

**LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
Subcommittee to study discrimination
on the ground of sexual orientation**

**Implementation of Concepts and Values of
Non-discrimination on the Ground of
Sexual Orientation in Schools**

Purpose

This paper aims to brief Members on the implementation of concepts and values of non-discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in schools.

The Curriculum

2. Sexual orientation is treated as part of the sex education curriculum. Different schools are at liberty to take the issue by approaches suited to their children's needs. Generally speaking, some may adopt a more focussed approach while others may take a more integrated approach. Thus, the delivery may take the form such as formal lessons, discussions or teaching through other subjects/activities.

3. Non-discrimination is a guiding principle in curriculum development. In the curriculum reform, we place great emphasis on the cultivation of positive values for students and respect for others. This position as applicable to sex education is clear to most schools, and we believe there is overall consensus in most schools on this issue.

Role of Education Department

4. The example cited by the media (i.e. report that a school has exerted pressure on students who distributed promotional leaflets on homosexuality in schools) is, we believe, an isolated case. If there is allegation of individual principals/teachers being against homosexuality, the Education Department usually investigates the allegation first and then, if allegations are substantiated, helps the principals/teachers to see their responsibilities on the issue. In addition, the Education Department uses good practices in other schools for their reference. School visits also help the Department to identify the issue at an early stage, and the school's staff development days provides a window of opportunity to help them develop the right attitude/culture.