



PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

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DEVELOPING SKILLS AND VALUES IN PUPILS

Another 24 primary schools to implement Programme for Active Learning from 2011

The Programme for Active Learning (PAL), currently being prototyped in 12 PAL Phase 1 partner schools, will be implemented in another 24 primary schools in Phase 2 next year. It will then be progressively rolled out to all primary schools in tandem with the implementation of single session primary schools. (The list of Phase 1 and 2 schools is attached at Annex A.)

2 As part of the Primary Education Review and Implementation (PERI) recommendations accepted by MOE in 2009, PAL was introduced to strengthen the emphasis on non-academic programmes for Primary 1 and 2 pupils. This is in line with a key desired outcome of PERI recommendations to balance the acquisition of knowledge with the development of skills and values. This is to prepare our children for a more dynamic future. Conducted within curriculum time, PAL modules provide pupils with broad exposure in two areas – Sports and Outdoor Education, and Performing and Visual Arts. It aims to facilitate the well-rounded development of pupils in the five learning domains (cognitive, moral, social, aesthetics and physical) and help pupils to develop social emotional competencies.

3 PAL modules are experiential in nature and incorporate learning in a creative, fun, and enjoyable way. Schools have the flexibility to select PAL activities to cater to the needs and interests of their pupils. Each PAL module will be conducted for at least 2 hours a week with each module lasting between 7 to 10 weeks. At the end of Primary 2, all pupils would have been exposed to at least 6 different modules, from the two areas of Sports and Outdoor Education, and Performing and Visual Arts.

4 The 12 PAL partner schools in Phase 1 have gained valuable experience managing resources and experimenting with different PAL modules. Some modular activities offered by these schools in the area of Performing Arts include singing and ethnic dance. In the area of Sports and Outdoor Education, modules offered include gymnastics and creative movements. Teachers and students of these 12 schools have seen positive changes since the implementation of PAL. These include pupils becoming

more confident and vocal in class, exhibiting more leadership qualities and learning to be more mindful of the needs of classmates.

5 Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education, Ms Grace Fu shared, "The PERI recommendations aim to equip our children with skills and values, so that they grow up to be confident team players and independent learners. PAL is a key initiative introduced to achieve this, and I am heartened by the positive feedback received. MOE will facilitate the implementation of PAL in all primary schools to expose our young students to a broad range of non-academic activities to achieve a holistic education."

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ANNEX A

1. The 24 PAL Partner Schools in Phase 2 are as follows:

Zone	School
North	Anchor Green Primary School
	Anderson Primary School
	Edgefield Primary School
	Maris Stella High (Primary)
	Xinmin Primary School
	Xishan Primary School
South	Bendemeer Primary School
	CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel
	Gan Eng Seng Primary School
	Jing Shan Primary School
	Kheng Cheng Primary School
	Radin Mas Primary School
East	Junyuan Primary School
	Ngee Ann Primary School
	Red Swastika School
	Opera Estate Primary School
	Tampines North Primary
	Telok Kurau Primary School
West	Bukit Timah Primary School,
	Chua Chu Kang Primary School
	Rulang Primary School
	West View Primary School
	West Grove Primary School
	Yuhua Primary School

2. The 12 PAL Partner Schools in Phase 1 are as follows:

Zone	School
North	CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity
	Huamin Primary School
	North Vista Primary School
South	Cedar Primary School
	Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School
	New Town Primary School
East	Macpherson Primary School
	St. Stephen's School
	Park View Primary School
West	Corporation Primary School
	Lianhua Primary School
	Jurong West Primary School

Factsheet for PAL modules in 3 prototype partner schools

New Town Primary School

At New Town Primary School, pupils are introduced to a structured series of Performing Arts modules conducted by E Inspiration. The Primary 1 pupils will commence with a dance module entitled Kaleidoscope and move on to Music & Movement in Primary Two. Comprising of games, sounds, creative movement and singing, these modules are designed to allow pupils to develop body and spatial awareness, improve body coordination and enliven their imagination. Pupils also learn about cultural dance moves, the basics of music such as rhythm, pitch and instrumental percussion. Through these modules, pupils can experience teamwork, develop discipline, responsibility and self-confidence.

The school also has a Visual Arts module for PAL, conducted by WOW Pte Ltd, where pupils can learn and apply art skills through Puppetry. Primary 1 and 2 pupils learn about colours, drawing, and develop their aesthetic sense as they create and design their puppets. Pupils are also introduced to a range of puppetry forms and the basics of puppetry performance. They also develop self-confidence and learn to work in groups.

Jurong West Primary School

In Jurong West Primary School, Primary 1 and 2 pupils attend the Sports & Games module for PAL. Conducted by GymKidz, the activities are exploratory in nature to provide opportunities for self discovery. A mobile playground is set up in the school, which allows students to learn a range of movements and skills by manoeuvring across various objects and obstacles such as ladders, slides and trampolines. The playground can also be reconfigured to fit different lesson needs.

Besides physical development, the teaching of social emotional competencies has also been weaved into the programme. Reflection time encourages the children to share creative ideas and learn from each other, while developing social and emotional skills.

MacPherson Primary School

Pupils of MacPherson Primary School attend PAL lessons for Outdoor Education. The Primary 1 pupils attend PAL lessons conducted by the Wildlife Reserves Singapore, which include trips to the Zoo, Jurong Bird Park, and having live animals brought into their classrooms. Through these activities, pupils learn about animals and basic outdoor skills like knot-tying and field-cooking. The lessons for Primary 2 pupils are conducted by the Raffles Museum for Biodiversity and Research, where pupils are brought to nature spots around the school and neighbourhood. The pupils also reinforce outdoor skills learnt in Primary 1 through hiking trips and picnics.

In the lessons, activities are weaved into a storyline with colourful characters to boost students' interest. Through Outdoor Education, the school aims to build awareness and appreciation of nature and the environment as well as help pupils develop outdoor

management skills. More importantly, the Outdoor Education lessons will be instrumental in developing pupils' social and emotional competencies, like teamwork.

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