support students’ personal growth and spiritual development, laying a foundation for pursuing a good life.
  - Chapter 2 “Curriculum Framework” mainly outlines the design principles of the curriculum and introduces the learning content. It points out that schools should flexibly utilise both “Learning about Religion” and “Learning from Religion” approaches to achieve the expected learning outcomes.
  - Chapter 3 “Curriculum Planning” reminds schools to implement the curriculum based on religious traditions, existing strengths and available resources. Schools should also provide students with opportunities for experience, practice and reflection.
  - Chapter 4 “Learning and Teaching” primarily explains the guiding principles for enhancing the learning and teaching effectiveness of the curriculum. It introduces and demonstrates an array of learning and teaching strategies and examples to help students achieve the learning goals, especially those of proper values, proactive attitudes and appropriate behaviours through experiential learning activities inside and outside the classroom.
  - Chapter 5 “Assessment” provides guidelines for schools to develop effective assessment strategies for the curriculum. It emphasises that teachers should adopt diversified strategies to evaluate the effectiveness of religious education.
  - Chapter 6 “Learning and Teaching Resources” states the recommendations for the selection of learning and teaching resources emphasising the effective use of learning and teaching resources to enhance student learning.
5. The *Guide* has been uploaded to the webpage of the Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section for the reference of schools and teachers.

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/curriculum-documents.html>



6. To support the implementation of the Guide, the EDB will continue to provide support measures to schools, which include professional development programmes and learning and teaching resources. For details, please refer respectively to the Training Calendar and to the webpage of the Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section:

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/reference-and-resources/index.html>

### **Enquiry**

7. For enquiries, please contact Dr YIP Cheong-man (2892 5475) of the Personal, Social and Humanities Education Section, Curriculum Development Institute, EDB.

WF WONG  
for Secretary for Education