

Good Hope School

Name of Awarded Teachers : Petunia Gnanadorai, Law Chan Yuen Lan, Ann,
Grace Pow, Law Yim Ling, Helen, Mabel Lee

Good Teaching Practices - Teachers Walk the Talk

Introduction

The most significant lesson I have learned as a student of the Post-graduate Certificate of Education at the University of Hong Kong is, "Never ask your students to do something that you have not or cannot do yourself". For me, this statement is applicable to every aspect of my life as a teacher.

To foster good teaching practices in the classroom, it is imperative that the Panel as a group and each teacher individually walk the talk of what we expect our students to learn and how we expect our students to behave.

Here at Good Hope School we believe in this principle of practicing what we preach. The English Panel, like a flock of geese on its flight path, works as a unified group with each member sharing in the role of leadership and accepting the responsibility that comes with that role.

The English Panel comprises of 23 qualified, competent and dedicated teachers coming from very diverse cultural and international backgrounds. The strength of the panel is not in its numbers but the fact that everyone works towards common goals drawing on one another's rich experience in a congenial and co-learning atmosphere.

There are three Rs that work as the guiding principles of the panel. They are RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and ROLES. Everyone has an important role to play within the panel, takes their responsibility seriously and has great respect and regard for other members of the panel. This has been achieved over the years by making the working of the system transparent and by cultivating accountability for all work done.

Each member of the panel is given an important role to play according to their talents, wishes and workloads. Everyone is accountable for work done by means of evaluation, meetings (personal and panel), team teaching, check marking, peer observation by panel heads, group work and division of labour.

Rewards are a motivating factor in fostering team spirit and bringing the best out of every member. Positive feedback, encouragement to try new ideas and assistance to implement new strategies are some of the rewards that work well. Regular social gatherings and celebrations of birthdays/festivals create a bond that strengthens the working spirit of the panel.

Having cultivated such work ethics, the panel works willingly and enthusiastically. The entire panel is instrumental in the continuous development of the teaching practices at Good Hope School. Each member is very proactive in putting into practice new teaching methods that have brought about the desired outcomes.

The panel works as a team, the members helping one another with teaching ideas, pooling resources and constantly checking with and consulting each other regarding work. English teachers have the freedom to try new teaching strategies with their classes and share good ideas that have worked well. The flexibility of the panel and the freedom to be innovative are a motivational factor resulting in high staff morale. Also the easy camaraderie and sharing makes for a very harmonious work atmosphere.

However, we cannot deny that there are challenges and obstacles that we face every now and then. These are dealt with by means of open communication channels between the panel head and panel members. Having established a culture of airing opinions, speaking up when facing difficulties and taking into consideration everyone's viewpoints, the problems are dealt with efficiently or minimized with decision making that satisfies the majority.



The work environment that has been established empowers the teachers to teach what they experience as members of the panel. They exude the same enthusiasm that they enjoy working with their colleagues and impart knowledge by designating roles, entrusting responsibilities, delegating work, giving positive feedback and encouragement. The students are the privileged beneficiaries of the panel's work ethics giving them an inheritance that will last a lifetime.

School should not be a preparation for life. A School should be LIFE. - Elbert Hubbard

EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT

NAME	CLASSES TAUGHT	DUTIES
1. Corina Chen	I	Dean of Studies and Choral Speaking
2. Ann Law	I, III & IV	Junior Panel Head, Teacher Mentor ERS - Teacher-in-charge
3. Helen Law	V & VI	Assistant Convenor Form V & VI
4. Grace Pow	IV & VII	Convenor Form VII & English Resource Book Teacher-in-charge
5. Betty Fung	/	Choral Speaking Teacher-in-charge
6. Mabel Lee	II & III	Assistant Convenor Form I IT Resource Person - English Panel
7. Monique Lok	I, II & IV	Convenor Form 1
8. Angela Lee	IV	Convenor Form IV & Teacher Mentor
9. Jennifer Mckay	II & VI	Convenor Form VI & Debating Society
10. Anne Yam	I	Pastoral Care and Teacher Mentor
11. Vivian Liu	I	Asst. Choral Speaking Literature Resources (Form I and II)
12. Lesley Crof	I, II & V	English Resources (Online and worksheets) ERS
13. Annie Cheung	I, II & III	English Resource Book
14. Bong Sil	I, II & III	ERS, English Resource Book & Social Secretary
15. Nalini Fernandes	II & III	Small Group Drama & Debating Society
16. Johanna O'Hanlan	I & IV	English Resources & English Doorway
17. Petunia Gnanadorai	VI & VII	Speech Festival, Inter-class Debates & Debating Society & Panel Head
18. Gareth Lam	I, II & III	Convenor Form II & ERS
19. Eason Chan	I, III & V	Convenor Form III & Social Secretary
20. Wilfred Choi	I, II & V	Convenor Form V, ERS & Social Secretary
21. Ross Campbe	II IV & V	English Doorway Teacher-in-charge
22. Peter Ch'ng	I, II & V	English Doorway & English Resources
23. Andrew Wilson	I, II & III	Small Group Drama & English Doorway

I touch the future. I teach. – Christa McAuliffe



Way of Access to Further Information of the above Teaching Practice

Please e-mail to the ATE Secretariat (ate@emb.gov.hk) stating the specific information you would like to obtain.

Preferred Way of dissemination / collaboration

Please refer to the latest news of sharing activities organized by the ATE Teachers Association.

Website: www.ate.gov.hk

Contact

ATE Secretariat: ate@emb.gov.hk

Remarks of the Assessment Panel

This group nomination is made up of a strong team of five highly committed and competent English teachers, who put together a comprehensive and integrated curriculum to ensure a rich language experience for their students. Apart from learning from the formal curriculum, students are actively engaged in innovative project work, which develops their independent learning ability. Moreover, a wide variety of interesting extra-curricular activities are held to strengthen students' language ability and foster their creative thinking and expression, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Student groupings are carefully thought out to facilitate effective language learning.

The strengths of this nomination lie in the very close collaboration among the team members and their creative curriculum design and implementation. Team members work closely together to develop interesting learning tasks and share teaching ideas and resources. Small group teaching and strong team work among English panel members help to produce positive learning outcomes. The school boasts value-added student performance in public examinations for the past four years and outstanding results in inter-school public speaking activities.

The team demonstrates outstanding performance in all the five domains and provides an excellent example to show how teamwork elevates the quality of learning and teaching.

