



Anglo-Chinese School  
(Primary)

A Methodist Institution  
(Founded 1886)

**Handbook for Parents**  
**Orientation for**  
**P1 2023**

<http://www.acspri.moe.edu.sg>



# Anglo-Chinese School (Primary)

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## School Vision, Mission & Values

### Our Vision

Every ACSian a Young Man of Character, Capability and Creativity

### Our Mission

Anglo-Chinese School (Primary) believes in providing an all-round education in an environment which seeks to bring out the potential in every pupil to the fullest, and to develop in him a strong moral character, imbued with Christian values and principles to guide and prepare him for life ahead.

### Our Shared Values

We aim to build ACSians of character by instilling in them eight core values:

- \* integrity
- \* Humility
- \* Obedience
- \* Perseverance
- \* Empathy
- \* Faithfulness
- \* Unity
- \* Loyalty

### Our School Motto

*The Best Is Yet To Be*



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## Our Desired Outcome: Traits of an ACSian

### **iHOPEFUL Leader**

Grounded on ACS(P)'s *iHOPEFUL* values, the *iHOPEFUL* Leader is an ACS(P) gentleman who enjoys an education that is anchored on Christian principles. He is aware of his national and cultural identity and seeks to be a leader of self, of his peers, and of his community.

### **Creative Learner**

The ACS(P) gentleman is a creative and inventive thinker who is aware of the socio-cultural sensitivities and possesses a global outlook to issues in the world. He is curious and creative and seeks to understand complexities and ambiguities. He processes information and knowledge, overcomes challenges and is not only a consumer of knowledge but is bold to suggest new ways of doing things.

### **Effective Communicator**

The ACS(P) gentleman is an effective communicator who is articulate and eloquent. He is effectively bilingual and is able to persuade others and present his thoughts in English Language and in his Mother Tongue Language with clarity. He is expressive and knows how to carry himself in both the real-world and the virtual-world domains.

### **Community Collaborator**

The ACS(P) gentleman does not only seek to grow himself, but endeavours to shape and impact his spheres of influence and his community through close partnerships and collaboration with others. He is a team-player who knows that he cannot work alone to achieve this. He actively contributes to his family, to ACS, his community, and his country and sees this as his responsibility.



## The CARE Principle at ACS(P)

ACS (Primary) has developed a distinctive culture of care which is in line with our vision and mission. In order to develop the four traits of an ACSian, the school provides an all-round student development in the **A**ffective, **C**ognitive, **S**ocial and **P**hysical domains. To do this, the school believes in building strong relationships among the staff, establishing effective rapport with the students and working in close partnership with our partners and stakeholders.

The CARE Principle is defined as follows:

### COACH

Coaching involves guiding each other in the expected behaviours; where we educate one another in knowledge, skills and values in a nurturing manner  
(Affective, Cognitive, Social, Physical domains)

### AFFIRM

Affirming each other by encouraging and providing emotional support (Affective domain)

### RELATE

Establishing meaningful and effective rapport with one another and building a congenial and collaborative school/working environment  
(Social domain)

### ENTHUSE

Engaging one another so as to motivate each other to be innovative and to excel in whatever we do, whether academically or in our chosen sports or areas of interest.  
(Affective, Cognitive, Social, Physical domains)



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## MOE DESIRED OUTCOMES

The person who is schooled in the Singapore Education system embodies the Desired Outcomes of Education (DOE). He is

- 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;
- a **self-directed learner** who takes responsibility for his own learning, who questions, reflects and perseveres in the pursuit of learning;
- an **active contributor** who is able to work effectively in teams, exercises initiative, takes calculated risks, is innovative and strives for excellence; and,
- a **concerned citizen** who is rooted to Singapore, has a strong civic consciousness, is informed, and takes an active role in bettering the lives of others around him.

The DOE are translated into a set of developmental outcomes for each key stage (Primary, Secondary and Post-Secondary) of our education system. The Key Stage Outcomes make explicit what we aspire to develop in our young so as to lay the strong foundations for them to thrive and achieve success in life as contributing members of society.

At the end of the primary school education, pupils should:

- be able to distinguish right from wrong;
- have learnt to share and put others first;
- be able to build friendships with others;
- have a lively curiosity about things;
- be able to think for and express themselves;
- take pride in their work;
- have cultivated healthy habits; and
- love our country, Singapore.



## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### 1. School Hours

The school hours are as follow:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>Reporting Time</b>	7.30 am				
<b>Assembly Venue</b>	Auditorium	Student Plaza		Classroom	
* Morning assembly will be in the classrooms during wet weather.					
<b>Recess Time</b>	P1 & P2		9.00 am – 9.30 am		
	P3 & P4		9.30 am – 10.00 am		
	P5 & P6		10.30 am – 11.00 am		
<b>Little Bites</b>	P5 & P6		8.30 am – 8.35 am		
	P1, P2, P3 & P4		11.55 am – 12.00 noon		
<b>Dismissal Time</b>	1.30 pm				1.25 pm

### 2. School Administration

#### A. General Office Hours:

	Term Time	School Holidays
<b>Mon - Fri</b>	7.00 am – 5.00 pm	7.30 am – 5.00 pm

**Address:** 50 Barker Road Singapore 309918

**Telephone:** 6250 1633      **Fax:** 6353 1366

**Website:** [www.acspri.moe.edu.sg](http://www.acspri.moe.edu.sg)

**Email:** [acps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:acps@moe.edu.sg)



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## B. Email Addresses:

### i. School Leaders

Principal	Mrs Leong-Ho Hil May	ho_hil_may@schools.gov.sg
Vice-Principal	Mrs Celia Lau	celia_choh@schools.gov.sg
Vice-Principal	Mr Max Chua	chua_thian_keong@schools.gov.sg
Vice-Principal (Administration)	Ms Eileen Seow	seow_lay_yen@schools.gov.sg

### ii. Year Head (Lower Primary)

Year Head	Mrs Lee Chi Loo	teo_chi_loo@moe.edu.sg
Assistant Year Head	Mrs Janis Pavia	lau_kah_ling_janis@moe.edu.sg

### iii. Form and Subject Teachers

Respective form and subject teachers' email addresses can be found in the school website.

## 3. Fees

	Singapore Citizen	Permanent Resident
School fees	NIL	\$205.00
Standard Miscellaneous Fees	\$6.50	\$6.50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tier Miscellaneous Fees	\$6.50	\$6.50

You are strongly encouraged to pay the fees through **GIRO**. Pupils who are Singapore citizens will be given an Edusave account and receive an annual Edusave contribution (\$230.00 in 2023) when they first join a MOE-funded school. The Edusave funds can also be used to pay for enrichment programmes organised by the school and 2nd-tier miscellaneous fees (\$6.50/month). You are also strongly encouraged to select the standing order instruction for the deduction of the enrichment programmes organised by the school and 2<sup>nd</sup>-tier miscellaneous fees.

More information on the sign-up of GIRO and Edusave Standing Order will be shared with you via Parents Gateway (PG) by end November 2022.



#### 4. Co-payment for Supplementary Materials and Enrichment Programmes

As part of our school's efforts and commitment to provide an enriching and a holistic learning experience for our boys, enrichment programmes and supplementary materials (e.g. English and Chinese Language Reading Materials) have been planned to complement learning in school.

While much of the cost of employing additional essential educational resources has been borne by the school, a co-payment scheme has been adopted for some of these enrichment programmes and supplementary materials, and we seek your understanding and cooperation on this.

There will be a **one-time collection** at the beginning of the new year to reduce the hassle of ad-hoc payment. We will try to be as comprehensive as possible for this initial collection and we seek your understanding should there be a need for further ad-hoc collection of money during the course of the year.

If you have difficulty making payment for the enrichment programmes and supplementary materials, please contact any of our school leaders.

#### 5. Second Language Policy

All pupils will learn English as a first language and must take a second language which is his Mother Tongue-Language (MTL). MTL is defined as the official spoken language of the father's race.

If your son/ward will be taking a non-MTL as a second language, please be advised that approval must be sought from MOE.

You can refer to the Annex A for the form. Please complete the form and return the completed form to the school. The school will submit your application to MOE and inform you of the outcome when we receive MOE's response.

#### 6. Parent's/Guardian's Particulars in Student Details Form (SDF)

MOE will be using an online "Student Details Form (SDF) portal" to capture the required data. Please note that all data captured in this form will be used by MOE for correspondence with you. More details will be shared with you via PG in November 2022.



## 7. School Correspondence to Parents via Parents Gateway (PG)

Our school is onboard Parents Gateway (PG), which is a mobile app specially designed for parents. Developed by MOE and GovTech, the app allows parents to engage with schools, receive information and perform a range of administrative functions such as giving consent for school trips.

The InfoSheet on downloading the PG app on your mobile phone (available on iOS and Android platforms only) is available in the school website. You will require your SingPass to perform a simple one-time onboarding process. Please download this app by 31 October so that you can receive the school correspondence and submit consent, when necessary.

## 8. Communication with Teachers

If you need to visit the school to see a teacher, please first **email** our teachers to arrange for an appointment. This is to minimise disruption to our teachers' teaching duties. Our teachers' email addresses are available on our school website.

You can also write a short note in your son's/ward's **school diary** (which will be given to him when school reopens in January 2023) for the teacher to contact you. The diary can be used as a means of communication between yourselves and the teachers. However, do note that your son is expected to show the note to the teachers as diaries are not called up for checks.

## 9. Heavy School Bags

The guideline given by MOE on the weight of a P1 pupil's bag is no more than 3 kg. As such, pupils should pack their bags daily. The **First Week Preparation Kit for Parents** will be sent to parents by first week of December 2022. Please refer to this booklet for the list of things to bring for the first four days of school.

A **class timetable** will be issued to the pupils in **Term 1 Week 1**.

Please note that NO TROLLEY SCHOOL BAGS are allowed in school for safety reasons. If you have any concerns regarding school bag, please email your son's/ward's form teachers about it.

## 10. Little Bites

As part of our efforts to encourage all teachers and pupils to lead a healthy lifestyle, the school has set aside 5 minutes just before noon for P1s to have their Little Bites. During



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this time, pupils can enjoy a snack before they carry on with their lessons. Hence, please allow your son/ward to pack cut fruits or a healthy snack (preferably in a small container) to school daily.

### **11. Purchase and Collection of Textbooks & Stationery**

Our bookshop is run by Pacific Bookstores. You are encouraged to order the books online (<https://www.pacificbookstores.com/>) from **26 October to 4 November** and choose to collect the books on orientation day (11 November). There will be no collection during school term to avoid crowding at the bookshop. If you prefer to collect the books in school on other days, please make arrangements for collection only during the November and December school holidays. There will be a nominal charge for delivery if you prefer not to collect them in person.

Contact of Pacific Bookstores:

- 6358 0491 (retail) / 6559 2269 (HQ) [9.00 am to 5.30 pm (Monday to Friday)]
- [sales@pacificbookstores.com](mailto:sales@pacificbookstores.com)

### **12. Purchase and Collection of School Uniform**

Bibi & Baba Private Limited supplies our uniforms. Please note that online ordering is encouraged to avoid crowding and inter-mingling at the outlet. Items to purchase are as follows:

- white shirt and blue shorts
- name tags
- house tank top
- corporate t-shirt

Do note that the name tags should reflect the child's name as stated in his birth certificate. Please order by 31 October so that the name tags can be ready by 15 December 2022.

Contact of Bibi & Baba:

- 545 Orchard Road #02-28, Far East Shopping Centre, Singapore 228208
- Tel: 6732 7022
- Website: <https://www.schooluniforms.sg/bb-acp-primary>

### **13. School Bus Service**

The school bus operator is Transland Singapore Pte Ltd and you can register your interest via <https://www.translandsg.com/acspri/> (registration code is 23ACSP) by 31 October 2022.

Parents are reminded that the bus operators will try their best to determine the most optimal route, venues and timing for pick-up and drop-off based on the locations of those taking the school bus. We seek parents' fullest support and co-operation on this matter.



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Contact of Transland Singapore Pte Ltd:

- Ms Carrie Lee at 6560-8032 or [carrie@transland.com.sg](mailto:carrie@transland.com.sg)

### 14. Car Decal Application

If you intend to drop-off and/or pick-up your son at the ACS transport centre, you will need to apply for a car decal. The car decal allows the security to identify you as a parent/guardian so that you can enter the ACS transport centre. If you wish to apply for one, please submit the application form via the same [link](#) in the letter emailed to you by 31 October. Once order is placed, you can make your payment and collect the car decal from the counter in the school canteen on 11 November between 4.00 to 5.30 pm. Alternatively, you may do so at the General Office during school holidays between 8.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Please note:

- 1 The car decal allows you to enter and exit the ACS Barker Road Campus Transport Centre Level 1 on Weekdays and Saturdays. Parent's label is for pick-up and drop-off only. **It does not entitle the holder to a car park space.**
- 2 If you are in school for official business and require a parking lot, please note that you can only park at the white lots. This will be subject to availability and is not guaranteed. Please do not park in the red lots as they are reserved for staff and support-staff (e.g. canteen vendors) who have paid for the season parking charges. Level 2 car park is open to drivers with the Green and Orange car park labels only.
- 3 If you do not have an ACS Barker Road Campus car decal, please obtain a Temporary Parking Label from the security as you register your entry. For security reasons, please display the Temporary Parking Label on your dashboard when you park in the white lot.
- 4 There should be no parallel parking and waiting along the pick-up/drop-off point.
- 5 Please switch off your car engine while waiting for your son/ward at dismissal time.

If you are driving into the ACS Barker Road Campus Transport Centre, the designated drop-off/pick-up points are at the Lift Lobby as indicated in the diagram below:

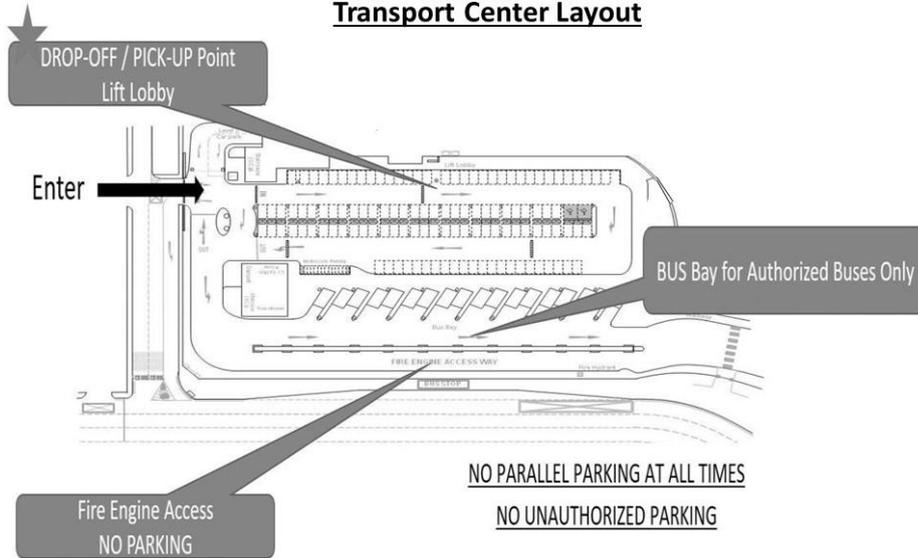


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## STUDENT DROP-OFF / PICK-UP POINT AT

### Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road Campus) Transport Center Layout



There are other designated drop-off/pick-up points such as the Chancery Lane Activity Area (CLAA) and Gates 'C' / 'B3' along Barker Road should you choose not to drive into the ACS Barker Road Campus Transport Centre.



Chancery Lane Activity Area

The drop-off points are:

- Gate A (Transport Centre)
- Gate C (along Barker Road)
- Gate B (Clock Tower)
- Gate A2 (overhead bridge)
- Chancery Lane Activity Area

The pick-up points are:

- Gate A (Transport Centre)
- Gate B3 (along Barker Road)
- Gate B (Clock Tower)
- Gate A2 (overhead bridge)
- Chancery Lane Activity Area



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Parents/Guardians are also advised to refrain from parking your vehicles outside the school gate or bus bay in such a way that it obstructs the flow of traffic. Such indiscriminate parking is a danger to other drivers as well as pedestrians.

Parents/Guardians who are found parking indiscriminately or obstruct traffic flow may be subject to your car being wheel-clamped by the security. A fee of \$100.00 will be charged to release your car.

Vehicles are not allowed to wait outside the school gate along Barker Road and Dunearn Road. LTA will take enforcement action against vehicles found waiting/parking before the school gate opens.

## 15. Opening Times of the School Gates, Tunnel Staircase and CLAA

	Gate B3 (beside Primary Block)	Gate C (beside Administrative Block)	Gate at overhead bridge	Tunnel Staircase
<b>Entry for staff and pupils only</b>				
<b>Morning</b>	Not open	6.30 – 8.00 am (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)  6.30 – 9.00 am (Wed)	6.30 – 8.00 am (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)  6.30 – 9.00 am (Wed)	6.30 – 8.00 am (Mon – Fri)
<b>Afternoon</b>	1.25 – 2.00 pm (Mon – Thurs)  1.25 – 2.25 pm (Fri)	2.25 – 3.00 pm (Mon - Thurs)	12 noon – 4.30 pm (Mon – Fri)	1.30 – 2.00 pm (Mon – Fri)  5.00 – 7.00 pm (Mon – Fri)



Chancery Lane Activity Area (CLAA)	
<b>Morning</b>	6.30 – 8.00 am (Mon – Fri)
<b>Afternoon</b>	12 noon – 3.00 pm (Mon – Fri)
<p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLAA is leased from Singapore Land Authority (SLA) on the understanding that it is used as an Activity Centre. This means that the area is for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holding outdoor activities e.g. camping</li> <li>Use as an assembly point during Emergency Evacuation</li> </ul> </li> <li>Timings for drop-off before start of school and pick-up during school dismissals are as stipulated on the signage at the entrance of CLAA.</li> <li>Please observe “NO RIGHT TURN” as you exit CLAA. This is implemented by LTA to ensure a smoother flow for vehicles turning into and out of CLAA.</li> <li>Do not wait or park along the side of Chancery Lane.</li> <li>Refrain from dropping off and/or picking up your son/ward along Chancery Lane.</li> </ol>	
Lift Lobby	Clock Tower (Gate B)
<p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a drop-off and pick-up point for pupils only.</li> <li>Parents should not parallel park.</li> <li>If your child/ward is not at the lift lobby, parents are to exit and make another round to avoid any traffic jam.</li> </ol>	<p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This gate is frequently used by pupils who walk to school, take the public transport or drop off/pick up at CLAA.</li> </ol>
<p>Parents who have made appointments to see the school personnel will have to register at the Security Counter located at the Lift Lobby or Clock Tower. A security sticker will be issued upon registration. It is strictly non-transferable. Paste the security sticker on your upper left chest area prominently. Thereafter, parents are to proceed to the school General Office for your appointment.</p>	



Transport Centre Peak Hours	
0640hrs – 0740hrs	Pri / Sec Arrival
0800hrs – 0900hrs	BRMCLL Arrival
1100hrs – 1215hrs	BRMCLL Dismissal & Arrival
1300hrs – 1430hrs	Pri / Sec Dismissal
1430hrs – 1530hrs	BRMCLL Dismissal
1600hrs – 1645hrs	Various CCAs
These timings are subject to change.	

Please note that for all Primary One pupils, their dismissal points will be confined to **five** pick-up points:

1. Transport Centre (Lift Lobby)
2. Clock Tower (Gate B)
3. Gate B3 (beside Primary Block)
4. School Bus
5. Student Care Centre

## 16. School Dismissal Arrangement Form

The School Dismissal Arrangement Form will be sent to you via email in December 2022. Please submit the information on how your son will be picked up after school via the link provided in the email by 25 December 2022 latest. This will help his teachers in bringing him to the correct venue at dismissal time.

## 17. Safety & Security

The safety of your son/ward is our top priority. We appeal to your understanding and co-operation to report to the General Office should you visit the school. Parents/Guardian should be in the school campus only for **official business** and **by appointment only**.

If your son/ward is ill, he will be taken to the General Office and you will be informed. He will remain in the General Office/ Sick Bay until you are in school to take him home. If you need to pick up your son/ward early on a particular day, please also go to the General Office and your son/ward will meet you there.

You are required to sign out at the school office before leaving with your son/ward. A **Security Release Form** will be issued to you if you wish to take your son/ward out of school before dismissal time. This form should be given to the security guard at the Lift Lobby or Clock Tower (Gate B) before you leave the school.



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Parents are not allowed to wait or loiter around ACS Campus including the canteen and teaching blocks. Canteen is strictly for staff and students only.

In our continual effort to ensure that the school is safe and secure for our pupils, the borders of the primary teaching block have been marked with yellow lines with the words "Teaching Block Boundary" to demarcate the areas that are out of bounds.

Parents/Guardian are advised **not** to cross the yellow boundary into the teaching block even before school hours.

Parents/Guardians are not allowed to approach other students directly. If you have a matter to raise about another student, please contact your son's/ward's form teacher.

On rainy days, parents and guardians are allowed to wait inside the school's pathways opposite the sheltered waiting areas at Clock Tower (Gate B) and under the link bridge between Administration Block and Primary Teaching Block (Gate B3).

## **18. Other Administrative Matters**

When making payments to school for miscellaneous items or programmes, you are encouraged to issue cheques made payable to 'ACS(P)'. Please remember to indicate your son's/ward's name and class, and purpose of payment at the back of the cheque. If you are paying by cash at the general office, please obtain a receipt from us. Please note that teachers are not allowed to collect cash from parents/guardian and all collections are to be made at the general office. When applying for the use of Edusave funds for programmes, it is important that you fill in your son's/ward's birth certificate details accurately.

## **19. P1 Orientation Week**

The first week of school is orientation week for all P1 pupils. The form teachers and subject teachers will take your son/ward around the school to help him familiarise with the school environment and ease him into the school routines and expectations.

## **20. Class Allocation**

The school will be informing you of your son's/ward's class and form teachers in the first week of December via email. In that email, we will also inform you of the various events in Term One.



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### **21. Corporate T-Shirt**

The school has a dress-down day every Wednesday. Your son/ ward can choose to come to school in his school uniform or wear the school Corporate T-shirt with the school shorts. The Corporate T-shirt can be purchased from the school uniform vendor or our school bookshop.

### **22. Cashless in ACS (Barker Road) Campus**

The school has a cashless payment system for purchases at the school canteen and bookshop. This is in tandem with Singapore's Smart Nation initiatives in using innovative technology to enhance lives. We hope that through this, we can mitigate any contact risk for both our students and vendors, and enhance personal and food hygiene in the school environment. We would like to encourage your son/ward to use any of the following cashless mode for payment:

- POSB Smart Buddy Watch/Card
- Ezlink Card
- School Smartcard (this will only be issued to him at a later date after the photo-taking exercise in school)



## From Parents to Parents

The joy of seeing our children grow up comes in knowing that we have equipped our children well to handle life. But with every new phase of our children's growth, comes the first few steps of apprehension. To ease this apprehension, we would like to share with you some practical tips on preparing for primary one. Remember also to cover your son in prayer as he begins a new chapter of his life.

### I. Preparing Your Child

#### 1. Relationship with Teachers

##### **Understanding Authority**

Some of the things that your son/ward will have to adjust in school are being punctual, handing in work on time and lining up. Help your son/ward to understand that the school has boundaries that all pupils must observe. He should always be respectful towards his teachers at all times.

##### **Speaking at the Right Time**

Remind your son/ward to reserve his questions and comments until it is appropriate to speak. You may practise with him at home by requiring some kind of physical indication (e.g. placing his hand lightly on your lap) if he needs to interrupt an on-going conversation.

#### 2. Relationship with Peers

##### **Being Assertive, Not Aggressive**

Share with your son/ward that he should never be hurt or forced by any child to do what he feels is not right. Between fight and flight, he should choose the latter. Teach him to say "No", or "I don't like that", and to walk away from the situation. Remind your son/ward not to use aggression on his classmates too.

For parents, a strict 'no-no' is to approach another child to scold or discipline him for misbehaving. Please bring the matter to the attention of the class teacher if you think that it is time for adult intervention. Very often when children fight or quarrel, they make up easily and it is all part of their social development process. Adult intervention often magnifies a small problem.

##### **Asking for Help**

If your son/ward has a problem, he should turn to his teachers for help. If he has forgotten to bring money, he should go to his teacher and not another pupil. Teach him to "neither a borrower nor a lender be" as far as money is concerned. Let your son/ward learn to find solutions to his own problems and try to restrain yourself from doing things on your son's/ward's behalf.



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## **Discourage Behaviours That Irritate Others**

Many children try to gain attention in the wrong way. This may get them into trouble with their teachers and classmates. Tell your son/ward to always think of what it is like to be at the receiving end of his actions.

## **3. School Work**

### **Mother-Tongue Language**

For most children, this subject can become less dreadful if parents make some effort to use the language with them at home. Read simple stories to them; let them watch language shows or cartoons for limited periods of time so that they can get used to the pronunciation and grammar structure of the language.

### **Folder for Worksheets and Notices**

The school communicates with parents from time to time via written notes. Worksheets are usually completed in class almost every day. It would be helpful to give your son/ward a simple slip-in folder to keep all loose sheets of paper.

## **4. Managing Himself**

### **Money**

Let your son/ward accompany you when you buy food at the food centre and bookshops. Allow him to buy small items for himself. This will prepare him for his little purchases in school.

### **Play Mental Games “What would I do if ...”**

For example, if he had a tummy ache, if he lost his wallet or if someone took his pencil case. Guide him through his thinking process.

### **Knowing the School Premises**

Encourage him to be observant of signs and directions so that he can find his way in school. This will also build his confidence as he realises the school is not that overwhelming after all.

## **II. Preparing Yourself**

### **1. Your Child’s Growing Independence**

As your son/ward discovers a whole new world of school, he is going to grow up very quickly. Our role as parents is like that of a coach: watching the real game (with its victories and falls) from the sideline, encouraging him during the breaks, then sending him back into the playing field again. He needs to experience and discover for himself, so that he can assimilate into the system. Prepare yourself for the times when you may need to see him fall in the game and be sure to encourage and empower him when he comes



back to you during those breaks.

## 2. Role-modeling

### Respect for Authority

When we tell our children to obey the teacher's instructions, they also need to see us giving the same respect to authority. For example, during the first week of school when school dismissal will be unavoidably long and tedious, be patient with the teachers and obey the instructions given to parents just as you instruct your children to obey their teachers in class.

### Good Work Habits

Let your son/ward see you working to meet deadline. This way, he will understand the importance of completing his homework on time, doing his work with pride and being responsible for using his time wisely.

## 3. Having a Balanced Family Life

During periods of leisure and relaxation, engage in activities/conversations that do not have anything to do with schoolwork and grades. Your son/ward needs to be reminded that life does not consist only of school and that your relationship with him is not dependent on his grades.

## 4. Checking On All Prior Arrangements

\* **Transport** - Confirm the school bus schedule and find out who the driver is and get his most recent contactable number.

\* **Childcare** - Confirm before and after school care arrangements with grandparents or other care-givers.

\* **Shopping list** - Buy a good lightweight *school bag, pencil case and water bottle* that your son can easily handle. Avoid expensive items which may cause unnecessary competition among children.

## 5. Keep in Touch

\* **Class Teacher** – Your son/ward has a school diary. Use it to communicate or clarify matters with your son's/ward's class teachers.

\* **Schoolwork** – Keep a constant check on your son's/ward's worksheets and notices in his clear folder. File them regularly so that they don't pile up too much.

\* **Other parents** – Make contact with other parents of Primary 1 boys to keep abreast of



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happenings in the school.

\* **Volunteer at the school** - The school welcomes parents who have the time to spare to help out in school activities and events. Volunteering will give you the opportunity to participate in school activities and partner with the teachers/school better.

## III. Settling Into School

### 1. Let Him Settle In!

Children settle in much more easily when they can quickly internalise all that is happening. As parents, we need to facilitate this by listening and encouraging, not giving additional or contradicting instructions to them.

### 2. Label! Label! Label!

You will soon realise that in a sea of faces and belongings, all boys look the same, all water bottles and school bags look the same too. The solution is to label everything your son/ward takes to school including his shorts with his name and class.

### 3. Packing His Wallet and Lunch Box

Put some money (not too much or he will buy an eraser a day), a list of important phone numbers and his address for emergencies in his wallet. The school allows children to bring their own mobile phone but they need to abide by the school rules for the use of mobile phones. You can get an application form from the school office to register the phone for your child/ward. For some children, buying things on their own during recess may be very stressful. You may like to ease him into school by packing some snacks for the first few weeks.



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### **4. Packing His School Bag**

Pack his bag the night before school and subsequently watch him as he does it by himself. Train him to check his timetable and school diary every day.

### **5. Getting Onto the Right School Bus/To the Right Pick-up Point**

Check that the bus driver is the correct one. The last thing you want is for your son/ward to end up in the wrong school. Subsequently, accompany your son/ward as he leads you to the right pick-up point, and check the driver before he boards the bus.

### **6. Work with the School/Teachers**

Keep communication lines open with the school, especially the teachers. The well-being of your son/ward is your priority as well as the teachers'.



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### Parents' Reflections

Being third generation Anglo Chinese School (Primary) boy, I was still jittery on my son's first day in school. I am a father to a lovely P1 boy in 2022. I did not accompany my son on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school as I wanted mummy to have a look and feel of the school since she was never part of the Methodist education and she had only praises for it.

Of course, COVID-19 was still very much of a concern at the start of the year when measures were still taken seriously and conscientiously to ensure the safety and health of our boys. Many parents, however, were more concerned about the interaction and social well-being of the boys. Gone were the days where we could play catch at the quadrangle and kick some "chaptch".

I also had the opportunity to serve as a "Reading Warrior" parent volunteer and this gave me a chance to serve the school in a more tangible way. It was a rewarding experience for me to see the difference I made to the boys I had helped. I strongly encourage fellow parents to volunteer if you have pockets of time to spare!

To date, my son has had quite an adventure from mask-wearing, buying recess food, managing his limited pocket-money to being able to run around during recess as our Covid-19 measures eased down to a notch. Most importantly, educating our sons and allowing them to have fun in the process are never compromised and I am grateful for the chance again for my son to receive the ACS values and education, "THE BEST IS YET TO BE". Enjoy your journey with your little ones.

Mr Ian Lee  
Father of a Primary 1 child [ACS(P) 2022]



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## Parents' Reflections

There were many uncertainties on Nigel's first day of school due to COVID measures. These were my thoughts, can I accompany him to school on his first day, or watch him having his first recess? Fortunately, the COVID restrictions were relaxed and I was able to accompany him on his first day of school.

On the second day, his anxiety set in as I could only drop him off at the school gate and he had to enter the school and locate his classroom by himself. This was a pretty scary thought for me too but I had to put on a brave front and not show him that I was nervous! I was relieved to see that school staff and prefects were well positioned to spot any boy who might have lost his way, and this gave me the confidence to drop him off at the school gate. Nigel took a term to shed his anxiety before he could finally wave goodbye to me and walk in through the gate without turning his head.

Even before Nigel started school, I had heard so much about how strong and well managed the ACSP PSG was. During the orientation, I was very impressed with the quality and effort put into the activities that they organised. It was heartwarming to see that the PSG was focused on the boys' welfare and the parents' too. A class chat group was set up in lightning speed by the PSG. Information was passed down quickly and questions were promptly answered. The chat group gave lost mums like me a sense of security.

Teacher-aid (TA) is one part of the PSG that caught my attention. This is unique to ACS(P). I signed up for it. For the first month, TAs accompanied boys to the washroom as they may still be unfamiliar with the surroundings. After all, this is a big school. Also, at dismissal time, TAs helped to ensure that the boys follow their teacher to the respective dismissal points. Additionally, I was assigned to a boy in the class who needed academic support. I sat beside him and guided him on his pencil grip, writing and schoolwork while the teacher continued her teaching. After a few weeks, I could see the improvements that the boy had made. There was a great sense of pride and happiness. I felt proud of the boy.

Besides being a TA, I volunteered in International Friendship Day and Racial Harmony Day. Games were organised for the boys and they had a lot of fun. My boy loves seeing me in school and keeps asking when I will be back in school. My boy feels that teachers are firm but not fierce. He is able to approach them whenever he has problems. I really appreciated the constructive feedback they gave me during the Parent-Teacher Meeting. Friends are fun but not rough. With the relaxing of the Covid restrictions recently, he can now experience morning assembly and play during recess. He is also happy to sit together with his friends in the classroom. Nigel is now happily settled and looking forward to seeing his friends every day.

Ms Hui Si  
Mother of a Primary 1 child [ACS(P) 2022]



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## Acknowledgement

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- Mr Ian Lee
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