

2007 Comprehensive Review --- School Responses

Since 2001, Heung To Middle School (Tin Shui Wan) has been operating under the Direct Subsidy Scheme. The Board of Directors, composed of many qualified and seasoned specialists from Hong Kong's education sector and other areas of society, pays high attention to the improvement of our school's teaching quality and has established an effective mode of school management. On the ground of our students' benefit, the school's policy-making always reflects the spirit of "Basing on Students' Needs". We have also made efforts in establishing a distinctive school culture. All these efforts have successfully enabled our school to grow stably and gain supports from the parents.

Meanwhile, we sincerely thank all the personnel attending this comprehensive review for their diligent work during the consecutive days of visit. The valuable recommendations made and the recognition of many of our school policies are beneficial to our school's continuous improvement. As a follow-up, we will provide supplementary materials in order to enhance understanding on our school by different parties.

Management and Organization

A 5-year School Development Plan was written up in the year when our school was established. Since then, a 3-year development plan has been made for every three years. At the same time, with regards to the school development, the concerns of the particular school terms and the yearly plan are drawn up to cater for the development of four domains, namely, the management and organization, teaching and learning, school ethos and student support and student performance. Presently, all the management measures are being implemented gradually as scheduled in our plan and all the goals are expected to be achieved accordingly.

Our school is the first school in Hong Kong to adopt a "zero school janitor" management policy. A profession management company is designated to manage the whole school premises so that not only the quality of management can be enhanced; but also the maintenance of school facilities and the quality of cleansing can be kept at a very high level. Because of this policy, school administrators and teachers can devote their time and attention to everyday teaching. All in all, our students can procure maximum benefits from the policy.

With a view to enhancing the quality of school management, a professional human resources consultation company was employed to give concrete advice on the school development, the goals, the management organization, the plans and staff training. For example, on planning the school development, the consultation company advises us to give the staff a list of important aspects of school improvement so that all of them can understand our goals as well as the ways to achieve them.

Learning and Teaching

The Review Team considered our teachers dedicated and knowledgeable in their subject matters. Students were attentive in lessons, well-behaved and respectful of their teachers, which shows that there is a good relationship between teachers and students. This also reflects that our school has placed great emphasis on teaching and learning. Moreover, teachers have attained relatively high education level, including Master and Doctoral Degrees. The Board of Directors has also hired some consultation companies to organize workshops for teacher professional development in order to establish team spirit. Teachers have already completed professional teacher training, exhibiting a high sense of professionalism in their work.

Our school is very keen to maintain good results in public exams. Each year from August, all F5 and F7 students are required to attend classes in order to prepare for their respective public exams. Teachers also offered extra lessons during long holidays. Our school has, over the years, achieved good results in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE). Most students passed five or more subjects in the HKCEE and procured high value-added indexes in many subjects, which are much higher than the territory average of day-school students. Attempts have been made in a number of subjects to diversify the curriculum to cater for the different needs and abilities of students. Our school focuses on promoting biliteracy and trilingualism. Different programs have been developed to better students' English competence, such as study tours for both teachers and students. Moreover, native English-speaking teachers are employed to teach the subject and assist in curriculum adaptation.

The curriculum in our school is in time with the curriculum reform and the coverage is sufficiently broad. We are able to devise the school-based curriculum, according to the needs of students and school development. Moral and Civic Education, Liberal Studies and Integrated Science were introduced to Junior Form curriculum since 2001. All classrooms in our school are equipped with multi-media teaching facilities. Every teacher has been given a computer in order to enhance teaching effectiveness.

Our school has placed great emphasis on biliteracy and trilingualism in order to prepare our students for the changes and challenges in their future. Since 2001, the EMI (English as the medium of instruction) stream has been in operation in our school. There are two EMI classes in each form. English is the medium of instruction for the two classes in Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Computer and Chemistry in order to enrich the exposure of English. As a result, students can study these subjects in English successfully.

School Ethos and Student Support

We feel encouraged by the Review Team's positive feedback of our school ethos and students support. Our school has been adopting *Two-Class-Teachers-Per Class* system to observe the students fully and to facilitate the student's personal growth. It is hoped that the school is able to put

“Pleasure Learning” into practice.

We use various channels to maintain contact with parents. One of the characteristics is the home visit system. Besides, we have established a PTS website and are preparing a resource corner for parents and children.

We also feel encouraged by the Review Team’s positive feedback on building up school culture. As usual, we will make decisions based on the interest of the students and offer quality education. Looking to the future, the school will offer various activities so as to heighten the students’ sense of belonging.

Student Performance

The school always places emphasis on students’ moral education. We feel encouraged by the report that the students are polite, behave themselves and respect the teachers. They have a sense of belonging towards the school and the relationship between the teachers and the students is harmonious.

The teachers and students are striving for improving our performance in public exams. Over the past three years, the number of 5 passes has outperformed Hong Kong’s average rate in the HKCEE. There is still room for improvement and we still aim to do better.

When facing the current educational trend, the school encourages all the students to keep a record of extra-curricular activities, which leads to them to understand current affairs, to participate in social services. The school facilitates the students in building up their own portfolios as to make progress both in academic area and other learning areas.

Summary

The Review Team compliments our school facilities, teaching support, positive school ethos, civil education, parent-teacher relationship, the utilization of external resource and the school culture establishment. The compliments greatly encourage both our teachers and students. With maturing school management conditions, we will continue endeavor to continue our school development and aim at building a beautiful and friendly campus.