

School Priorities & School-Parent Partnership

Principal's Welcome Address

27 January 2024



Our Beliefs

- We love, value and accept our students for who they are.
- We believe that every child is special and talented in his/her own way and seek to bring out the best in each of our students.
- We believe that, with effort, our students can learn and are capable of achieving their personal best.



Our Priorities:
Empowering Our Students To
Learn For Life &
Thrive In The 21st Century

Preparing Our Students For Life And
Lifelong Learning

Preparing Our Students For Life And Lifelong Learning: Students as **Leaders** and **Learners**

Leaders of Character

- Leaders of character and concerned citizens who contribute positively to the school, community and nation

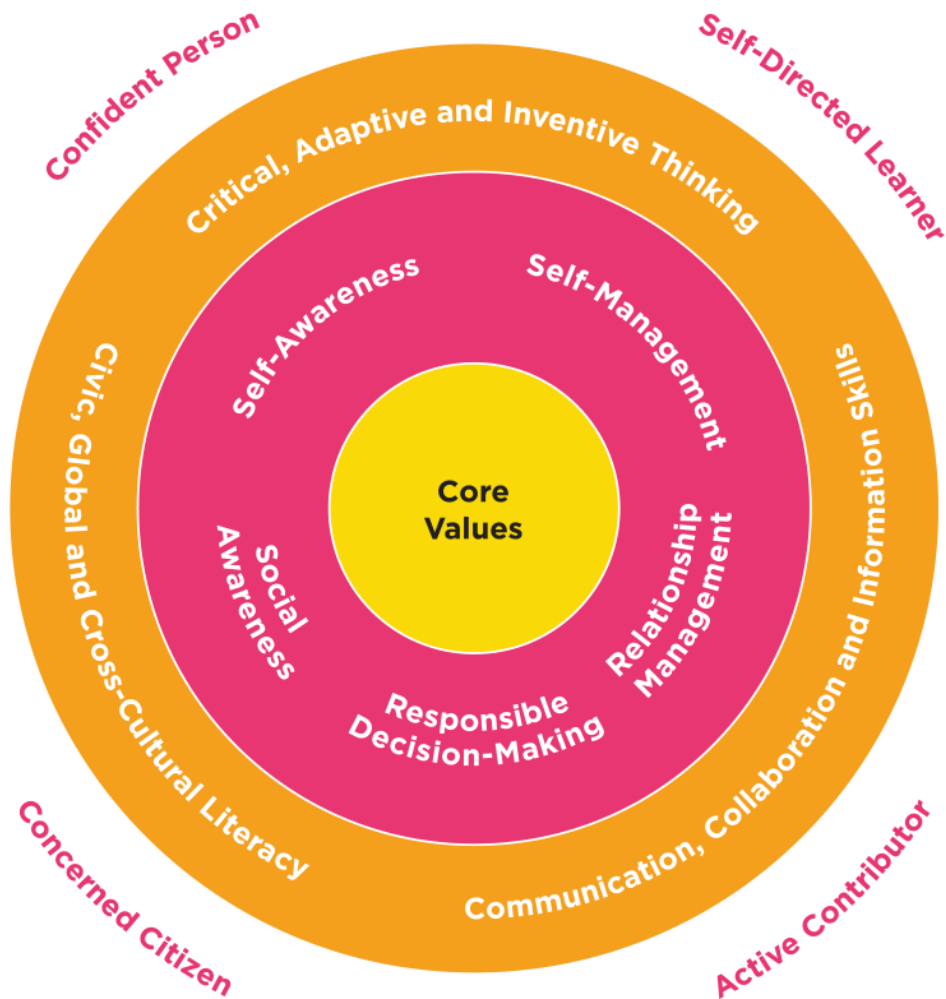
→ **Student Agency**

Self-directed, Lifelong Learners

- Empowered, self-directed lifelong learners who take ownership of their learning and are able and willing to learn for life

→ **Student Agency**

MOE's Framework for 21st Century Competencies and Student Outcomes



Our School Vision, Mission and Values

- **Vision:** Leaders of Character, Critical and Creative Thinkers, Lifelong Learners.
- **Mission:** Nurture the whole child in a caring, innovative, collaborative and vibrant learning environment.
- **Values:** (RI²C²E) Resilience, Innovation, Integrity, Care, Collaboration & Excellence
- **Motto:** The Best that We Can Be

During my Assembly Talk on
15 Jan 2024, I asked our students:



**OUR
CHARACTER
IS OUR
SUPER POWER**

**21st century
competencies
are our**

SUPERPOWER

From the AssemblyTalk on 15 Jan 2024

Emotional
Intelligence

*is a
super power*

**MINDSET
IS YOUR
SUPER
POWER**

KAPOW!



All our students have superpowers

Our school is developing our students' superpowers for
life and lifelong learning



From the Assembly Talk on 15 Jan 2024

TRAIN YOUR



- Grow as a leader of character
 - Our Zhenghua RICE values
 - Social-emotional learning (emotional intelligence): learn to
 - understand yourself
 - manage your emotions & expectations, manage stress
 - manage your time, be self-disciplined and motivated, prioritise your tasks

From the Assembly Talk on 15 Jan 2024

TRAIN YOUR



- Develop 21st century competencies, e.g.
- Critical & creative thinking skills
- Communication skills
- Collaboration skills
- Information skills

TRAIN YOUR



- Develop a growth mindset
 - “I can train my brain.”
 - “Effort is the path to mastery.”
 - “Feedback is helpful.”
 - “Mistakes help me to learn.”
 - “Challenges help me to grow.”

From the Assembly Talk on 15 Jan 2024

Train your
superpower so that
you can be
your best self :
a Zhenghua

- *Leader of Character*
- *Critical and Creative Thinker*
- *Lifelong Learner*





SCHOOL-PARENT PARTNERSHIP

It takes a village to raise a child.



SINGAPORE



Give children space to grow and be independent: Chan Chun Sing



Amelia Teng
Assistant News Editor
The Straits Times



UPDATED: 2 hours ago



Give Children Space To Grow & Be Independent

- “Many Singapore parents today are highly educated and more involved in their children’s lives than ever, and this is natural, said Education Minister Chan Chun Sing.
- But they *need to find a delicate balance between being overly controlling and being completely hands-off*, he said in a sit-down interview with The Straits Times on Dec 27, ahead of the new school year.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/give-children-space-to-grow-and-be-independent-chan-chun-sing>

SINGAPORE



Give children space to grow and be independent: Chan Chun Sing



Amelia Teng
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<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/give-children-space-to-grow-and-be-independent-chan-chun-sing>

Give Children Space To Grow & Be Independent

- His hope is that parents can work together with teachers to *give children the space to grow and the chance to be independent.*



Our Zhenghua Philosophy

- Students our Focus
- Staff the Key
- Parents & the Community our Partners



We (students, teachers, school leaders and parents) all have our roles in the learning & assessment process. These roles are linked to our school's CLIC culture: Culture of Care, Learning, Innovation and Collaboration



The Role of Students in the Learning & Assessment Process: Students as Active, Self-Directed Learners & Collaborators

Interactions with Teachers

- Listen attentively and take notes
- Ask questions to clarify understanding and extend learning
- Assess work against success criteria
- Be receptive to feedback and act on it for improvement
- Reflect on learning and take steps to improve learning

Interactions with Peers

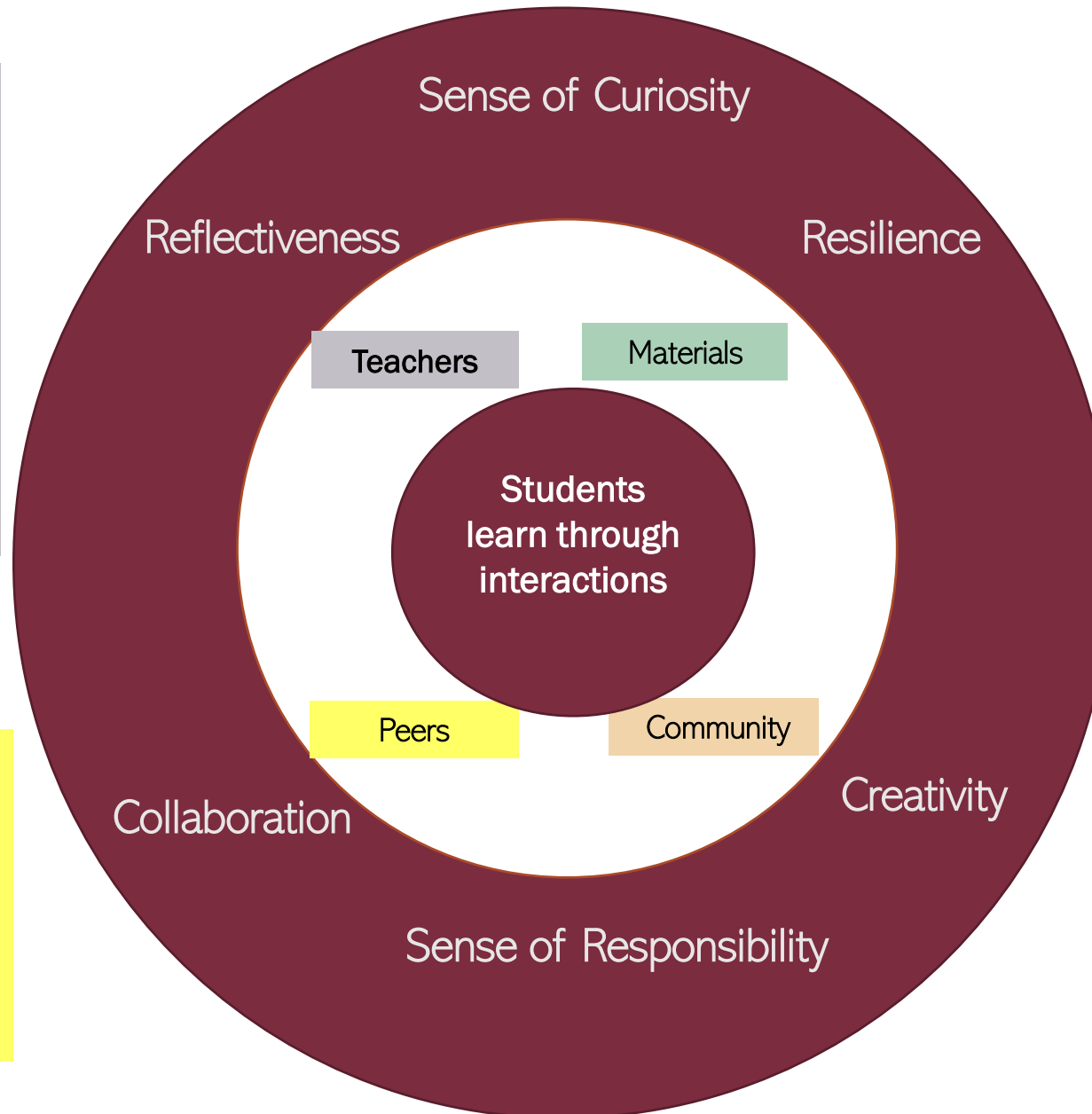
- Listen to peers and give constructive peer feedback respectfully
- Share with peers confidently
- Improve and build on one another's ideas

Interactions with Materials

- Prepare materials needed before class
- Revise content
- Complete homework thoughtfully
- Apply strategies effectively
- Reflect on and connect learning

Interactions with the Community

- Approach expert others to extend and support learning (e.g. parents, internet, books)
- Create new knowledge/products of value to society



Our Roles in the Students' Learning & Assessment Process

Teachers	Parents	School Leaders & Key Personnel
Motivator	Motivator	Motivator
Culture-Builder	Culture-Builder & Lifelong Learner	Culture-Builder
Learner & Designer		Learner & Change Agent
Collaborator	Collaborator	Collaborator
Enabler		Resource-Provider

Culture of Care, Learning, Innovation and Collaboration

Teachers – in a learning partnership with students

Motivator [*Care*]

- Encourage students to believe in themselves and see challenges as opportunities for learning and growth.
- Affirm students for their effort, progress and small successes

Culture-Builder [*Care*]

- Build a positive classroom culture in which students' voices are heard and students feel safe to share their thoughts and feelings, contribute ideas, give and receive feedback.

Teachers – in a learning partnership with students

Enabler *[Learning]*

- Equip & empower students to be active agents in the learning & assessment process:
 - Equip students to set goals and understand learning intentions and success criteria
 - Develop students' capacity to monitor, evaluate and advance their learning

Teachers – in a
learning
partnership
with students

Learner & Designer
[Learning & Innovation]

- Model lifelong learning, reflect on and improve pedagogical and assessment practices.
- Apply professional learning to design learning experiences and assessment practices that meet students' needs and involve them as active, self-directed learners.

Teachers – in a learning partnership with students

Collaborator [*Collaboration*]

- Co-construct learning goals, success criteria and learning experiences with students, value students' opinions and involve them in decision-making as collaborators in the learning process.
- Provide opportunities for students to discuss their learning and learning gaps with teachers, peers and parents.
- Collaborate with parents to support students in their learning.

School Leaders & Key Personnel

Motivator

[Care]

- Affirm staff and students, celebrate successes
- Encourage staff and students to believe in themselves, value the learning process and persevere when facing challenges

School Leaders & Key Personnel

Learner & Change Agent [*Learning & Innovation*]

- Model lifelong learning
- Share and apply learning to drive change and growth in the school community

Culture-Builder [*CLIC*]

- Shape the culture of assessment within the school / department and set assessment directions and priorities that support assessment practices and plans aligned to our assessment vision, culture and beliefs

School Leaders & Key Personnel

Collaborator [*Collaboration*]

- Work alongside teachers to design, review and improve learner-centred learning & assessment practices
- Engage in teachers in conversations to build shared understanding, seed ideas, clarify questions, make connections and provide support
- Engage parents to promote stronger school-parent partnership to support the child's holistic learning and development

School Leaders & Key Personnel

Resource Provider

[Care & Collaboration]

- Protect time for sustained collaborative professional learning and innovation
- Connect colleagues with external knowledgeable others to impact teacher development and student learning

Parents as Partners

Parents partner teachers and the child to develop their child's skills, habits and learning dispositions to be a self-directed lifelong learner.

Motivator (Care)

- Encourage your child to persevere and demonstrate values and learning dispositions when he/she encounters difficulties.
- Affirm your child when he/she puts in effort, makes progress and demonstrates values and learning dispositions.
- Affirm your child when you see him/her
 - learning something new and not giving up even when it's difficult
 - being self-directed in his/her learning

Parents as Partners

Parents partner teachers and the child to develop their child's skills, habits and learning dispositions to be a self-directed lifelong learner.

Lifelong Learner & Culture-Builder – shaping a culture for learning in the home

- Be a role model to your child as a lifelong learner, e.g.
- Encourage your child to be curious and observant and develop a love for reading and learning
 - If you don't know the answers to his/her, questions, say: "let's learn and find out together"
- Help your child see connections between what he/she learns and everyday life
- Provide a quiet, conducive space at home for study and homework
- Help your child to practice good study habits and develop routines for study, play and hobbies

Parents as Partners
Parents partner teachers and the child to develop their child's skills, habits and learning dispositions to be a self-directed lifelong learner.

Collaborator – Collaborate with your child & the school

- Have a conversation with your child about his/her learning goals and progress.
- Make time for your child and take an interest in your child's learning
 - Some questions you can ask: What was something interesting you learnt today? What questions did you ask? What ideas did you contribute to the class discussion? How are you becoming more self-directed as a learner?
 - If your child is interested in something, support him/her in exploring it further, e.g. borrow books, look up websites or videos together, take your child on a field trip.

Parents as Partners

Parents partner teachers and the child to develop their child's skills, habits and learning dispositions to be a self-directed lifelong learner.

Collaborator – Collaborate with your child & the school

- If your child does not understand the teacher or has difficulties completing homework, alert the teacher and encourage your child to seek clarification and support from the teacher.
- We do not expect parents to help your children to complete their homework.
- Partner the school to reinforce values and social-emotional skills with your child.

School-Parent Partnership

Reinforcing Values & Social-Emotional Skills with Your Child

Values are both taught and caught


- Let us be good role models for our children and lead by example – our children are watching us
 - Let us speak to all staff with respect and courtesy
 - If we are upset about something, let us be mindful of our language and express our concerns tactfully via the appropriate channels
 - do acts of kindness and practise care for the environment with your children so that they have opportunities to live out our school values: e.g.
 - spending time with grandparents, showing kindness to neighbours, giving care packs to migrant workers
 - practising the 3Rs (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle), returning trays and wiping down the table at the hawker centre

School-Parent Partnership

Reinforcing Values & Social-Emotional Skills with Your Child

- encourage your children to be responsible learners and show care for their teachers by doing their homework without being reminded and putting in their best effort
- this will definitely make a difference to the teachers' workload and well-being
- lead by example and show care towards our teachers
 - teachers will respond to parents' emails or calls on weekdays between 7.00 am to 5.00 pm, unless there is an emergency or a serious matter
 - please respect teachers' personal time and do not send text messages or call them at night or on weekends unless it is an emergency or a serious matter

Our teachers work very hard to keep our students safe, take care of them and help them to learn well

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- Believe in your child
 - Encourage and Affirm your child
 - catch him/her doing right
 - Make time for your child, Manage your own expectations
 - BEAM more, compare less



THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

