



Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE

# Nurturing our Young for the Future

Competencies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century





## **Competencies for a Changing World**

How do we prepare our children today to thrive in a future driven by globalisation and technological advancements?

Schools provide a strong academic foundation for our young. To help our children thrive in a fast-changing world, schools and parents need to work hand-in-hand to help them develop 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies. A strong partnership between the home and the school will put our children in good stead for the future.



**We want to nurture each child to become a:**

.....  
**Confident Person** who has a strong sense of right and wrong, is adaptable and resilient, knows himself, is discerning in judgment, thinks independently and critically, and communicates effectively.  
.....

**Self-directed Learner** who questions, reflects, perseveres and takes responsibility for his own learning.  
.....

**Active Contributor** who is able to work effectively in teams, is innovative, exercises initiative, takes calculated risks and strives for excellence.  
.....

**Concerned Citizen** who is rooted to Singapore, has a strong sense of civic responsibility, is informed about Singapore and the world, and takes an active part in bettering the lives of others around him.  
.....

## Developing New Skills and Values

Knowledge and skills must be underpinned by values. Values define a person's character. They shape the beliefs, attitudes and actions of a person, and therefore form the core of the framework of 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies.

The middle ring signifies the Social and Emotional Competencies – skills necessary for children to recognise and manage their emotions, develop care and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships, as well as to handle challenging situations effectively.

The outer ring of the framework represents the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills necessary for the globalised world we live in. These are:

- **Civic literacy, global awareness and cross-cultural skills**
- **Critical and inventive thinking**
- **Information and communication skills**

Together, these competencies will enable our young to tap into the rich opportunities in the new digital age, while keeping a strong Singapore heartbeat.



## Values at the Core of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies

### Respect

Your child demonstrates respect when he believes in his own self-worth and the intrinsic worth of all people.

### Responsibility

Your child is responsible if he recognises that he has a duty to himself, his family, community, nation and the world, and fulfils his responsibilities with love and commitment.

### Integrity

Your child is a person of integrity if he upholds ethical principles and has the moral courage to stand up for what is right.

### Care

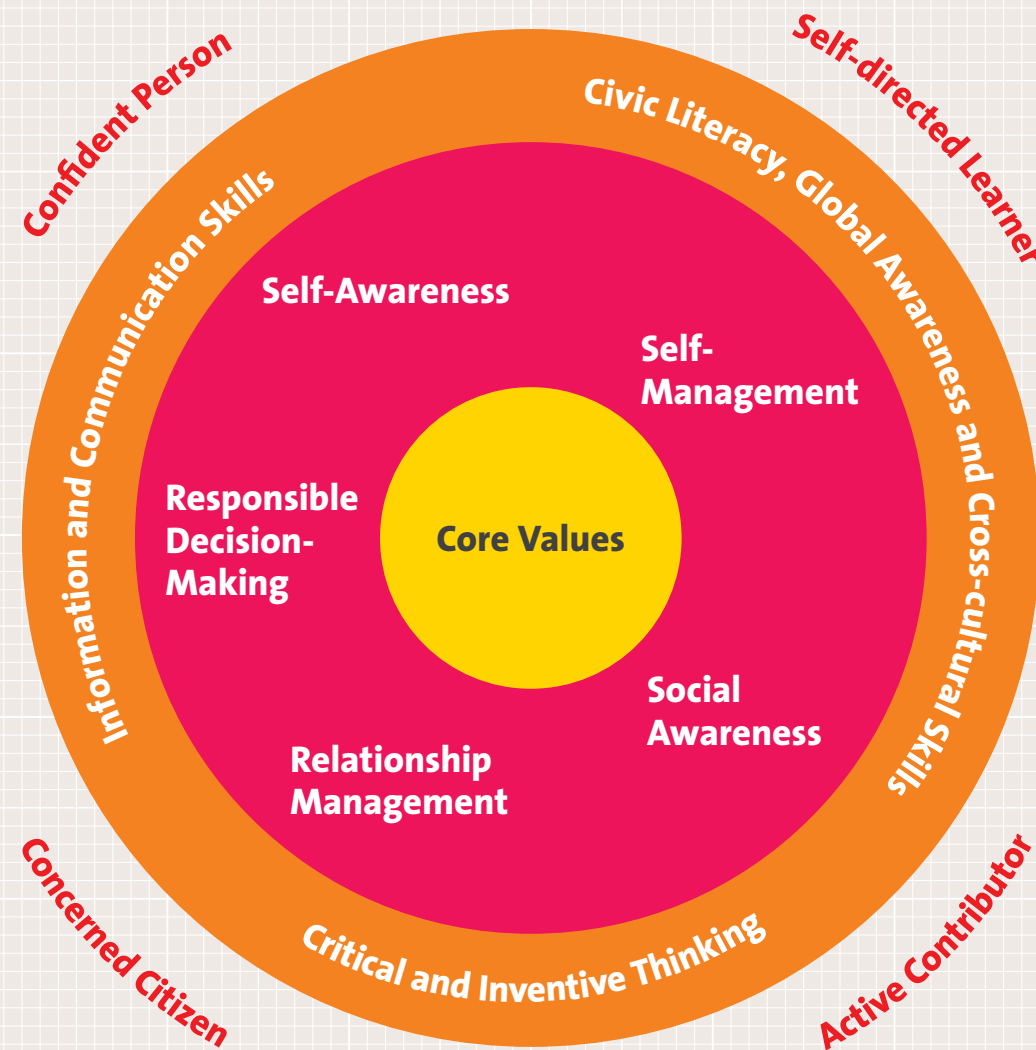
Your child is caring if he acts with kindness and compassion, and contributes to the betterment of the community and the world.

### Resilience

Your child is resilient if he has emotional strength and perseveres in the face of challenges. He manifests courage, optimism, adaptability resourcefulness.

### Harmony

Your child values harmony if he seeks inner happiness and promotes social cohesion. He appreciates the unity and diversity of a multicultural society.



## Social and Emotional Competencies

### Self-Awareness

Your child has self-awareness if he understands his own emotions, strengths, inclinations and weaknesses.

### Self-Management

Your child can manage himself effectively if he has the capacity to manage his own emotions. He should be self-motivated, exercise discipline and display strong goal-setting and organisational skills.

### Social Awareness

Your child has social awareness if he has the ability to accurately discern different perspectives, recognise and appreciate diversity, empathise with and respect others.

### Relationship Management

Your child can manage relationships effectively if he has the ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships through effective communication, and is able to work with others to resolve issues and provide assistance.

### Responsible Decision-Making

Your child can make responsible decisions if he has the capacity to identify and analyse a situation competently. He should be able to reflect upon the implications of decisions made, based on personal, moral and ethical considerations.



## Competencies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### Civic Literacy, Global Awareness and Cross-cultural Skills

Our society is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan and more Singaporeans live and work abroad. Our young will therefore need a broader worldview, and the ability to work with people from diverse cultural backgrounds, with different ideas and perspectives. At the same time, they should be informed about national issues, take pride in being Singaporean and contribute actively to the community.

### Critical and Inventive Thinking

To be future-ready, our young need to be able to think critically, assess options and make sound decisions. They should have a desire to learn, explore and be prepared to think out of the box. They should not be afraid to make mistakes and face challenges that may at first appear daunting.

### Information and Communication Skills

With the Internet Revolution, information is often literally just a click away. It is important that our young know what questions to ask, how to sieve information and extract that which is relevant and useful. At the same time, they need to be discerning so that they can shield themselves from harm, while adopting ethical practices in cyberspace. Importantly, they should be able to communicate their ideas clearly and effectively.

## Developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies in School

Schools will equip students with the necessary knowledge, skills and values for living and working as adults in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies in the academic curriculum, schools will refine their teaching approaches and assessment methods. To enable students to keep track of their own progress, MOE will support schools by developing tools for holistic feedback and assessment.

MOE will strengthen the quality of Physical Education, and Art and Music education. These subjects are integral to a holistic education experience for our students. They enable our students to develop physical robustness, enhance their creative and expressive capacities, and shape their personal, cultural and social identity. Values and competencies will be explicitly taught during character and citizenship education lessons.

Schools will also develop 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies in students through a vast range of co-curricular activities (CCAs).

## Knowing the Child

It is important for teachers to know students individually. In this regard, the form teacher plays a key role in caring for his or her students, paying attention to their development in every domain. The guidance period is thus invaluable for form teachers to get to know their students better.

Within schools, opportunities will be offered for teachers to share and discuss their students' development profile and needs with them.

---

The information contained in this booklet is correct as of March 2010



## Working Hand-in-hand with Parents

Parents play a critical role as partners in our mission to prepare our young for the future. From 2012, all students will be provided with a Holistic Development Profile which will keep you updated on your child's progress in his journey to develop these values and competencies. Do keep yourself updated on your child's progress through informal discussions with his form teacher and during Parent-Teacher Meetings.

Together, we work hand-in-hand to nurture our children for a brighter future for all.

---

The desired outcomes of education are available on the MOE website: [www.moe.gov.sg](http://www.moe.gov.sg)



**Ministry of Education**  
SINGAPORE

1 North Buona Vista Drive  
Singapore 138675  
Tel: 6872 2220  
Email: [contact@moe.edu.sg](mailto:contact@moe.edu.sg)  
[www.moe.gov.sg](http://www.moe.gov.sg)