School Response

The school response on the draft ESR report was received on 28 March 2022. The original text of the school response is incorporated as follows.

United Christian College (Kowloon East)

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Your Ref: EDB(QA/QAS)/ESR/1/1908 (21/22)

28 March, 2022

Dear Ms TSANG,

Re: School Response to the External School Review Draft Report

The school has received the External School Review (ESR) Draft Report dated 28 February 2022. I sincerely thank the ESR team for their dedication to the professional development of schools in Hong Kong. The inspection findings and suggestions for improvement provided important information for our school development and will surely be used as a tool for the professional growth of the staff team. With God's blessing, we will provide a better Christian education service to students in the future. Please find attached the school response to the ESR Draft Report. Should you have any follow-up discussion, please contact the Principal Dr CHENG at 2343 6677.

Yours sincerely,

(Mr Kenneth Jor Kin Chan, Supervisor)

School Response to the External School Review Draft Report

On behalf of the School Management Committee, teachers, parents and students, I would like to thank the External School Review (ESR) Team, led by Ms TSANG Wing-chi, Wendy, for their tremendous effort in conducting the professional review. The school has received from them not only positive encouragement and recognition of our strengths but also useful feedback and suggestions for improvement. We will follow their constructive suggestions with respect to the improvement of the school. We aim at providing quality education to students which meets the expectations of our gracious Lord Jesus Christ, parents and the community.

I also want to thank our teachers and supporting staff for their ceaseless efforts in the development of the school and nurturing of the students. Without their endless contributions, UCCKE could not have reached the achievements we attain today. May all the glory be to our God!

Building on Strengths

It is heartening to see the recognition from the Education Bureau (EDB) that 'taking into account the S1 intake, the school performed well in the HKDSE Examination in the past three years'. We know that there is still room for improvement; however, the recognition of our teachers' effort is reassuring. Students are being inspired to strive for excellence in their academic performance, and pursue their aspirations. We thank God for granting us a group of highly capable and teachable students, and they deserve the best quality education. To build on this strength, the school is diligent in guiding them to find their life goals and their callings from God, and unleash their God-given potentials.

Students' talents are not merely reflected in their academic results; they also excel in many non-academic areas. As acknowledged in the review, 'Students have gained numerous awards in territory-wide competitions...various awards in international competitions'. It is always the school's ambition to provide a wide range of opportunities for students to show their talents and be recognized. More importantly, as recognized in the review, 'the school has devoted much attention and resources to cultivate students to have a humble attitude with strong serving mind.' To take leverage of this strength, a more extensive platform is being sought, to help students search for their talents, develop and showcase their different talents and uniqueness.

Committed to Developing Teachers' Professionalism

The ESR pinpointed the fact that there is a significant percentage of young teachers, new, yet experienced, teaching force and new subject heads. These three groups of teachers are having some common, yet unique, professional development needs. The comprehensive mentorship

programmes as acknowledged by the ESR report help experienced or inexperienced teachers understand the culture of the school; and inexperienced teachers learned fast with the help of a mentor of the same teaching subject. The school has realized the needs of professional support to green subject heads and therefore hired consultancy services for the subjects – THS, Geography and Japanese. We are committed to providing professional support to young teachers, new teachers and green subject heads through internal and external resources.

In addition, Action Research is a strategy introduced to enhance teaching professionalism. Through doing small scale action researches, the effectiveness of many initiatives in learning and teaching, as well as student development can be evaluated. In the current SDP, we are only in a piloting stage; we aim to promote action research in a more extensive way in the next developmental cycle.

Committed to Continuous Development

The school will not see the positive comments in the draft report as endorsement of the school education ultimate goal being attained; on the contrary, we will accept them as confirmation of the right direction of our continuous development. As we are experimenting Assessment as Learning strategies, cultivating Positive Education atmosphere, developing Responsive Classroom features, promoting STEM skills and etc., it is very reassuring to know that we are on the right track. During the pandemic in the past two years, we have adjusted the implementation plans in our development, which is considered timely and appropriate as in the report; we are committed to continuous development in all these areas in the next developmental cycle.

When we read about the reviewers' comments on our students – 'Students display a serious learning attitude in lesson and demonstrate high motivation and engagement in L&T activities, take initiative to provide support to peers, enjoy a harmonious relationship with teachers and peers; student leaders demonstrate strong leadership; and all students develop strong sense of belonging to the school', we thank God for the all-rounded development of our students, inside and outside the classrooms. Knowing that they are just teenagers facing all sorts of challenges in their growth, we are here to guide, support and empower them with God's love. We are committed to continuous development in assisting them to grow intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually.