



A Jesuit Secondary School

26 September 2012

National Education in Wah Yan College, Kowloon

Principles

In the area of national education, the School follows principles laid down in *the Characteristics of Jesuit Education* (#39):

Jesuit education is adapted to meet the needs of the country and the culture in which the school is located; this adaptation, while it encourages a "healthy patriotism" is not an unquestioning acceptance of national values. The concepts of "contact with", "genuine appreciation" and being "creatively critical" apply also to one's own culture and country.

On major national and global events of conflict, like the June 4th incident:

1. We do not condone using violence to resolve conflicts, especially when the wasting of human lives is an outcome. The end does not justify the means.
2. We support social justice, especially siding with the poor and the voiceless to arrive at a just cause.
3. We do not regard that economic advancement should have priority over human rights and dignity. Economic advancement should take into consideration human rights and dignity.

Implementation of National Education

Over the years, the School has been implementing national education according to the above principles through various subjects/lessons and extra-curricular activities. The majority of these subjects include Chinese History (which was compulsory up to Form 5 under the HKCEE, still compulsory in junior secondary), Chinese Language, Other Learning Experiences, History, Geography, etc.. The school is still adopting this cross-curricular approach with periodical adjustments of the channels of delivery of the curriculum (e.g. from formal lessons to assembly talks and board display) as necessary.

Position on the "Moral and National Education" (MNE) subject

The Principal represented the Grant Schools Council (of which the School is a member school) in expressing the Council's position to the Legislative Council during the consultation of the MNE subject in June 2011. The position expressed, which the School still maintains today, included (1) opposing the creation of an independent compulsory MNE subject, and (2) that national education should be carried out, through existing subjects and extra-curricular activities, under the broader domain of civic education.

The Education Bureau (EDB) formally announced amendments to its policy on the MNE subject in its circular memorandum 135/2012 on 21 Sep 2012. Despite these amendments, the School has no intention to implement this subject or its amended guidelines, and will continue to adopt Jesuit and Catholic values in carrying out our moral and civic education curriculum. The School notes that the EDB has increased the flexibility for schools in using "the Moral and National Education Support Grant". The School has already allocated other resources (and therefore does not need the above Grant) to conduct our moral and civic education, and will consider in future any appropriate use to which the funds from the above Grant may be applied, provided that it does not affect our adherence to Jesuit education principles.

John K. Tan (Dr.)
Principal