

27 August 2024

Education Bureau Circular No. 24/2024

Ongoing Renewal of the School Curriculum: The Curriculum Guide for Special Schools (2024)

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors/Heads of all Aided Special Schools — for action; and
- (b) Heads of Sections – for information]

Summary

This circular is to announce the release of the **Curriculum Guide for Special Schools (CGSS) (2024)** prepared by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) for use in aided special schools. All heads and teachers of special schools should read the aforesaid curriculum guide.

Background

2. In September 2023, the Education Bureau (EDB) issued EDBCM No. 164/2023 “Ongoing Renewal of the School Curriculum: the Curriculum Guide for Special Schools (Pilot Version)”, providing special schools with suggestions on curriculum development and adaptation strategies for piloting, so as to further optimise the planning and implementation of school curriculum, with an aim to better address the learning needs of students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and foster their whole-person development.

3. During the 2023/24 school year, the EDB collected views from the sector through various channels, including a questionnaire survey, experience sharing sessions, etc., and reviewed the piloting in special schools. Moreover, a series of

seminar and training workshops on CGSS were organised for principals/ vice-principals and curriculum coordinators of special schools to deepen their understanding of the curriculum guide. The feedback received from special schools on the recommendations regarding optimising the planning and implementation of school curriculum and the related strategies of piloting provided in the CGSS is very positive.

Details

4. After consolidating the views on the CGSS (Pilot Version) collected from different stakeholders, some contents of the curriculum guide were revised, including making relevant updates according to the Primary Education Curriculum Guide (2024), such as adding and optimising the twelve Priority Values and Attitudes and introducing Primary Humanities and Primary Science subjects, and revising the Chinese term for key principles of curriculum development in special schools from “指導原則” to “主導原則”. In May 2024, the CGSS (2024) was endorsed by the CDC Committee on SEN. It was then accepted by the CDC in June 2024 for implementation in all special schools.

5. Based on the principle of “one curriculum framework for all”, the CGSS (2024) provides special schools with the key principles and recommendations on school curriculum development. It also connects to the central curriculum guides by providing further elaboration on the latest development of the school curriculum in view of the needs of students of special schools. In addition, the CGSS provides specific examples to illustrate how special schools can implement the school curriculum. From the 2024/25 school year onwards, all special schools should refer to the suggestions and curriculum adaptation strategies provided in the CGSS to further optimise the planning and implementation of their school curriculum.

6. The CGSS (2024) has been uploaded onto the webpage of the EDB (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/cgss>) for the reference of schools (only the Traditional Chinese version provided currently and the English version to be uploaded in due course).



7. The EDB will continue to organise different professional development activities to support special schools in implementing the CGSS (2024), and to collect examples of schools' good practices for the reference of the sector, with a view to optimising the planning and implementation of school curriculum for better catering for learner diversity.

Enquiries

8. For enquiries, please contact Ms Bell NG of the Special Educational Needs Section, Curriculum Support Division, Education Bureau at 2892 5879 or email to cdosen4@edb.gov.hk.

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