

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) ON THE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

### 1. *What is the 'Enhancement Programme'?*

One of the fundamental goals of the Education and Human Resource Strategy Plan 2008-2020 is the review of the CPE.

A lot of work upstream has already started:

- Base- line profiling in Standard I
- Progress Sheet in Standard II
- Diagnostic Assessment in Standard III
- Continuous Assessment in Standard III
- The Enhancement Programme in Standard IV is a continuation of the process:
  - The objective is to identify weaknesses and provide consolidation and reinforcement of knowledge and competencies for all levels of learners.
  - It also addresses the problem of high failure rate at the end of the primary cycle and makes public spending on education become more cost-effective.
  - It ultimately aims at reviewing the purpose of CPE examinations and moving towards the elimination of the necessity of and reliance on private tuition.
  - This programme will cover the pedagogical aspects of the Standard IV curriculum and will carry co and extra-curricular components that would render the learning experiences of children more enriching, enjoyable and rewarding because of its participatory dimension.
  - It is meant to provide more equity in learning opportunities for all.
  - The Enhancement Programme has the ultimate objective of rendering the learning experience of pupils more enriching and rewarding.
  - This innovative programme aims at the reinforcement of work in the following core subjects: English, French, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography and is supplemented by a variety of pedagogical practices, audio-visual support and extracurricular activities such as drama, sports, physical education, painting, sculpture and others.

The Ministry has mounted this programme in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Education. The content of the programme has been worked out by the MIE taking into consideration the need for a different pedagogy while at the same time consolidating the work being done in the class. Thus the content has been aligned on the programme being followed in the class.

The MCA has provided audio visual programmes to support the pedagogy.

**2. *How will pupils benefit from the Enhancement Programme?***

- Pupils will be engaged in learning activities that will consolidate key concepts learnt in the main subjects of the Std IV Curriculum
- These subjects will be taught in different ways, using an alternate pedagogy and a diversity of strategies to suit the learning needs of pupils of varying levels of ability.
- The sessions will not only be used for the revision of the topics covered in the normal school day but also address and remedy specific learning difficulties identified, in a timely manner.
- Children will also be exposed to some 30 minutes of co and extra-curricular activities such that there is a holistic development of the learners since the entire programme is designed to enhance the physical, moral, social, emotional, creative and intellectual aspects of their personality.

**3. *Which subject areas will be covered by this Programme?***

The subject areas covered will be:

Core subjects: English, French, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography. These will be supplemented by co and extracurricular activities such as Drama, SLAM, Physical Education and Sports, among others.

**4. *What is the modus operandi of this programme?***

The programme is spread over 3 days a week – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 15 45 to 17 00 hrs making a total of 75 contact minutes per day. Core subjects will be taught everyday coupled with extracurricular activities. These will generally take some 30 minutes.

**5. *Are any steps being taken to make the environment conducive for the teaching of the Enhancement Programme?***

The following changes will take place

- Classroom settings will be changed
- Collaborative learning will be encouraged
- Activities will supplement pedagogy
- The Ministry is working on a project to provide air conditioners especially to Standard IV classes in the first instance.

**6. *Who will take part in the Programme?***

The programme is aimed at pupils of Std IV. Circular letters were sent to parents who opted for their wards to take part in the Enhancement Programme. Head Masters, Deputy Head Masters, Educators as well as caretakers who expressed their overwhelming interest in the programme have also been taken on board.

**7. *When did this programme start?***

This programme started on Wednesday 17 February 2010 where a first contact of 30 minutes helped to initiate the pupils to the programme. On 19 February 2010, the programme took off in full swing in all primary schools in the Republic of Mauritius.

**8. *How are resource persons chosen to assist in the activities?***

Head Master, Deputy Head Masters and Educators expressed their interest in the programme by signing an option form. For extracurricular activities the services of resource persons from Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Education, Culture and HR (Culture Division) have been solicited. Heads of Schools can also generate support from the local community and other role models to give a fillip to such activities. However, resource persons will not stand in or replace teachers for the pedagogical activities.

**9. *Who can parents contact in case they need extra information on this programme ?***

Parents can contact the Ministry

- By **SMS on 940-5999** and
- Through email on the following email address: [enhancement@mail.gov.mu](mailto:enhancement@mail.gov.mu)

**10. *What is the duration of the programme ?***

The programme will run from 15 45 hrs to 17 00 hrs every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the whole academic year. However in specific cases (eg. RCEA schools) some flexibility would be present.

**11. *Who has produced the materials for this programme ?***

The materials have been prepared by the staff of the Mauritius Institute of Education, Mauritius College of the Air, Ministry of Education, Culture & HR and vetted by the Primary Inspectorate and some Educators.

**12. *Who will prepare the teaching aids?***

Some teaching aids have been prepared by the MIE and yet others will be prepared by Educators involved in the project with the help of the MIE resource persons during the training programmes.

**13. Who will provide teaching aids to the school/Educators?**

Necessary materials for the preparation of teaching aids will be provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture and HR.

**14. What will be the role of Head Masters?**

The Head Master will be responsible for monitoring, coordination and the overall follow up of the programme at his/her school.

Security of pupils and staff during the programme will also form part of his/her responsibility as will generating the support of resource persons from the community.

In case the teacher responsible for the Enhancement Programme is absent, internal arrangements will be made by the Head Master or Deputy Head Master.

The Head Master

will act as a facilitator between the Class Teacher and the Enhancement Programme teacher if they are not the same person.

**15. Will teaching take place in the traditional way?**

Teaching will be more pupil centered. There will be no use of existing or additional text books. Pedagogical tools will be more activity based and involve hands on experience. Other innovative pedagogical practices have also been included such as Drama, Physical Education, Sports, Painting, Sculpture, Music and others.

**16. Will what is taught in class and what is taught during this programme not confuse pupils?**

The Enhancement Programme aims at the re-enforcement and consolidation of knowledge and skills acquired during normal school hours. It is based on the curriculum of Standard IV. It aims at developing the necessary competencies and skills required by a child of this age.

**17. Will only the class teacher of Standard IV teach the Enhancement Programme?**

As far as possible, it is so. However, MIE is also providing training to Educators of other standards who have so opted to enable them to teach the Enhancement Programme. Trainee Teachers at MIE are also involved in the programme.

**18. How much time will be devoted to each session/activity /subject?**

About 45 minutes will be devoted to the teaching/learning of core subjects and some 30 minutes to extracurricular activities.

**19. Are activities proposed different from what is in text books?**

Activities proposed in the Enhancement Programme are meant to reinforce the teaching/learning at this level. The variety of activities proposed will enable teachers to address learning difficulties of each child and are meant to cover the needs of all pupils of all abilities.

**20. If the Educator is different from the class teacher who will ensure that teaching is in line with what goes on in the classroom?**

The Head Master will ensure the smooth implementation of the project. He will act as a link person between the class teacher and the resource person for the Enhancement Programme. It is expected of the class teacher that he will at the end of a week submit a feedback to the Head Master who will then pass it on to the Enhancement Programme teacher and ensure continuity. Inspectors of primary schools will also assist.

**21. Will there be resource persons from outside to look into the co and extracurricular activities?**

Yes. The services of resource persons from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Culture & HR, (Culture Division, MIE, MGI have been taken on board. Members of the community around the schools can also have their services tapped for this purpose

**22. How will the implementation of the Enhancement Programme be monitored?**

Primary monitoring will be the responsibility of the Head Master. Inspectors will be the next line of monitoring. Overall supervision to ensure that the objectives of the programme are met will be carried out through feedback from Zone Directorates at Headquarter level.

**23. In case an incident takes place, who will be responsible?**

The Head Master who is responsible for implementation and monitoring of the Enhancement Programme is also responsible for the security of staff and of students during the Enhancement Programme within the school premises. The collaboration of Police has also been solicited.

**24. Can a pupil refuse to participate in the programme?**

Yes, a pupil may refuse to participate in the programme only when parents have expressed their wish to do so on the consent form.

However, it is strongly advisable that all pupils participate in the programme as its many benefits will help to reinforce teaching/learning taking place in the classroom and it will ultimately have a positive impact on CPE performance.

**25. In case of unwillingness of the Head Master or Deputy Head Master to participate who will be in charge of the school?**

If the Head Master or Deputy Head Master is not willing to participate in the programme, a Deputy Head Master from another school shall take charge of the programme in the particular school. A proper handing over will then be effected on a regular basis. Parents should rest assured that no school shall be left unattended.

**26. Will the programme be extended to other levels?**

Yes, as from 2011 the programme will be extended to Standard III. The reason is simple. There is now a change from 2 to 3 cycles as under:

Stage 1 - Std I & II (5-6 years)

Stage II - Std II & IV (7-8 years)

Stage III - Std V & VI (9-12 years)

- This will enable teachers to ensure that basic skills needed at each stage are indeed successfully acquired, failing which corrective actions can be taken immediately so that mistakes are not cumulated until it is too late. This will help reduce failure at CPE level.
- Each stage has specific goals and better related to the pace of individual learners, especially late developers.

Accordingly, it is inevitable that the Enhancement Programme should cover the two years of Stage II.

However, for Std III, the Enhancement Programme will be assimilated within school hours.

**27. Will lessons taught in the Enhancement Programme be examined in internal exams and at CPE?**

As the Enhancement Programme is a re-inforcement programme and based on the Primary School Curriculum, it would better prepare the child for examinations at all levels. It will be a consolidation of what is taught during school hours. The same material will be taught differently. Activities are taught in a "ludique" manner.

Whatever will be taught is in conformity with the Curriculum at Standard IV. The programme will reinforce the understanding of concepts and such an understanding will facilitate the response of learners to the examinations questions.

**28. Are the activities proposed different from what is in the text book?**

Teaching is done through activities and hands on experience. Teaching/Learning will take place in and out of classrooms. Activities proposed in the Enhancement Programme will help to reinforce lessons taught in class.

**29. If the two teachers are different how will the Enhancement teacher know the difficulties of pupils?**

The Head Master will act as a facilitator between the class teacher and the Enhancement Programme teacher.

**30. Is the Enhancement Programme compulsory to all pupils?**

No, the Enhancement Programme is optional. However its many benefits will help to reinforce teaching/learning taking place in classrooms. Hence it is strongly advisable to pupils to opt for this programme.

**31. If a lesson necessitates the use of computers, what provisions will be made at school level for use of same?**

Every school is equipped with a computer room as well as audio visual equipment. Educators can make necessary arrangements with the Head Master for use of same. The Ministry is soon coming up with a project to provide laptops and projectors to all schools, specially to Std IV classes.

**32. Can parents opt to have their ward enrolled in the programme at any time?**

Yes. However parents should enroll their wards right from the outset. Otherwise, their wards will have a lot of catching up to do.

**33. Will the school communicate to parents the progress of the child?**

Parents can contact the Head Master of the school to know about the progress of their ward/s.

**34. What are the extracurricular activities being proposed?**

Extracurricular activities will include Physical Education and Sports, Drama, SLAM, Painting, Sculpture, Music and others.

**35. How many pupils of Standard IV are taking part in the Programme.**

As at 31 March 2010, around 84% of pupils of Standard IV are enrolled on this Programm.

**36. Will attendance of pupils be monitored?**

Yes. Attendance of pupils will be monitored by the Enhancement Programme Educator and the Head Master.

**37. Will teachers be trained for the implementation of this new programme?**

MIE is providing face-to-face training sessions to Educators involved in this project. Training is also conducted on EDUWEB. Educators in Rodrigues and Agalega have also been trained on Enhancement Programme.

**38. If Educators need support, who can they contact?**

Educators can contact

- (i) Head Masters/Deputy Head Masters of schools
- (ii) Officers of the Primary Inspectorate
- (iii) Office of the Assistant Director, Primary
- (iv) Through email on the address: **enhancement@mail.gov.mu**
- (v) Through **SMS** on **940-5999**

In cases (IV and V) responses will be provided within 24 hours.