

**For discussion on
29 January 2024**

**Legislative Council
Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports
Subcommittee on Promoting Family Education**

Work Progress of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the work progress of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation (CHSC) in promoting home-school co-operation and parent education. Members are invited to give views on related matters.

Background

2. On the recommendation of the Education Commission (EC) in its Report No.5, CHSC was set up in February 1993 as an advisory body to promote home-school co-operation and advise the Education Bureau (EDB), other government departments and non-government organisations on ways to promote parental involvement in education. At present, CHSC has a total of 20 members comprising the chairperson, 18 members (including educators from kindergartens (KGs), primary schools, secondary schools and special schools, parents of children in local schools, and members from other sectors/professionals) and an ex-officio member from EDB.

Implementation of the Work of CHSC and the Latest Progress

3. CHSC has been actively promoting home-school co-operation and parent education at the territory-wide, district and school levels since its establishment. With a diversified approach, CHSC strives to forge a partnership between parents and schools and develop an active attitude in parents and teachers towards home-school co-operation and parent education. In December 2017, EC set up the Task Force on Home-School

Co-operation and Parent Education to review the prevailing approach in the promotion of home-school co-operation and parent education as well as to formulate directions, strategies and measures to facilitate home-school co-operation and parent education, with a view to minimising excessive competition and enabling children to have a healthy and joyful development. The recommendations of the Task Force set out in its report¹ published in April 2019 were fully accepted by EDB. Since then, CHSC has been working closely with EDB and supporting EDB's efforts in promoting home-school co-operation and parent education under an approach regarding "schools as a primary platform and the community as a complementary". With the assistance of CHSC, some of the recommended measures have been implemented gradually, which include allocating additional resources to Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) of schools and Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations (FPTAs), and encouraging the establishment of PTAs in KGs. CHSC's major work and its latest progress are set out in paragraphs 4 to 16 below.

Encouraging Schools to Establish PTAs

4. CHSC has all along been promoting the importance of closer home-school relations and actively encouraging the establishment of PTAs, with a view to enhancing home-school co-operation. Currently, all Government and aided schools as well as over one-third of KGs have set up PTAs, which act as a bridge between parents and teachers to foster communication, understanding and mutual support in promoting the well beings of students. Over the years, PTAs have also helped promote parental involvement in a wide range of school activities and successfully nurtured a culture of home-school co-operation. Overall, the feedback from schools and parents on the establishment and operation of PTAs is very positive.

5. To encourage more KGs to set up PTAs, starting from the 2019/20 school year, EDB has increased the subsidy amount of the Set Up Grant and Annual Grant under the Subsidy for PTA of KGs². CHSC also

¹ Details of the Report are available at: https://www.e-c.edu.hk/en/publications_and_related_documents/education_reports.html.

² Starting from the 2019/20 school year, the amount of the Set Up Grant that each KG can apply for has been doubled from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Also, the amount of the Annual Grant provided to KGs

actively helps school sponsoring bodies (SSBs) and KGs better understand the procedures and matters pertaining to the establishment of PTAs through various channels, such as conducting visits to SSBs, offering training, and producing related video clips and reference materials. In addition, CHSC organises sharing sessions every year on topics such as the concept of home-school co-operation, support offered to individual schools for the establishment of its first PTA and ways to facilitate the daily operation of PTAs, to provide important information and support to principals, teachers and parents of KGs without a PTA or with a newly established PTA.

6. With the support of CHSC, EDB introduced the Simplified Model for the Establishment of Parent-Teacher Associations in Kindergartens (“Simplified Model”) in the 2023/24 school year. The “Simplified Model”, available as an option for KGs, can streamline the administrative and clerical work in establishing PTAs in KGs and encourage more KGs to establish PTAs to support the promotion of home-school liaison and collaboration. To let principals and teachers of KGs better understand the key points relating to the establishment and operation of PTAs under the Simplified Model, EDB and CHSC co-organised two briefing sessions in mid-January 2024 to introduce the arrangements and details of the Simplified Model. KG principals and their PTA representatives were invited to share their successful experiences in home-school collaboration at the briefing sessions. In addition, reference materials about the Simplified Model and PTAs in KGs, such as Guidelines on the Simplified Model, templates of documents, frequently asked questions, promotional video and PowerPoint slides of sharing sessions, have been uploaded to the website of CHSC (www.chsc.hk/kgpta) for reference by schools and the public.

Increasing Subsidies Relating to Home-School Co-operation and Parent Education

7. To encourage PTAs of schools to organise more school-based home-school co-operation and parent education activities, CHSC has been assisting the Government in providing subsidies to PTAs. Apart from applying for the Subsidy for PTA, PTAs of schools can also apply for the

is a double of that for primary and secondary schools and is annually adjusted in accordance with the Composite Consumer Price Index.

Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities to organise a maximum of two home-school co-operation activities, and the Subsidy for Joint Home-School Co-operation Project to conduct one joint home-school co-operation project with other school(s) or PTA(s) every year. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, EDB has doubled the subsidy amount for the ceilings³ of these two subsidies for PTAs of schools to organise more activities aiming at deepening home-school co-operation and enhancing parent education. PTAs of schools are also encouraged to design parent education programmes with reference to the Curriculum Framework on Parent Education (Kindergarten) and the Curriculum Framework on Parent Education (Primary School) launched by EDB, with a view to enhancing the parenting skills of parents and supporting them in facilitating their children's joyful learning and healthy growth. In the 2022/23 school year, about 1 650 schools applied for these subsidies and approval was granted for subsidising around 3 620 activities. To encourage more schools to set up PTAs, EDB has enhanced the arrangements of the application for the subsidies. Schools planning to set up PTAs within the 2023/24 school year may submit their applications for the Set Up Grant under the Subsidy for PTA throughout the school year. Besides, for schools with PTAs newly set up in the 2023/24 school year, they may submit their applications for both the Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities and the Subsidy for Joint Home-School Co-operation Project throughout the school year.

Strengthening Training on Home-School Co-operation

8. To facilitate the daily operation of PTAs, CHSC organises the Parent-Teacher Association Executive Committee Member Training Programme annually for PTAs of schools across the territory to help all serving/designated PTA executive committee members or school teachers better understand the operation of PTA. The training programme covers functions and operation of PTA, organisation of activities, networking, finance issues, etc. In the 2023/24 school year, five sessions under the training programme were held from October to December 2023 with an average attendance of about 300 people each, and the feedback from the participants on the training programme was positive. In addition, to

³ 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.

facilitate the effective operation and development of PTAs, CHSC has published the Parent-Teacher Association Handbook to provide reference for PTAs and schools, and the online version of the handbook is updated annually as required. CHSC is preparing a new edition of the handbook with enhanced content and inclusion of reader-friendly elements (e.g. QR codes and illustrations) for further facilitating and promoting the development of PTAs of schools.

Building Up and Strengthening District Networks to Jointly Promote Home-School Co-operation and Parent Education

9. At district level, with support by CHSC and EDB, self-initiated district-based FPTAs have been established in 18 districts to enhance the coordination and communication of PTAs in their respective districts and build a harmonious society through district-based home-school co-operation activities, such as school tours, thematic seminars and parent support networks. CHSC has been assisting the Government in providing subsidies for FPTAs. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, the number of subsidised activities that each FPTA can apply for under the Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities for FPTAs has been increased from three to four, and with the introduction of the Subsidy for Joint Cross-district Parent Activities, FPTAs now have sufficient resources to organise more “community-based” home-school co-operation and parent education activities. In the 2022/23 school year, 14 FPTAs applied for the related subsidies and approval was granted for subsidising a total of 59 activities. To ensure optimal use of resources by FPTAs, upon the completion of each activity, FPTAs are required to submit to EDB an Evaluation Form (with Activity Evaluation Data and Analysis Document enclosed) and the results have showed that most of the participants were satisfied with the activities. CHSC also organises sharing sessions every year for FPTAs to exchange their experiences and share good exemplars and practices of organising home-school co-operation and parent education activities, as well as to support FPTAs’ efforts in liaising schools in the districts to promote home-school co-operation.

10. Apart from the parent education activities held locally, CHSC has been collaborating with the Federation of Parent Teacher Associations Hong Kong Island in organising Mainland exchange tours for parents over

the years. The purpose is to let parents understand the situation and latest development of our country, and also enrich their knowledge and appreciation of Chinese culture, thus enabling them to help their children foster positive values and a sense of national identity. In July 2023, CHSC, the Federation of Parent Teacher Associations Hong Kong Island and the Hong Kong Island School Heads Association co-organised an academic and cultural exchange tour to Xi'an, in which some 40 participating parents, through conducting exchanges with the education sector in Xi'an Municipal of Shaanxi Province and field study activities, were able to gain a better understanding of the latest development of education and home-school co-operation in the local area. CHSC will continue to organise more Mainland exchange tours for parents, and encourage parents and schools to join hand in helping students understand Chinese culture for promoting national education.

Implementing Diversified Home-School and Parent Education Activities

11. CHSC has been organising a wide variety of home-school and parent education activities on issues that parents are most concerned with as well as on education policies and trends so as to support students' learning and provide parents with knowledge and skills in nurturing their children. Examples of these activities include parent talks on children's learning and developmental needs, annual symposiums, workshops, competitions, etc. In the 2022/23 school year, more than 2 000 participants in total attended the talks organised by CHSC. Apart from talks for parents, CHSC also organises annual symposiums and invites guest speakers to share their professional knowledge and personal experience on how home-school co-operation can facilitate children's development. In the 2022/23 school year, CHSC organised, co-organised and supported over 60 activities on topics including nurturing students' positive values and lifestyles, promoting parent-child relationships, developing children's communication skills, assisting parents to support their children in learning, facilitating parents' understanding of school and education policies, etc. The details of the activities relating to parent education are at **Annex**. As for the competitions and activities organised by CHSC in the 2022/23 school year, including colouring competitions, four-panel comic drawing competitions and thanksgiving card design activities, all of them received overwhelming response, with more than

3 400 entries in total. In order to benefit more parents and other stakeholders in education, CHSC promotes these activities through various channels, such as the website of CHSC, EDB's one-stop webpage on parent education "Smart Parent Net" and its social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as the e-newsletters of the Home-School Co-operation Teacher Professional Network.

Providing Useful Information

12. CHSC has set up a website (<http://www.chsc.hk>) to provide comprehensive information for parents, enabling them to understand the development of schools from different perspectives so as to lay a good foundation for their children's learning. The information provided in the website focuses on the needs of parents and children's growth. Through the website, CHSC disseminates information on the latest development in education, school information, as well as information on parent education and home-school co-operation activities in a timely manner so that parents can obtain the most up-to-date information on related matters. The aim of CHSC in publishing the School Profiles is to provide parents with a relatively complete set of basic information on all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. The related information is provided by schools, including school information, teaching staff information, class structure, school facilities, student support and school characteristics, etc. Such information will be useful for parents to choose a suitable school for their children so as to make their learning more enjoyable. At present, the School Profiles are printed in both Traditional Chinese and English, while Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese and English versions are also available online for reference. CHSC encourages schools to provide the latest school information for the Profiles in both Chinese and English, so that parents can gain a better understanding of the schools.

Supporting Parents of Students with Diverse Needs

13. CHSC organises parent talks and seminars from time to time to provide useful information for parents with diverse needs. In the 2022/23 school year, CHSC launched a series of talks targeting KG parents and primary parents respectively, which included the Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Kindergarten Level and the Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children

at Primary Level. In these talks, experts explained the symptoms of and the ways to handle children with Attention Deficit, as well as the skills and counselling techniques to deal with children's emotional behaviours, with a view to enhancing their parenting skills. These two series of talks were well received by parents. Moreover, regarding the mental and psychological well-being of students, CHSC, together with FPTAs and regional school heads associations, organises talks for parents every year to provide them with relevant information for identifying and supporting students with emotional and stress problems. For instance, the Parent Talk on Caring Students' Mental Health and Psychological Well-being held in the 2022/23 school year helped parents understand the growth and developmental needs of their children; identify early signs of children's emotional problems; learn more about the characteristics of their children's emotional and mental problems as well as parents' role in emotional regulation of their children, and learn how to use different methods to support their children suffering from stress or emotional issues, so that parents can help their children grow up happily and promote positive thinking in their children. In November and December 2023, CHSC collaborated with EDB, FPTAs of the 18 districts and regional school heads associations in holding two online and two face-to-face parent talks to strengthen parents' support for their children in respect of mental well-being. Besides, to support the mental health of parents who have children with special educational needs (SEN), CHSC has formed partnership with the Nethersole School of Nursing under the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong for promoting "Pai.ACT" in the 2023/24 school year. "Pai.ACT" is the first AI-driven mobile app designed to offer emotional support for parents of children with SEN in Hong Kong based on the principles of "Acceptance and Commitment Therapy" (ACT). The app provides instant mental health assessments, self-learning materials and online emotional support services for parents of children with SEN.

Promoting Cross-Sector Collaboration

14. CHSC has all along been working with other organisations to promote the importance of home-school co-operation and parent education through different platforms and channels. In early 2023, CHSC launched the "We Did It!" Award Scheme in collaboration with Hong Kong Disneyland to award parents who played an active role in supporting their

children’s participation in non-academic school-based or outside school activities and students who actively participated in these activities. Each awardee received park tickets of Hong Kong Disneyland which they could enjoy with their families. Over 400 schools participated in the Scheme. CHSC will continue to organise the “We Did It!” Award Scheme with Hong Kong Disneyland in 2024 to promote home-school co-operation and parent education.

15. Besides, to carry on our fine cultural tradition of showing respect to teachers, CHSC has been for years organising the “Parents-Also-Appreciate-Teachers” Drive jointly with EDB, the Hong Kong Education City and Sing Tao Daily to encourage parents and PTAs to express gratitude to their children’s teachers through the “Appreciation Card for Teachers” and the “Commendation Certificate for Teachers”, which will also provide students with a good role model to show appreciation and respect to their teachers. Furthermore, through the Competition on E-card Design of “Appreciation Card for Teachers” held annually, parents are encouraged to design and create a unique appreciation card with their children. All the winners’ designs will be turned into e-cards for parents and students to send to their teachers via email, thereby jointly cultivating a positive atmosphere for promoting respect for teachers. The response to the competition in the 2022/23 school year was overwhelming, with more than 530 entries received in total from the secondary, primary and KG categories.

Conducting Study on Home-School Co-operation and Parent Education

16. In addition to organising different kinds of activities, CHSC has also conducted surveys and researches on subjects relating to home-school co-operation and parent education from time to time, such as a consultative study on home-school communication for promoting the messages of home-school co-operation and parent education as well as giving advice on related matters. CHSC will consider commissioning an external organisation to conduct research study on the effectiveness of PTAs in promoting home-school co-operation and parent education with a view to identifying good practices in local schools and other regions/countries for sharing with schools.

Way Forward

17. CHSC will continue to closely collaborate with EDB and different stakeholders through diversified approaches and measures to further promote home-school co-operation, strengthen parent education, and encourage schools and parents to join hand in fostering students' positive values and whole-person development, thereby enabling students to grow up healthily and happily.

18. Members are invited to note this paper and give their views.

Education Bureau
January 2024

Parent Education Activities Organised by the Committee on Home-School Co-operation (CHSC) (2022/23 s.y.)

No	Name of Activities	Scope of Activities	Organisation	Date
1.	Parent Talk on Developing Children's Creativity and Raising Their Motivation to Learn by Mrs Maria LAM	Parenting Skills	Co-organisers: Education 2.1 Big Education Platform & CHSC	17/11/2022
2.	"Joyful Net Surfing with e-Generation" Parent Seminar (1): Cyber Risks and Related Practical Tips	Parenting Skills	Co-Organisers: Hong Kong Education City, EDB, CHSC	26/11/2022
3.	"We Did It!" Award Scheme 2022/23	Learning and Personal Growth	Organiser: CHSC Sponsoring Organisation: Hong Kong Disneyland	09/01/2023 - 21/04/2023
4.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Kindergarten Level (1): Effective Ways to Enhance Children's Learning	Parenting Skills	CHSC	13/01/2023
5.	"Joyful Net Surfing with e-Generation" Parent Seminar (2): Beware of Inappropriate Internet Content and Using Information Technology to Facilitate Learning	Parenting Skills	Co-Organisers: Hong Kong Education City, EDB, CHSC	04/02/2023
6.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Kindergarten Level (2): Understanding Emotion and Behaviour of Children	Parenting Skills	CHSC	10/02/2023
7.	Hong Kong Money Month 2023	Learning and Personal Growth	Coordinating Organisation: Investor and Financial Education Council Supporting Organisation: CHSC	01/03/2023 - 31/03/2023

No	Name of Activities	Scope of Activities	Organisation	Date
8.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Kindergarten Level (3): Concentrating in Learning	Parenting Skills	CHSC	10/03/2023
9.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Kindergarten Level (4): Stay Optimistic Towards Adversity	Parenting Skills	CHSC	17/03/2023
10.	“Joyful Net Surfing with e-Generation” Parent Seminar (3): Embrace Innovation and Technology to Live a Healthy Lifestyle in the Digital Age	Parenting Skills	Co-Organisers: Hong Kong Education City, EDB, CHSC	18/03/2023
11.	Parent Programme (1): “DSE Smart Tips”	Parenting Skills	Organisers: Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Supporting Organisations: CHSC, FPTAs of 18 districts	18/03/2023
12.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Kindergarten Level (5): Enhancing Parent-child Communication	Parenting Skills	CHSC	31/03/2023
13.	「認識憲法、《基本法》——與法治同行」系列活動 2023 (Chinese version only)	Learning and Personal Growth	Organiser: Hong Kong Shine Tak Foundation Assisting Organisations: New Territories School Heads Association, Kowloon Region School Heads Association, Hong Kong Island School Heads Association, CHSC	04-06/2023

No	Name of Activities	Scope of Activities	Organisation	Date
14.	Parent Programme (2): “Parent-child Communication in the Digital Era”	Parenting Skills	Organisers: Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Supporting Organisations: CHSC, FPTAs of 18 districts	15/04/2023
15.	Parent Talk on National Education and the Future of Young People	Education Policy	CHSC	28/04/2023
16.	“Joyful Net Surfing with e-Generation” Parent Seminar (4): Beware of Internet Pitfalls and Practical Eye Care Tips for e-Learning	Parenting Skills	Co-Organisers: Hong Kong Education City, EDB, CHSC	3/6/2023
17.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Primary Level (1): Parenting Skills That Matches Children's Growth	Parenting Skills	CHSC	23/6/2023
18.	Cultivating Positive Psychology: Using Psychology to Help Children to Develop Positive Psychology and Live a Happy Life	Parenting Skills	Organiser : The Board of Management of The Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Co-organiser: CHSC	30/6/2023
19.	“Smart Consumption Academy” Consumer Council's New Education Programme for Secondary School Students	Learning and Personal Growth	Organiser: Consumer Council Supporting Organisation: CHSC	12/7/2023
20.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Primary Level (2): Effective Learning	Parenting Skills	CHSC	14/7/2023
21.	個性化圖書作家親子同行計劃 (Chinese version only)	Education Policy	Organiser : Hong Kong Creative Learning Association Co-organiser: CHSC	15/7/2023 22/7/2023

No	Name of Activities	Scope of Activities	Organisation	Date
22.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Primary Level (3): Walking with Your Child's Emotions	Parenting Skills	CHSC	21/7/2023
23.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Primary Level (4): Strength for Facing Adversity	Parenting Skills	CHSC	28/7/2023
24.	Parent Programme on Learning and Developmental Needs of Children at Primary Level (5): Developing Empathy and Responsibility	Parenting Skills	CHSC	5/8/2023
25.	Parent Talk on Caring Students' Mental Health and Psychological Well-being	Parenting Skills	Co-organisers: CHSC, FPTAs of 18 districts, Regional School Heads Associations of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Region & New Territories	26/8/2023