

The Finnish Education System

Tai Po Old Market Public School

Tung Tak School

Finnish Education Strives To Build Trust

The Finnish education system does not seek to create an environment of competition. The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture trusts the schools and the work they do leads to a wide and shared sense of confidence. The ministry does not undertake inspections of schools. Principals don't use lesson observations to evaluate teacher's performance because they believe that it's the culture for teachers to provide quality education. Teachers are professional. They don't compete against each other since there are no rankings of teachers. They love their jobs and their schools. Moreover, there is only one school in each region which reduces competition between schools. They have no stress in recruiting students. In this atmosphere of trust, all teachers and schools show enthusiasm for teaching every student.



Equal Opportunities For All

When we visited different schools in Finland, we did not hear about the theory of the Happy School. In Finnish education, students are provided with equal opportunities. One of the principals in Finland told us, 'When there is equality in education, students will be happy.' Finnish education is not only about a fair admission process but also about how students can be treated with equity through the learning process. Each one of them can make different choices in terms of learning styles, ways of assessment and the curriculum. Students, therefore, have opportunities to achieve what they want, with regard to their potential and personal values. No child is left behind in this education system. As one of the Finnish principals says, 'The aim of Finnish education is to allow students to pursue meaningful lives.'

The Finnish Education System

An Education System That Nurtures Creativity

In the field trip, we could see that Finnish education provides many hands-on subjects, such as Visual Arts, Music, Home Economics and Fashion Design. Other parts of the curriculum, like Forest Education and Life Skills, are implemented in order to help students live their own meaningful lives. Students in Finland finish school at two o'clock and can then make use of the time to explore their surroundings and read. Learning in Finland is stress-free as there is only one examination each year for students below the age of fifteen. Students feel safe in trying to put what they have learnt into practice. All in all, it is clear to us that Finnish education

helps students prepare for the world. With this as a goal, the Ministry of Education in Finland has created an educational system that develops everyone's potential by teaching them life-long skills, community skills and creativity. Students can therefore be more active and confident in the future.



To take a broad view of education in Hong Kong and Finland, the humanistic culture, geographic settings, social lives, and educational atmospheres are different. This field trip provided us a valuable opportunity to rethink and re-evaluate what education is.

