

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS IN CMI SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG

English is a very important language as everybody knows. Nowadays, it is clear from research that teenagers in Hong Kong are not good at English, especially those students that graduate from CMI schools.

It is widely known that the standard of English of EMI students is higher than CMI students. The reason is they have more chances to learn English and use English. How can the CMI students' English catch up with EMI students?



Recently, consultation meetings on the medium of instruction in secondary schools have sparked a lively debate. Proposals to tighten the requirements on schools that want to teach junior secondary classes in English have been interpreted as another move by the government towards "political correctness" and a reform in education.

For many decades, secondary schools were allowed to choose their medium of instruction, and most chose English. But their choices were not made on the basis of professional assessments of their teachers and students' competency in the language.

To satisfy parents' strong desire for their children to learn in English, many staff members with poor skills in the language were allowed to teach in broken English to students who had to struggle to learn in a foreign tongue they had yet to master. The practice not only failed to help students develop good skills in English, it also caused great damage to their self-esteem.

Superficially, the mother-tongue policy has led to a drastic reduction in the number of English-medium secondary schools. In fact, schools are still allowed to choose their teaching language.

What the new policy demands is that the choice be a professional one. A school will only be allowed to teach in English if its teachers are capable of doing so and at least 85 per cent of their students have passed a threshold level in English that enables them to benefit from being taught in the language. No school is barred from using English as the teaching language if its staff and students meet those conditions.

As a result it is vitally important that on the job-training is offered to the teachers in these schools and that their level of English is of a high proficiency – somewhat on par to that of a native speaker. It has been revealed that many teachers need to brush up on their English skills. Many are weak in English grammar and pronunciation. They do not possess adequate training in teaching English.

ITS Tutorial School provides **English Language Training Courses** for those teachers in need of enhancing their skills. Apart from providing English Teacher Training Courses, ITS also provides **Consultancy Services** to schools to help them design and organise staff development activities for teachers.

If you are interested in enquiring about our courses or other matters, please contact Ms Anne Murphy at 852- 2116-3027 or by e-mail at anne@tuition.com.hk

English Courses for English Teachers in CMI Schools

English Grammar

Pronunciation

IELTS Exam Preparation Courses

English Language Proficiency Assessment Preparation Courses

