

Press release by Mr G. Arathoon, CE & S, CISCE, at the Press Conference organised by the ASISC West Bengal chapter. The conference was held in Kolkata on 7th June, 2017, on the occasion of their 20th AGM.

CISCE Curriculum for Preschool to Class VIII

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi has always been a pioneering force in the field of promoting quality education. Since its inception in 1958 it has taken giant strides to become a premier Board of Education in the National and International arena.

The Council has always strived to incorporate the very best in its prescribed syllabi. A strong foundation in the early classes, particularly up to the elementary stage, plays a very crucial and significant role in forging life-long learning. The skills, attitudes and knowledge that children acquire in elementary school lay the groundwork for future success. **The Council has therefore designed and developed a broad-based Curriculum for preschool to Class VIII, so as to facilitate an upward mobility in the teaching and learning process and to lead children in a graded and progressive manner to derive full benefit of the ICSE and ISC syllabi.**

The CISCE curriculum, which is applicable from the academic year 2017-18 aims to provide a **holistic and broad-based education, that will help realise not only the inherent potential of the children but also equip them with the skills and competencies necessary for the 21st Century.** It has been planned and organized in a systematic and scientific manner, keeping in view the prevalent trends in education. It also aims at providing **opportunities to sensitise children** for making them responsible citizens in a globally competitive and challenging environment and helping them make a positive contribution to society.

The curriculum is child centered and encourages an integrated approach, where children see linkages across various curricular areas and are able to relate classroom learning to real life situations. Taking into account different learning styles, the curriculum suggests a range of pedagogical processes which can be adapted by the teacher, based on their needs and contexts and the requirements of the children. The curriculum focuses on learning by doing and learning through interaction with others, giving children opportunities to

construct their own knowledge. Emphasis has also been placed in the curriculum on development of life skills. The curriculum encourages an inclusive approach and aims at bringing out the potential of each child.

Training Programmes

The CISCE curriculum at the Pre-School, Primary and Upper Primary levels endeavours to **provide a uniformity in the teaching-learning process** in all schools affiliated to the Council.

The Council has embarked on a mission to provide its teachers all **required support and assistance in the transaction of the new Curriculum** and to promote **best educational practices** that cater to the ever-changing trends in modern day education. In order to accomplish this the Council is planning to organise a series of subject wise training programmes.

In the first phase, subject wise Master Trainers would be identified from the North, South, West and East regions. These Master trainers would undergo 4-5-days' extensive training at the Council's offices **to orient them regarding the curriculum and the manner in which it needs to be transacted.** Training to Master Trainers would be provided by the experienced resource persons from leading educational organisations / institutions. **These master trainers would then conduct training programmes for subject teachers in their respective regions all over the country. It would be mandatory for all affiliated schools to send teachers for these training programmes.** The Council plans to conduct these Master training programmes for **all major subjects, including English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies this year.**

Future Initiatives

With the introduction of the CISCE curriculum, it becomes vital **to ensure that progression of students against the defined learning outcomes is carefully monitored.** The Council plans to do this through assessment which will be conducted at the levels of Class V and Class VIII in four subjects – English, Mathematics, Science (including Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and Social Studies (including History & Civics and Geography).

This assessment will however be different - students will not require any preparation, it will not require students to recall what they have learnt. Instead, it will require them to apply their knowledge and skills to problem solve and to think creatively.

The new assessment program will be designed keeping in mind the best global practices to assess and measure the current level of learning of children enrolled in CISCE affiliated schools. It will also determine the extent to which student learning is in accord with the new curriculum and identify the strengths and weaknesses and subsequent measures to bring about improved levels of learning and understanding. The data collected through assessment would help teachers and school leaders in better supporting all students in achieving their full potential, besides providing insights to parents on how their children are progressing. The assessment will also help students to identify potential career directions that align with their interests and academic strengths.

Another facilitation that the Council plans to make available to schools, is a **digital subject selection tool** that would enable students in making informed decisions relating to their future prospective careers, based on their interests, skills, personality and preferences. The tool would also allow students to explore various occupations to understand what kind of work each involves and what the prospects are. The tool would be self-administered with self-interpreting results.

The Research Development and Consultancy Division of the Council are engaged in reviewing the syllabi of Physical Education, Computer Application, Economics at the ICSE level and Biotechnology and Computer Science at the ISC level to ensure that students are equipped with the requisite knowledge and skills.

They are also engaged in the development of new syllabi for **Mass Media and Communication** at the ICSE level, **Mass Media and Communication** at the ISC level from academic year 2018-19 onwards.

Performing Arts for classes I to VIII, Sanskrit for classes V to VIII, Physical Education and Yoga for classes I to VIII - These new subjects are being included from classes I to VIII from the academic year 2018-19 onwards.

Candidates were given the option to directly apply for recheck apart from applying through the respective schools this year.

DigiLocker

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has partnered with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India in enabling the extension of the DigiLocker facility to candidates of Classes X (ICSE) & XII (ISC) of all its affiliated schools.

DigiLocker is a 'digital locker' service which provides dedicated personal electronic space in a government owned public cloud storage, where an individual can keep his/her documents, files or certificates. The individual is also able to download or share them online with various stakeholders as and when required. The storage space is linked to the Unique Identification Authority of India (Aadhaar number) of the user. The service is free, secure and user-friendly.

The Council, from the Examination year 2017 onwards, in addition to providing hard copies of certificates to the candidates of the ICSE & ISC Examinations has provided digitally signed copies of the Statement of Marks and the Pass Certificates. In addition, digitally signed Migration Certificates will also be made available only to ISC candidates.

The facility of digital documents has also been extended to the candidates who took the ISC (Class XII) and ICSE (Class X) Examinations in the years 2014 to 2016. They can now access their digital documents through the DigiLocker.

To access their digital documents, candidates are required to create an account with the DigiLocker using the URL <https://digilocker.gov.in>. After logging in to the DigiLocker Account, the candidates can follow the instructions on the Dashboard to access the required document(s).

While registering candidates in classes IX and XI, schools in India are also being instructed to capture the Aadhaar number of the candidates with Indian nationality.