

FCMSM NEWS



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2023 has been an eventful year for FCMSM as we are able to engage with the Ministry of Education on a better platform when the Minister and Deputy Minister themselves responded to us for constant dialogue. We were able to participate in the Stakeholders Engagement Session on 1st February 2023 followed by a dialogue with the Deputy Minister of Education, YB Lim Hui Ying on 21st February 2023. A follow-up session with the Deputy Minister of Education was done on 6th September 2023.

Despite having a platform to have dialogue with, things still very much depend on the political will of all sectors involved to implement appropriate solutions to the challenges being addressed. I would like to make an analogy of FCMSM navigating through rough seas as at times we had to go at odds with the authorities while we try to safeguard our Christian ethos in our schools. "Solidarity Week with Palestine" mooted by the Ministry and getting young children to participate is one such example. Actually, teachers in our schools face more challenges when it comes to implementing programmes of such nature. We thank God that despite all these challenges, we can still navigate the rough seas and complete the tasks set before us in helping students in our schools.

New challenges will keep surfacing as the demands and wishes of our society change in line with the social, spiritual and economic climate of our country. Christmas is the season that we celebrate and remember the occasion with faith, hope, love and joy with our Lord. We pray for a stable government that governs according to the wishes of its citizens. We also pray for the Lord's intercession to guide FCMSM in bringing forward ideas and agenda that fit the aspirations of mission schools in the country.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024.

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Bible Knowledge

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZZES

	Number of Participants			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
National Bible Knowledge Postal Quiz	1993	1899	2065	2297
BK Annual Quiz	2105	1805	1709	1484
National Bible Knowledge Oral Quiz	202	169	126.5	137.5

27th NATIONAL SPM BIBLE KNOWLEDGE ORAL QUIZ 2023 RESULTS

POSITION	STATE	PARTICIPANTS	SCHOOL
Champion	Sarawak	1. Elina Chua Wun Sze 2. Ashley Lai Wan Ling	St Joseph's Private School, Kuching
Second	Sarawak	1. Filicia Wong Jing Xuan 2. Daphne Chen Zi Xuan	St Joseph's Private School, Kuching
Third	Sarawak	1. Alexander Voon Jian Hua 2. Ronan Kimura	SMK Methodist, Sibul

TENTATIVE DATES FOR 2024 BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZZES

	DATE	SCOPE
25 th National Bible Knowledge Postal Quiz (Online)	18 May 2024, Saturday	Genesis 16 – 20 Luke 11 - 17
BK24 Quiz (Online)	22 June 2024, Saturday	Luke 1 to 18
28 th National Bible Knowledge Oral Quiz Regionals (Physical)	27 July 2024, Saturday	Luke & Acts
28 th National Bible Knowledge Oral Quiz Finals (Physical)	10 August 2024, Saturday	Luke & Acts

SPM PAST YEARS BIBLE KNOWLEDGE (9221) RESULTS

Year	Peratusan Calon					Bil Duduk	GPMP
	Cemerlang A+, A, A-	Kepujian B+, B, C+, C	Lulus D, E	A+ - E	Gagal G		
2022	32	36.4	11.2	79.6	20.4	269	4.62
2021	34.0	34.0	13.0	81.0	19.0	285	4.58
2020	27.8	33.8	17.8	79.4	20.6	370	4.95
2019	26.5	34.2	17.4	78.1	21.9	339	5.07
2018	26.7	35.3	16.4	78.4	21.6	397	5.03
2017	31.7	35.3	13.7	80.7	19.3	278	4.55
2016	28.4	30.7	16.7	75.8	24.2	257	5.07

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE ISSUE

Each year, we receive news of various school heads putting obstacles in the way of students who want to take up Bible Knowledge for their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia.

Does BK require PBD?

This year, a school had said that students cannot take BK because the subject requires Pentaksiran Bilik Darjah (PBD). FCMSM has checked with the Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia (KPM) and they have confirmed that the Lembaga Peperiksaan (LP) does not require PBD for BK. Schools, in doubt of this matter, can refer to the document, Format Pentaksiran Bible Knowledge (9221) published by the LP. There is no other circular overriding this.

Is BK a subject in SPM?

BK is a subject outside the Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Menengah (KSSM) but students are allowed to take the subject for SPM. Lampiran 9 in the Surat Siaran Lembaga Peperiksaan Bil. 4 Tahun 2020 lists down the format of the BK paper.

Does BK have to be in the school timetable before a student can take it?

BK need not be in the school timetable for a student to register for the paper. The student can be taught by any teacher, including one from the church. If necessary, the student can show the school a letter stating that they have the permission of their parents and/or church to study BK. The student's BK teacher can also write a letter assuring the school that he/she will conduct regular lessons, tests and exams and forward the marks to the school.

Do SPM BK results affect the GPS of the school?

BK does not affect the Gred Purata Sekolah (GPS) significantly even when the student does not perform too well because the number of students taking up SPM BK is too small to affect the statistic. However, having said that, we would like BK teachers to impress upon any student who signs up for BK that they take the subject seriously and prepare well for it.



Sumbangan Bantuan

bagi Sekolah Bantuan Kerajaan

The following table is the compilation of data gathered from Mission Authorities which keyed into the online Google Sheet. The information is therefore only correct in so far as the data was keyed in correctly or updated. The table was downloaded on the 11th December 2023.

2023 Allocations							
No.	Mission Authority	Number of schools in MA	Reported number of schools which applied	Reported number of schools which received	Total Allocations Applied	Total Allocations Received	Average Allocation Received per school
1	Anglican Diocesan Education Board of West Malaysia	14	13	13	3,181,136.00	980,250.00	75,403.85
2	Anglican Diocese of Kuching	50	25	32	4,316,050.00	1,599,000.00	49,968.75
3	Anglican Diocese of Sabah	11	8	6	1,780,822.00	380,000.00	63,333.33
4	Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur	2	2	2	467,169.50	100,000.00	50,000.00
5	Basel Christian Church of Malaysia	15	14	14	1,843,655.80	740,000.00	52,857.14
6	Brothers of St. Gabrielite (SG)	1	1	1	180,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00
7	Canossian Sisters (FDCC)	6	6	6	638,610.00	410,200.00	68,366.67
8	Archdiocesan Education Commission of Kota Kinabalu	43	23	0	4,136,464.40	0.00	
9	Archdiocese of Kuching	32	22	12	3,093,886.77	575,800.00	47,983.33
10	Diocese of Miri	7	7	7	743,868.00	328,150.00	46,878.57
11	Keningau Diocesan Education Commission	18	16	1	1,591,007.11	55,000.00	55,000.00
12	Sandakan Diocesan Education Commission	10	6	9	1,262,500.00	528,000.00	58,666.67
13	Sibu Diocesan Education Commission	23	15	18	2,128,760.00	1,230,000.00	68,333.33
14	Christian Brethren Education Board	2	1	2	313,061.80	100,000.00	50,000.00
15	Convent of Infant Jesus Sisters (IJS)	53	50	51	8,238,073.25	2,959,380.00	58,027.06
16	Diocese of Melaka-Johor	6	3	3	289,500.00	170,800.00	56,933.33
17	Diocese of Penang	17	13	11	2,173,713.85	617,500.00	56,136.36
18	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM)	4	3	3	274,000.00	150,000.00	50,000.00
19	La Salle Brothers (FSC)	28	16	27	2,976,958.00	1,530,000.00	56,666.67
20	Marist Brothers (FMS)	1	0	0	0.00	0.00	
21	Methodist Church in Malaysia Council of Education	55	50	48	11,557,338.00	2,903,470.00	60,488.96
22	Methodist Church Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference	7	6	6	817,926.16	400,000.00	66,666.67
23	Methodist Church Sarawak Iban Annual Conference	8	8	8	1,030,000.00	400,000.00	50,000.00
24	Presbyterian Education Board	4	4	0	145,000.00	0.00	
25	Protestant Church in Sabah	3	3	3	317,700.00	200,000.00	66,666.67
	Grand Total	420	315	283	53,497,200.64	16,417,550.00	58,012.54

SUMBANGAN BANTUAN

YB Pn Lim Hui Ying, the Deputy Minister of Education, had informed us during a meeting the following:

Number of mission schools registered under MOE:	383
Number of mission schools which did not apply:	47
108 SMK and 14 SMJK mission schools received:	RM6,115,780
213 SK mission schools received:	RM13,006,373.70
Total allocations to mission schools:	RM19,162,153.70

(Note: the figures don't add up, but these were the figures that was given.)

However, in The Star on the 9th Nov 2023, the amount of allocations given out was reported as follows:

	Million RM
SJKC	6.6
SJKC - SBK	47.7
SJKT	4.28
SJKT - SBK	19.47
Sek agama	28.68
Mission schools	18.4
Total:	125.13
Special allocations:	
SJKC	29.19
SJKT	11.48
Total:	40.67

REPORTS



MINGGU SOLIDARITI PALESTIN

FCMSM wrote a letter to the Minister of Education, YB Puan Fadhlina Binti Sidek regarding the above matter. Excerpts of the letter are as follows:

“Pihak kami berpandangan isu ini tidak wajar dibawa ke sekolah-sekolah. Kami berpendapat sekolah yang mempunyai warga yang belum cukup matang adalah tempat menanamkan nilai-nilai murni seperti cintakan pada keamanan, persahabatan dan perpaduan. Namun, aktiviti-aktiviti yang dicadangkan untuk program ini akan membawa kesan yang sebaliknya....

Sebarang konflik di medan dunia tidak dapat disimpulkan pihak bersalah atau betul kerana ia melibatkan isu ideologi, geopolitik, sosial dan ekonomi yang rumit. Kami sedar bahawa segala tindakan yang tidak berperikemanusiaan patut dikecam tanpa melibatkan isu agama dan bangsa. Oleh yang demikian, anak-didik di bangku sekolah seharusnya dididik untuk hidup dengan harmoni dan mencintai ketenteraman selaras dengan prinsip Rukun Negara yang begitu indah....

Oleh yang demikian, kami mencadangkan agar sekolah-sekolah mengadakan sesi doa mengikut agama masing-masing memohon supaya konflik antara negara di dunia dapat diselesaikan dengan cara aman melalui perundingan dan bukan di medan peperangan....”

The Minister of Education replied us stating that the MOE welcomed our letter and thanking us for our views.

PRINCIPAL AND HEADMASTER POSTS IN MISSION SCHOOLS

FCMSM had a second meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education, YB Lim Hui Ying, on the 6th September 2023, to discuss the above matter. Excerpts of the minutes of the meeting are as follows:

“YB Pengerusi berpendapat bahawa laluan khas memasuki IPGM bagi pelajar lepasan SPM/STPM dari sekolah-sekolah mubaligh tidak sesuai untuk dilaksanakan kerana kriteria kemasukan ke IPGM telah pun ditetapkan dan mesti dipatuhi. Waiiau bagaimanapun pihak Pejabat Timbalan Menteri masih boleh membantu dengan cara mengenalpasti calon yang telah memohon tetapi tidak berjaya dalam ujian-ujian tertentu....”

Tuan Haji Shafruddin bin Haji Ali Hussin (TKPPM , Sektor Pembangunan Profesionalisme) memaklumkan para hadirin bahawa konsep seumpama "Home Grown-Leaders" telah pun mula dilaksanakan atas arahan YB Menteri Pendidikan, dimana PPD dan JPN bagi lima negeri iaitu Sarawak, Sabah, Pulau Pinang, Selangor dan Perlis telah diminta untuk mengenalpasti individu yang berpotensi untuk diangkat sebagai pengetua/guru besar untuk menjalanilatihan di Institut Aminuddin Baki (IAB)....

Tuan Haji Azman bin Haji Adnan (TKPPM, Sektor Operasi Sekolah) mengambil maklum akan cadangan menambah baik pelaksanaan SPI Bil 1 2013. Perkara ini akan dibawa ke pengetahuan Ketua Pengarah Pendidikan Malaysia (KPPM) dan dibincangkan di peringkat pengurusan tertinggi kerana melibatkan perubahan dasar....”

IN THE NEWS

UCA ARTICLE

In September this year, UCA News published an article entitled, Slow death of Christian mission schools in Malaysia. The article contained provocative statements, had many inaccuracies, quoted out of context and claimed to have interviewed someone from FCMSM which was totally false. Other social media soon picked up the article and we feared the spread of alarm and misunderstanding.

FCMSM wrote a letter to the Deputy Minister of Education assuring her that FCMSM had nothing to do with the misleading article. FCMSM values the cooperation and sincere goodwill between us and YB Lim Hui Ying.

CROSSES FOR MISSION SCHOOLS

In October this year, a teacher from a Christian mission school in Labuan was transferred following a dispute over the installation of crosses on the school premises. Various parties protested against the high-handed action of the JPN Labuan.

The school's BOG raised the issue with the Director General of KPM and the Director of JPN Labuan. The DG agreed that the school has the right to maintain the ethos. The transfer of the acting principal was also officially withdrawn by the Director of JPN Labuan.

Attempts to remove Christian characteristics and icons from Mission schools is not new. However, we would like to thank KPM for making a stand on the right of Mission schools to retain its ethos and character. As reported in Malaysiakini, on Dec 4, 2007, then Deputy Education Minister Noh Omar told parliament that there was no reason to take down the religious symbols.

Also, in a June 24, 2015 news article in the Malay Mail, it was reported that, "Putrajaya has allowed a Sabah mission school to retain a newly installed cross on its building facade amid pressure from Muslim parents and

teachers to remove the Christian religious symbol.” Then Deputy Education Minister 1, Datuk Mary Yap said that Christian mission schools in Malaysia are allowed to retain their ethos and characteristics according to a circular issued by the Education Ministry in January 2013.

The circular referred to is the Surat Pekeliling Ikhtisas, Bil 1 – 2013, where it is stated in paragraph 3, “Sekolah mubaligh telah menerima dan melaksanakan sepenuhnya sistem pendidikan kebangsaan. Sekolah ini dibenarkan untuk mengekalkan watak dan identiti sekolah tersebut.”

DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM (DLP)

In The Star on the 20th July 2023, the news reported, “The Dual Language Programme (DLP) is being subtly reduced in what may be an attempt to remove it, stakeholders claim. Some top national full DLP schools have been forced by their principals to introduce non-DLP classes and move students there, even though the parents don’t want it, says Parent Action Group for Education Malaysia (PAGE).”

Education Minister, Pn Fadhlina Sidek, is quoted as saying, “We will start with one non-DLP class beginning next year,” in the Dewan Rakyat on Nov 27. (New Straits Times, Dec 5, 2023) But in the same news piece, five primary schools in Kuala Lumpur were granted permission to implement full DLP next year.

DLP started in 2016 and various circulars have been issued regarding it, the latest being SPI Bil 3/2020, *Penambahbaikan Garis Panduan Pelaksanaan DLP*, which lists the criteria for a school to have DLP classes as follows:

Kriteria Penyertaan Sekolah

Sekolah yang layak untuk melaksanakan DLP hendaklah memenuhi kriteria yang berikut:

5.1 Sekolah mempunyai sumber yang mencukupi

Sekolah hendaklah mempunyai guru yang memenuhi kriteria yang ditetapkan pada perkara 6.0 untuk mengajar mata pelajaran Sains dan/atau Matematik dalam BI. Di samping itu, sekolah hendaklah mempunyai bilik darjah dan/atau bilik khas yang mencukupi untuk melaksanakan PdP DLP.

5.2 Pengetua/Guru Besar (PGB) mempunyai perancangan untuk melaksanakan DLP

PGB hendaklah mengadakan perbincangan bersama-sama guru dengan bimbingan Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri (JPN) untuk menyediakan perancangan jangka panjang dan jangka pendek yang merangkumi aspek seperti guru, murid dan bilik darjah bagi memastikan keberkesanan dan kelangsungan pelaksanaan DLP di peringkat sekolah.

5.3 Persetujuan daripada ibu bapa/penjaga

Sekolah hendaklah mendapatkan persetujuan secara bertulis daripada ibu bapa/penjaga sebelum kelas yang melaksanakan DLP boleh dibuka.

5.4 Pencapaian dalam mata pelajaran Bahasa Melayu (BM)

Peratus pencapaian Tahap Penguasaan Minimum Bahasa Melayu Pemahaman dan Bahasa Melayu Penulisan Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) dan gred purata mata pelajaran (GPMP) Bahasa Melayu Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) sekolah bagi tahun sebelumnya hendaklah menyamai atau lebih baik daripada pencapaian yang ditetapkan oleh KPM atau menunjukkan peningkatan prestasi pencapaian mata pelajaran BM bagi tiga tahun berturut-turut (usaha ke arah peningkatan).

As there are no further circulars regarding DLP, all schools should be able to continue DLP next year as long as they meet the above four criteria.

Sarawak is fortunately not caught up in this confusion as Sarawak can run DLP fully according to the circular, SPI Bil 7/2019, *Pelaksanaan DLP Sarawak mulai Tahun 2020*.

FCMSM is monitoring the issue at the moment. We would like to get some feedback from you, our Mission Authorities and schools, that we may know the next steps we should take.

Announcements

TALENTS IN LEADERSHIP

The Federation of Christian Mission Schools Malaysia, Malaysian Christian Schools' Council, Sabah Interdenominational Education Committee and Teachers' Christian Fellowship are collaborating to:

1. Determine the number of Christian educators in our Malaysian education system and help provide a network of support for them.
2. Identify potential candidates for future leadership roles in our schools.

The information collected will be shared with relevant Christian education bodies of all denominations including our mission authorities and schools. Potential candidates to be appointed as principals or headmasters for our mission schools might be found in the database that is collected.

We hope you will join us in this effort by distributing the survey widely among your schools, churches, leadership and contacts so that we'll have a more complete picture of Christian teachers in the Malaysian public education system.

Please use this link to access the form:
http://bit.ly/survey_Christianteachers_MY

CLOSING DATE: 21 JAN 2024

INSPIRE 2 – A HANDBOOK FOR GOVERNORS/MANAGERS OF BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN MISSION SCHOOLS

It has come to our knowledge that some headmasters have approached their education department about Inspire 2 and were told that the MOE did not endorse it. This becomes a problem when some of our chairmen who do not understand about Inspire 2, therefore do not push for compliance with what is written in the Handbook.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inspire 2 has nothing to do with endorsement by the MOE. Inspire 2 is related to and abides with the Education Act and various circulars issued by the MOE. Therefore, BOG and BOM members need to adhere to the Handbook and not carry on as though they can do anything they want.

All Mission Authorities need to ensure that their BOG and BOM members understand the relevance of Inspire 2. For school boards which have yet to receive a hardcopy of the Handbook, they can access a softcopy at: <https://www.fcmsm.org/resources/handbook-for-governors-managers/>

DIRECTORY

The Directory will be updated before the end of this year. Each MA will be contacted via email to check and update their respective contact information and list of schools.

A softcopy of the updated Directory for 2024 will then be distributed to all MAs.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Some MAs have arrears for the present year and past years. We hope these arrears can be settled before the year end.

If there is any disparity between the number of schools and the amount of BOG contributions, the MA may write to FCMSM explaining the situation.

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Both the BK Guidebook Project and Video Project are temporarily delayed due to unavoidable circumstances.

However, both the Study Guides to the Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles for SPM Bible Knowledge are still available at FCMSM and certain bookshops.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MISSION SCHOOLS:

Education for All and for Unity

Compassion for the Poor and the Weak

Discipline in the Context of Love

Prayer and the Presence of God

Passion, Dedication, Perseverance and Self-sacrifice

