

中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局

Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region The People's Republic of China

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25 September 2014

Miss Polly YEUNG Clerk to Education Panel Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central Hong Kong

Dear Miss YEUNG,

Panel on Education Follow up to meeting on 12 July 2011

At the meeting of the Panel on Education on 12 July 2011, Members requested the Administration to provide information on measures to avoid the overlapping of the curriculum contents of the Moral and National Education (MNE) subject with that of Liberal Studies and General Studies to facilitate a pragmatic allocation of lesson time for the MNE subject.

In view of the issue of MNE has been overtaken by events as the implementation of the MNE subject has been withheld, the follow-up item No. 2 "Consultation on moral and national education" of the Panel Secretariat's "list of follow-up actions" is proposed The additional information is provided in the Appendix for information of to be deleted. the Panel.

Yours sincerely,

(Stephen Y W Yip) for Secretary for Education

Supplementary Information on the development of the Moral and National Education Subject

After a four-month public consultation on the Moral and National Education curriculum from May to August 2011, the Ad Hoc Committee on Moral and National Education has carefully deliberated the views collected to refine the Moral and National Education Curriculum Guide (MNECG). Subsequent to the endorsement of the revised MNECG by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) in February 2012, the Education Bureau (EDB) accepted the refined MNECG and also announced a series of support measures on the implementation of the MNE subject on 30 April 2012. In formulating the implementation strategies, the EDB has taken into consideration the views expressed during the public consultation.

Between April and July 2012, the EDB kept up the communication with different stakeholders including School Sponsoring Bodies (SSBs) and organised related professional development programmes where over 1,300 school heads/curriculum coordinators/teachers attended. The feedback was generally positive. Sparked off by a publication commissioned by the National Education Centre, concerns were expressed about mandatory implementation of the MNECG.

In order to allay public's concerns over the MNE subject, the Committee on the Initiation of the MNE Subject was set up in August 2012. Meetings were conducted in September and October 2012 to discuss issues related to the MNE subject.

In consideration of public's views, disputes and concerns over the MNE subject, the Government announced on 8 September 2012 that the MNE subject would not be mandatory and that SSBs and schools could exercise their professional discretion regarding whether or not and how to implement the subject. The Government made a further announcement on 8 October 2012 that the MNECG would be formally shelved and that the Government would not request schools to adopt the MNECG. Nor would it use the MNECG as the basis for school inspection. Rather, in deference to the prerogative of SSBs and schools on whether and if so, how they would promote values education that includes moral, civic and national education, the EDB would play a supportive role.

As an integral part of the promotion of whole-person development, the EDB will continue to communicate with the various sectors of the general public and take into consideration the views of various stakeholders to support schools to implement values education, which would enrich student learning of the existing subject curricula, e.g. Primary General Studies and Liberal Studies.