

The core values of our city and the moral qualities of a citizen

**Treat others
with
benevolence**

**Respect
Each
Other**

**Think
independently**

**Think
rationally
based on facts**

**Be logical,
do not let a part
overshadow
the whole**

**Be ready
to take up
responsibilities**

**Distinguish
clearly between
right and wrong**

**Use your
freedom
sensibly**

**Be fair
and not
biased**

**Abide by the
law, maintain
the rule of law**

**Be against
violence and
hatred**

**Everyone has the
responsibility to
contribute to society**



The darker the sky, the brighter the stars.

Dear Students,

The beauty of the rainbow lies in the different colors of which it is made. The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of things around us. All living things have the right to exist, their contributions and values to the earth are equal. All kinds of creatures have their own characteristics. There is no distinction between which is better and which is worse. They are just different and not mutually exclusive. Various value systems can coexist and coexist peacefully. There is no need to exclude people and things that are different from you. The best way is to "Seek common ground while preserving differences, and be harmonious though different."

"The sea receives hundreds of rivers. Greatness comes from the capacity to accommodate". Be tolerant and accommodate differences. From the country to the community, there are different races and peoples with different habits living together. Different cultures can exist side by side in peace and harmony.

Without immigrants or travelers from all over the world, Hong Kong would not have become an international metropolis. If we could not provide the best cuisines of different countries, Hong Kong would not have become famous as the "gourmets' paradise" of the world.

Recently, there has been disharmony and many disputes in the society of Hong Kong. There are disputes between the public and the government, and among the citizens. We have seen all kinds of chaos. This has been very upsetting, but how should people cope with it?

We believe that we can face it with a more positive attitude. We know that "the darker the sky, the brighter the stars." Looking up at the stars, we see that the Big Dipper always points to the north and the stars hang in the designated positions forever. This is like a universal truth.

Now let us revive the core values that we all agree upon, and be citizens of good moral qualities.

With love from your teachers

Some facts about present day Hong Kong

What we have now has not come by easily. Let us treasure it together.

- The longevity index of Hong Kong people is the highest in the world, regardless of gender;
- The MTR in Hong Kong is the most punctual subway system in the world;
 - Middle school students' reading, mathematics, and problem-solving skills often rank among the top three in the world;
- The Hong Kong International Airport ranks among the world's top airports and it is praised by passengers internationally;
- Hong Kong is one of the safest cities in the world. The crime rate in 2018 was the lowest in 46 years.
- Hong Kong Police Force ranks the 8th in the world in terms of reliability (Fisha Institute 2018);
- Its GDP ranks about the 15th in the world (2018);
- The economic freedom index ranks the first in the world for 20 consecutive years;
- Hong Kong has one of the lowest tax rates. Less than 40% of wage earners are required to pay salaries tax. It is one of the most stable places in the world regarding public finances. In the United States: the country's national debt exceeds 22 trillion US dollars with more than 300 million people, the per capita burden of national debt is nearly 600,000 Hong Kong dollars. Not only has Hong Kong no debts, the fiscal reserves and the Exchange Fund have an accumulated surplus of nearly 2 trillion Hong Kong dollars.

Of course, just as any other country or region, Hong Kong has its shortcomings. The living expenses and the living index are very high. The wages and incomes of young people cannot keep pace with inflation. Adults have extremely high stress from work. The pressure from learning is not light for students.

Hong Kong should not be just complacent with its achievements. We must continue to work together to maintain its strength. At the same time, we must unite to overcome its shortcomings. Young people should learn and equip themselves better and build a better home for all.



Treat others with benevolence

Golden quote : Without love, we cannot forgive those who have hurt us physically or with words, and hatred will remain forever.

~ Yuen kwok-yung

What is benevolence?

Forgiving, kind, caring and sympathetic feelings.

Hold no evil intention towards others. Treat all with benevolence.

Being kind and benevolent to others is the most important value in human nature!

The Chinese often say: "Do not do unto others what you would not like done to yourself." Mencius said: "Everyone of us has the heart of compassion and sympathy."

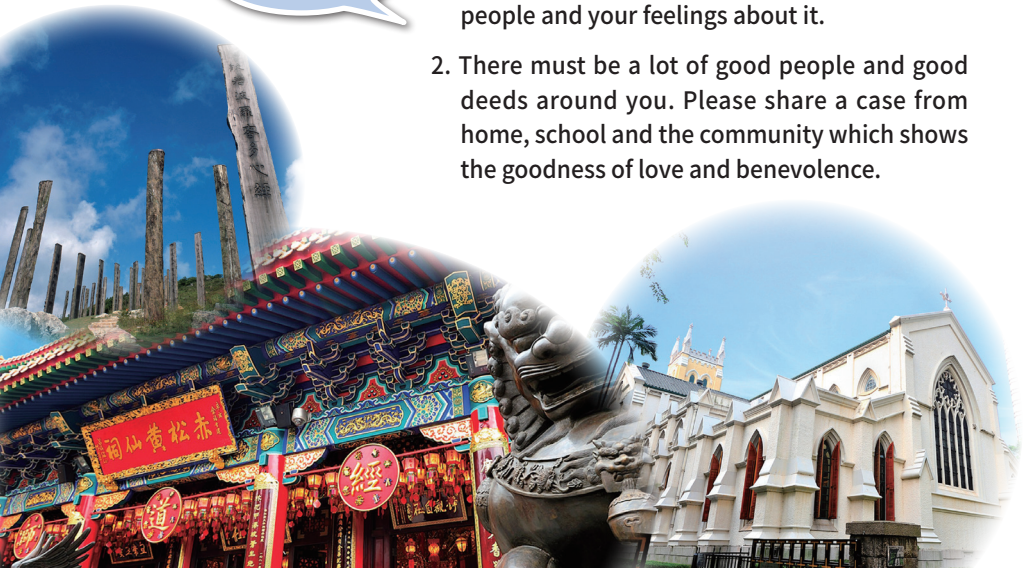
Love is innate. Different races and religions all advocate benevolence. It is the essential quality of human beings and the cornerstone of human civilization.

Parents love us, teachers care for students, friends support each other. This is all based on love and benevolence. The path of development of each of us, with its ups and downs, is never smooth or perfect. But, we can all live happily when we show mutual love and tolerance.

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Dear students:

1. Share your experience of showing kindness to people and your feelings about it.
2. There must be a lot of good people and good deeds around you. Please share a case from home, school and the community which shows the goodness of love and benevolence.



Respect Each Other

Golden quote: I do not agree with your point of view, but I swear to defend your right to speak.

~ From "Friends of Voltaire"

What does respect mean?

The attitude and behavior which acknowledge the others as equal or of higher value.

Respecting each other is the most basic attitude among people. There is a saying: "Although I disagree with your opinion, I absolutely respect your right to express it." We may look at the "Urban Forum" program by Radio Television Hong Kong. Some speakers are continuously speaking and do not give the others a chance to speak. Some people use foul language to scold others, which is extremely rude; or they "bully the minority"... Is it not better for us to calm down and discuss our issues?

Mencius said: "the one who loves will be loved. The one who respects will be respected." You care for others, others will also care for you; you respect others, others will also respect you.

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Dear students:

Can you share an experience when you felt you were respected?



Think Independently

Golden quote: The ability to think and make judgment independently is of utmost importance.

~ Albert Einstein

How can we think independently?

In that we consider and summarize facts, analyze logically and make conclusions on our own without being influenced by others.

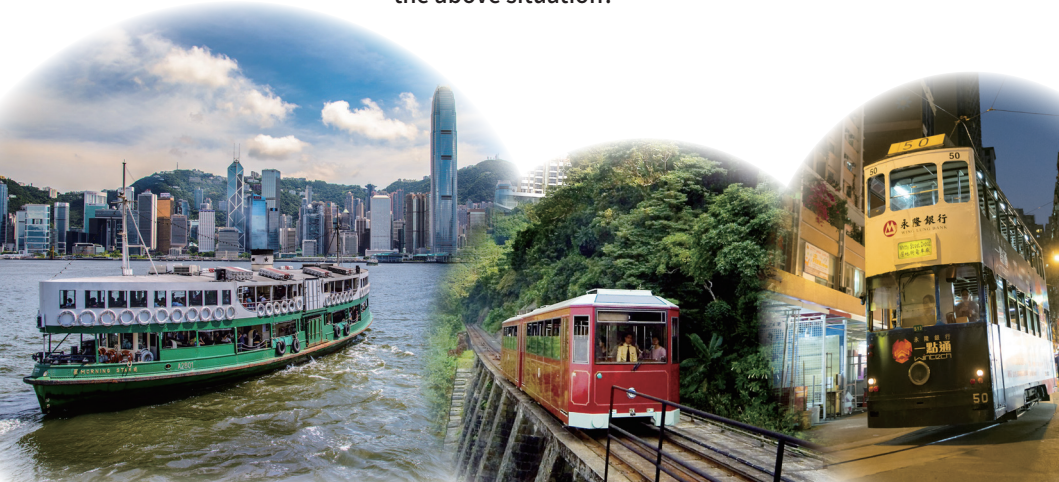
Realizing our limitations, independent thinking involves taking the trouble to repeatedly examine our thoughts and feelings before making a decision. There are always choices in life, some are relatively simple, such as where to go for lunch, what clothes to put on, etc. Some are more serious and complicated, e.g. whether to participate in an exchange tour or whether to join your classmates when they cheat in a test.

Independent thinking is necessary because young people are often under the influence of each other. Here is an example. During the social unrest in Hong Kong recently, many are marching in demonstrations. Those who are hesitant to participate would be criticized by their friends. Under such pressure they end up joining the protest actions before they could research to understand the matter better before making an independent decision.

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Dear students:

What do you think could be a better way of handling the above situation?



Distinguish clearly between right and wrong

Golden quote: Appreciate history to better respond to the present times. Care for others to better widen our contacts in the world.

~ A teacher

What are the criteria for right and wrong?

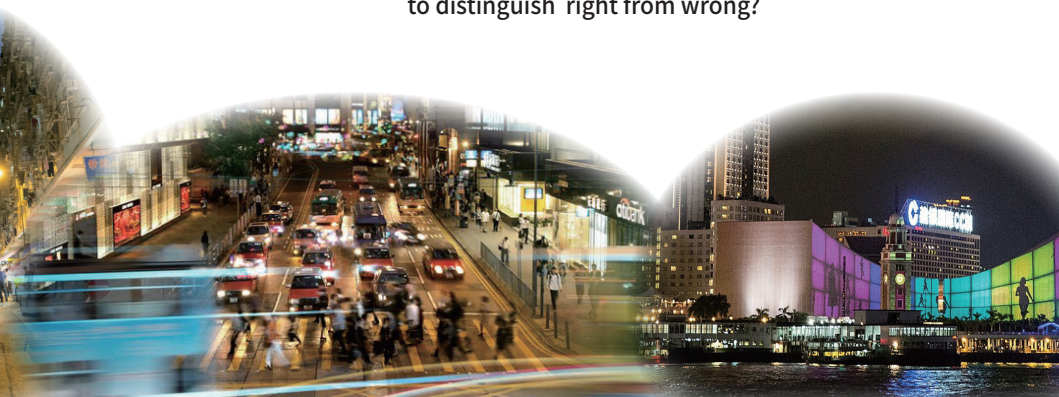
Beware, "Repeated wrong becomes right". If something wrong is repeatedly said to be right, it would in time be taken to be right.

In the past, there was no handshake session at a pop-singer's concert, to avoid distraction and danger for the artist. However, many artists ignored the advice and shook hands with the audience. This then became a norm. Now if an artist does not arrange a handshake session during the concert, they would be criticized.

There are generally accepted standards for right and wrong in the society. For example, being fair is right, to cheat is wrong. It is not up to the individual to decide according to what he thinks is right.

Dear students:

1. There are some statements in Internet cursing others. For example, "Let the whole family of xx go to hell because xx did something wrong". Do you agree? What makes people lose their senses not to distinguish between right and wrong?
2. There are many things happening in school every day. Can you present two or three cases for discussion among classmates, where it is difficult to distinguish right from wrong?



Use your freedom sensibly

Golden quote: God bestows the right of free decision on everyone, but never the power to deprive others of their freedom. Those who deprive the freedom of others are acting against God's will.

~ Anonymous

What does it mean to exercise freedom in a social context?

Legally, freedom is the right to act according to one's will within the set limits of the law.

Does "freedom" mean "do whatever you want"?

Someone dislikes another and slaps him on the face. Does he have the freedom to do that?

I wear a pair of leather shoes to walk on the beach. Is that my freedom?

We would all accept the latter and oppose the former, because the former is an "attack". If the attack is more serious leading to injuries, it would be a criminal offence with legal consequences.

Freedom should not be without limits. Any action which affects the freedom of others or endangers others' rights of property, their interest and safety, should be prohibited.

Do you consider yourself enjoying enough freedom while living in Hong Kong so far?

Some people deliberately point a laser pen at the eyes of others. Do they have the freedom to do so?

Some people bully or curse others using foul language on internet. Is that "freedom of speech"?

Dear students:

Can you cite one or two other examples in which the use of freedom is abused without limits?



Be fair and not biased

Golden quote: Love others and yourself as well. There are times for actions and times for no action.

~ A Principal

How do we handle people and situations fairly?

By being impartial, not biased, not favoring either side of a dispute.

Do you think your parents are biased? Are you upset because you think your parents favour one of your brothers and sisters?

According to interviews, students value very much whether their teachers are acting in a fair manner. For example, if someone offends a school regulation, he does not mind being punished. What he minds most is that the school deals with it in a fair manner. The same applies to awards and praises. Students want to be evaluated on a basis equal for all. Fairness is an important value to everyone, isn't it?

The news media in Hong Kong, television, radio and the Internet, provide many detailed reports about the present social disputes every day.

To give a fair comment, who damaged the Legislative Council Building and the facilities of MTR stations?

Demonstrators have complained that the police should be investigated for their abuse of power. However, there are violent demonstrators who damage the Legislative Council Building and endanger safety in subway stations. Isn't it only fair that they are also investigated and taken to court?

Dear students:

If you were a journalist for Campus TV, how would you report on these incidents? What do you think is fair and unbiased reporting?



**Think
rationally
based on facts**

*Golden quote: I object to violence because the goodness it sometimes appears to do is only temporary. Whereas the evil violence brings is permanent.
~ Mahatma Gandhi*

What are facts? What is rational thinking?

Facts are real, different from opinion. Rational thinking involves reasoning, opposite to sentimental feelings.

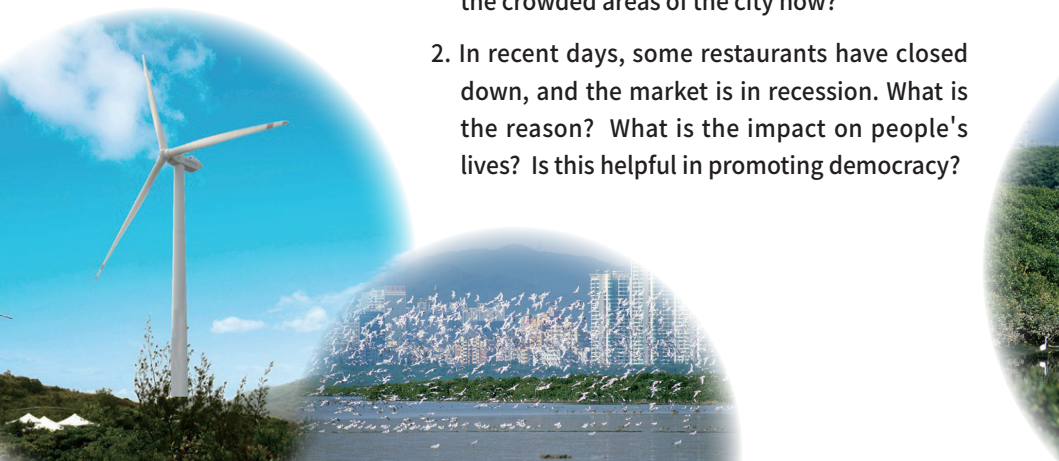
Students of history should be able to distinguish facts from opinion. For example, the Emperor Qianlong was the fourth monarch in the Qing Dynasty. This is a fact. If someone says that Qianlong was the best monarch of the Qing Dynasty, this can only be an opinion. First, we must define what is "good". Second, we have to prove with evidence the good deeds done by Qianlong. Third, we have to compare him with the other monarchs in the Qing Dynasty. This is an opinion. We can all have different opinions. A fact is a fixed incident which has occurred, is a truth which is obvious to everyone.

Without rational and critical thinking, one could easily confuse facts with opinions.

Dear students:

Rational thinking must be based on facts. Please collect the facts of the following issues and express your ideas:

1. Do policemen wear masks? What is their daily work? Why do they appear more frequently in the crowded areas of the city now?
2. In recent days, some restaurants have closed down, and the market is in recession. What is the reason? What is the impact on people's lives? Is this helpful in promoting democracy?



**Be logical,
do not let a part
overshadow
the whole**

*Golden quote: Freedom is not unlimited. Freedom is the right to do anything allowed within the law.
~ By Montesquieu*

What is Logic? What is the relationship of a part to the whole?

Logic emphasizes objectivity and requires comprehensive evidence of a matter, not only a part of it.

One day mother said, "You are playing with your mobile phone every day, while you should be studying." You might feel unfairly scolded because indeed you have been playing with your mobile, but not every day!

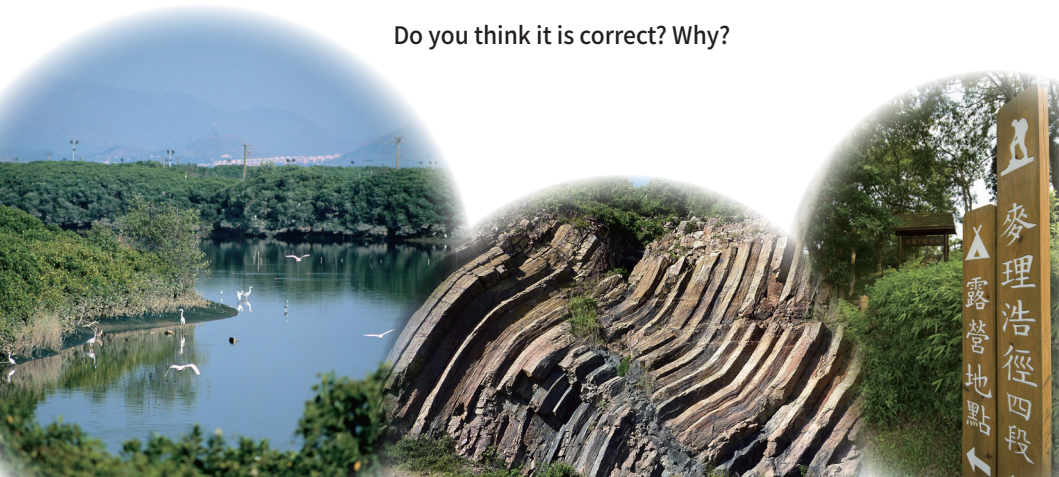
Logic emphasizes objectivity, requires comprehensive evidence and reasoning based on these. For example, the action of an individual is his sole responsibility. The action of a small group of people should not be the responsibility of all. What concerns "a group", "some people" concerns only "a part" and should not overshadow the whole picture. To think logically also requires the distinction between what is a part and the whole.

Dear students:

Many people say that all the young people in the demonstrations are "useless youths";

And all the police officers are "black police" who abuse their power?

Do you think it is correct? Why?



Be ready to take up responsibilities

Golden quote: Freedom is not only lost through the abuse of power, but also through the abuse of freedom.
~McKeeson

What do responsibilities mean?

Duties and consequences.

Responsibility usually has two meanings:

It refers to duties, what should be done in your role. For example, as a security guard his responsibility is to maintain the safety of the people and things in the area under his protection.

Second, it refers to the unfavorable consequences of not fulfilling the work which is duty.

At home, there is a division of labor: someone cooks, someone washes up, and someone wipes the floor.

In school, some students are responsible for cleaning the blackboard and the whiteboard. Some students tidy up the desks and chairs. In a community, there are cleaning staff to clean the streets and security personnel to maintain order.

Recently, many people wear masks to hide their real identity. They vandalize, spraying graffiti everywhere, damage subway facilities, block road traffic... but could escape from being caught, why? Is this something that citizens should do? Is it wrong? If one violates the law, one must be held responsible and face the consequence.

Dear students:

What are your responsibilities to yourself, your family, the society and the country? Can you please name one responsibility in each area and share your thoughts?



**Abide by the
law, maintain
the rule of law**

*Golden quote: No man can override the law and no man should be outside its protection.
~Theodore Roosevelt*

What is the purpose of the law?

To ensure stability and order of the society to the interest of the citizens

The law aims to protect social stability, safeguard the interests of the majority, and guard against injustice. Establishing rules in schools has the purpose of ensuring an orderly environment favorable for learning, which is to the interest of all the students. The rules are nothing more than reminders to everyone to be conscious of discipline. To the students who respect themselves and the rights of others, school rules do not pose any hindrance.

In recent years, some people have advocated "violation of law for the purpose of righteousness.", that is, "righteousness" of purpose justifies breaking of the law. First, we must explain what "righteousness" is. Professor Ho Lok-seng believes that righteousness is common with the Confucian virtue of treating others the way we want to be treated. Similarly, the UN Declaration of Human Rights is also based on the spirit of treating others like oneself. Righteousness is sublime, but the rule of law is also important. For example, Mahatma Gandhi of India evoked the people with hunger strikes but not with violence. He is praised by the world for not using any violence to undermine the rule of law, but to use moral strength in appealing to his compatriots.

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Dear students:

1. Someone did not pay when entering the MTR gate. Is it legal?
2. Please review the Anti-Extradition Bill activities so far. What actions are law-abiding? What actions are not? Why?



Be against violence and hatred

Golden quote: Nothing is more costly, nor more useless than vengeance.

~ Winston Churchill

Violence and hatred, what do they lead to?

Only more violence and more hatred.

Our students have been living in harmony at school. There might be occasional verbal conflicts but violent acts such as pushing and fighting have been very rare.

Hong Kong has always been internationally recognized as a peaceful city with a low crime rate. Unfortunately, in just two to three months, the situation has changed:

Some people have injured a woman with a knife outside a Lennon Wall;

Some people threw bricks at the police dormitories;

Some people set up unauthorized roadblocks and beat those who try to get through while rushing to work.

Those who beat others and those who are beaten actually do not even know each other. Where does this hatred come from?

Just because they have different opinions! How sad!

Some people might be dissatisfied with society, but they must clearly realize: "Once you use violence, you are no longer qualified to speak of justice. You cannot win the sympathy of others." Violence will only lead to more violence, and the whole society will have to pay for it. We would only be further and further away from a better future.

Dear students:

Supposing you had a conflict with your friend, and he became resentful. How would you reconcile with him?



Everyone has the
responsibility to
contribute to society

Golden quote: Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country.
~ John F. Kennedy

How can we contribute to society?

By helping to build and rebuild after destruction.

To improve your home, you need to add furniture and paint the walls. To renovate the school, we need to set up new bookshelves and re-arrange things. No one would indiscriminately smash everything, and say it is building. Typhoon Mangkhut destroyed many facilities, and citizens spontaneously cleaned and repaired damaged roads and worked together to rebuild the community.

Destruction is easy but it is difficult to rebuild! The Legislative Council Building sustained a few hours of attack on glass walls, furniture, computer equipment and conference files... How many thousands of hours will it take to repair? How many billions of dollars have to be spent on repair? But, do you know what the biggest loss is besides money and time?

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The popular terms nowadays are "Five major demands, none should be missing", "Revolution of our times", etc., Everyone is familiar with these. However, when someone asked the demonstrators: "When the destruction is over, how are you going to rebuild Hong Kong? Is there any specific plan?" everyone was speechless!

A book called "A Small Step Forward", described how young people rebuild a community after the umbrella movement. Some people collected old things and took them to stalls for recycling. Some people built a house to let crowded families live together. They make the world better. That's taking the responsibility to improve society!

Dear students:

Are you dissatisfied with your home, school or community?

How can you help build and make it better?



Golden quote: Love is ultimately the only answer to all the difficult problems of mankind.

~ Martin Luther King

Postscript:

This booklet is written by a group of volunteer teachers who care about the healthy growth of young people. It is intended to help the readers, students of primary and secondary schools, understand more deeply some of the core values and moral values (with reference to the "Curriculum Guide" by EDB, HK, 2017), to cultivate their humanistic qualities so that they could have a firmer moral stand in daily life and when confronting social issues, as well as to reinforce positive thinking.

Teachers can use this material for direct teaching or let students read this freely and express their opinions in small group discussions. The contents can be enriched and supplemented depending on the individual situations of different schools. Due to time constraints, the contents of this brochure have room for improvement. Comments are also welcome for future improvement. If necessary, a revised edition may be published.

**For no other reason,
just because children are the hope of our future!**

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edconvergence@gmail.com