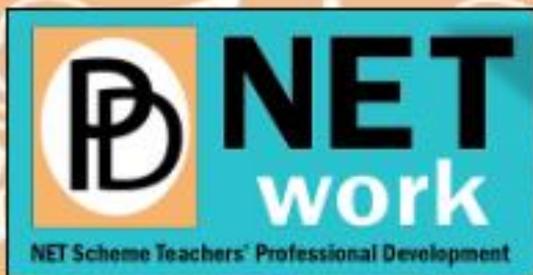


# PDNETwork online PD:

How teachers and schools have embraced the new mode



# PDNETwork online PD

The past year has seen an increased awareness of the NET Section's PDNETwork online learning platform.

This platform was redeveloped in the 2021-22 school year, with many new workshops and online functions for learners.

How has this new platform for professional development (PD) been embraced by teachers and schools in the past year?



# Some statistics for 2021-22 school year

The statistics below relate to completed workshops. Completed workshops are those that have been submitted by a teacher, approved and a PD certificate generated. (This is different to simply being enrolled.)

1,761 teachers enrolled for PDNETwork workshops and 1,010 completed workshops.

The most workshops completed by a teacher this year was 10.   
Congratulations Ms LEE Nga Yu from YOT Tin Ka Ping Primary School!

Five teachers completed 9 workshops this year and six have completed 8 workshops. Well done!

The school teams which have completed the most workshops are:

- YOT Tin Ka Ping PS
- SKH Tsing Yi Estate Ho Chak Wan PS
- Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee Kung Yik She PS



The most popular workshops were – *Matching Students to Book Levels* and *Catering for Students with SEN*



# Ways schools have embraced online PD through PDNETwork

Interviews with school leaders, teachers and advisory teachers (ATs) revealed a number of strategies that increased completion of PDNETwork workshops. These **success strategies** were:

1. All teachers do a pre-requisite PDNETwork workshop before a school-based workshop by the AT
2. All teachers do a pre-requisite PDNETwork workshop before revising the school English programme
3. All English teachers are set a challenge to achieve at least one PDNETwork workshop in a term
4. Teachers experience a PDNETwork workshop together
5. Non-Chinese speaking teachers complete a PDNETwork workshop during school PD days and meetings
6. Teachers do a PDNETwork workshop at government and sponsoring body PD days, especially for non-Chinese speaking teachers
7. New teachers in Primary Literacy Programmes (PLPs) do foundation workshops while teaching the PLP.

# Could these strategies work for your school?

## Find out how

The CDI policy for teacher PD can be found here at:

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/teacher/qualification-training-development/development/cpd-teachers/index.html>



Read on to find out how schools and advisory teachers have collaborated to embrace PDNETwork as a flexible and valued form of PD in schools.



## School success strategy story 1

# PDNETwork before a school-based workshop

This successful strategy involves all teachers independently completing a pre-requisite PDNETwork workshop before a school-based workshop by the AT.

### YOT Tin Ka Ping Primary School



**AT:** The principal at the school wanted to revise the school phonics programme from P1 to P6. The AT suggested all teachers experience the two online workshops on phonics to develop a shared understanding of the latest thinking and gain practical examples on how to teach phonics effectively. The EPC and PSMCD completed the workshops first followed by all the teachers by the end of term. This greatly informed how they went about revising their phonics programme.

**EPC:** During this COVID time, it has given teachers more time to reflect and complete the PDNETwork workshops such as phonological awareness. This workshop has equipped English teachers better, provided more knowledge and increased confidence to teach phonics.



One of the positive consequences of everyone completing phonics workshops at the school was how teachers became aware of what was available and the ease with which they could gain PD hours. Our teachers completed 34 workshops in the 2021-22 school year.



## SKH Tsing Yi Estate Ho Chak Wan Primary School



**AT:** At our school, we needed the teachers to learn how to match students to book levels as assessment for the reading programme. I proposed that all teachers do the online workshop to get a general understanding, and this would be followed by a school-based workshop. The timeframe was short, however the EPC was very collaborative, tracking with me which teachers had started and completed, and encouraging teachers so that we could achieve our goal.

**EPC:** Since the online learning is a self-paced learning platform, teachers can enjoy a higher flexibility in completing the course. When we encounter difficulties during learning, we can pause and review the material again. Also, we could seek help from our AT in the comment box.

PDNETwork helped us achieve our goal in a timely way. Doing two workshops (one online and one school-based) complemented each other. The online workshop acted as a good lead-in to our experienced and novice teachers. In the online workshop, we acquired the basic terminology and the procedure of matching students. In the school-based workshop, our AT reminded us of some key concepts in matching students. More importantly, we had a hands-on experience in doing a mock matching with our teachers which definitely deepened our understanding in matching students to book levels.



## School success strategy story 2

# PDNETwork to inform school-based curriculum development

This successful strategy involves all teachers independently completing a pre-requisite PDNETwork workshop before revising the school English programme.

**Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee  
Kung Yik She Primary School**



**AT:** At this school, the annual focus of the English plan was speaking and listening in KS2. I suggested all the English teachers complete the PDNETwork workshop called, “Listening and Speaking Skills” in Term 1. This was followed by my school-based workshop in Term 2. Everyone committed themselves to the process so we achieved the goal in a timely way.

**The school:** We think doing two workshops (one online and one school-based) is very effective because teachers acquire the concept and ideas on teaching listening and speaking during the online workshop. Then, teachers could apply it in different levels when they discuss and plan the activities during the school-based workshop.

## School success strategy story 3

# English Panel PD Challenge

This successful strategy involves setting all English teachers a challenge to achieve at least one PDNETwork workshop in a term.

**HKTA Yuen Yuen Institute Shek Wai Kok Primary School**





**AT:** At HKTA YYI Shek Wai Kok PS, the EPC assigned everyone the task of doing a PDNETwork by end of Term 1. Everyone completed a workshop of their choice and some completed two. Of interest to me, all teachers opted to do their PD in one sitting, although PDNETwork is designed to allow stopping and starting.

**NET:** The good thing about the workshop on Google Sites is that the learning and assessment task were very practical and applicable; connected to real life. It gave me the opportunity to make a good site for my classes so they can have sustained learning.

### **LETs:**

- After completing the workshop on teaching strategies for reading, I know more ways to help my students because they are relatively weak. Even during the pandemic we can learn online.
- Online learning is very practical and I can do this at home and use my devices and learn on my own.
- Learning online gave us more flexibility especially because of COVID.

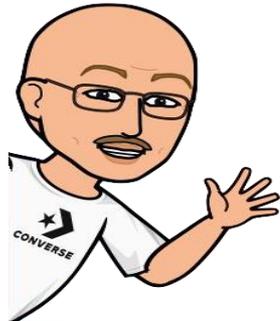
## School success strategy story 4

# Doing PDNETwork together

Teachers experience a PDNETwork workshop together, with the guidance of an AT, in this success strategy.

### Ling To Catholic Primary School

**AT:** It was decided to do Matching Students to Book Levels as an online experience together. This was a good way to learn how to use PDNETwork, while giving us all a shared experience necessary for the guided reading programme. After working through the workshop on a large screen, teachers submitted their practice sheets through the platform and I was able to approve their work immediately.



**LET:** Really informative and straight-forward.

**LET:** Very useful for me to identify the reading level of students so I can do guided reading with my class.

## School success strategy story 5

# Doing PDNETwork together

If meetings are in Chinese or not related to the NET's work, they (and ELTAs) can complete a PDNETwork workshop during school PD days or meetings.

Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School



**NET:** After negotiating with my principal, I was fortunate to take PD in English, whilst other staff took theirs in Chinese on the school PD day.

Last year, I decided to take the “Catering for Students with SEN” workshop on the online platform. I very much enjoyed taking this PD obviously to educate myself more in the topic of special educational needs since teachers are seeing more SEN students in their classrooms. As an experienced teacher, sometimes you ‘think’ you know a great deal about the topic since one has been teaching in the field for quite some time, but there is always something to learn about SEN. A few tools I ‘took away’ from this online PD were on the topic of behavioural (social and emotional behaviours) issues, what to watch out for in my classes, and how to properly cater to these students. I also learned that proper planning is critical (example: IEPs in place) as is the importance of teachers following through with the necessary plans put in place for these students. And also to review these plans on a consistent and frequent basis.

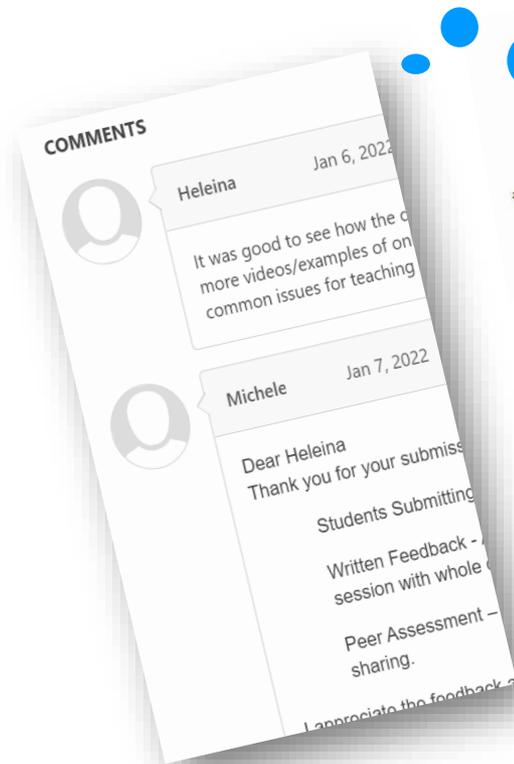
What I really enjoyed about taking the PNETwork online PDs is it is PD created by a very experienced team of teachers and experts which is completely FREE to take if you are a primary teacher working for the EDB. It is readily accessible, at your fingertips at any time, for all teachers to upgrade and refresh their knowledge on important teacher and classroom topics. And the best part is, you never need to leave your school or English room to take them, since all the information and tools are available online.

## School success strategy story 6

# Use government and sponsoring body PD Days

Non-Chinese speaking teachers can do a PDNETwork workshop when attending the PD days arranged by schooling organisations.

### North Point Government Primary School (Cloud View Road)



**NET:** I did my first workshop on the PDNETwork when the Government PD Day workshop was cancelled due to COVID. I was surprised by how easy it was to sign up. The material was very straightforward and included many helpful videos. There was also a personal mentor assigned to you to offer support and feedback.

# School success strategy story 7

## Catch up on CPD for PLPs

Many teachers who join a primary literacy programme (PLP) school may have missed CPD.

They can learn how to teach the PLP by completing the foundation workshops on PDNETwork, which are described in the PDNETwork Information Sheets 2, 3 and 4 that are located at:

<https://nets.edb.hkedcity.net/page.php?p=565>



**Overview of workshop by topic area**

Workshops	Topic Areas																	
	Assessment literacy	Quality of learning	Curriculum planning	Learning	Grammar	Language arts	Literacy foundations	Podcast	Phonics	PLP	RLC	Reading	Self-directed learning	Speaking and listening	STEM	Writing	Vocabulary	Writing
Analyzing running records	*	*										*						
Catering for students with SEN	*	*							*	*	*						*	*
Classroom management		*	*															
Creating an English-rich environment	*	*							*	*	*						*	*
Cross-boundary student support	*	*							*	*	*						*	*
DL: Developing MDTs through scaffolding	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Flipped classroom	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Google sites	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Guided reading - Let's go!	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Introduction to KIP	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Introduction to PLP-R/W	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Learning English through play	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Learning progression framework	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Learning through play	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Listening and speaking	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Making use of hearing aid	*	*							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

**PDNETwork**  
PDNETwork is the platform which hosts the NET Section's online workshops for English language teachers in the Education Bureau Hong Kong. <https://nets.edb.hk>

Information Sheet 4 (August 2021)

### Teaching PLP-R/W and KIP? You can do the CPD online!

PDNETwork is the platform which hosts the NET Section's online workshops for English language teachers in the Education Bureau Hong Kong. <https://nets.edb.hk>

#### PLP-R/W and KIP schools

Two other versions of the literacy programmes, PLP-R/W (P1-2) and KIP (P4-6) continue in many schools.

- PLP-R/W - Primary Literacy programme - Reading/Writing (mostly co-taught by LET and NET in English and GE rooms)
- KIP - Key Stage 2 Immersion programme (also taught by LETs in their GE rooms)

#### CPD for PLP-R/W and KIP - LETs and NETs

Teachers who are new to these schools, or who wish to refresh their knowledge and skills, can do the relevant CPD online. The relevant workshops are listed below as a planner that may assist in tracking progress as you work through the series.

#### Foundation literacy workshops tracker

Workshop	Hours	Completed	Learning track completed	Learning track not completed
Introduction to PLP-R/W	1.5 hours			

NET Section, Curriculum Development Institute, EDB, HKSAR



# Success ingredients

What these school stories show us is the following success ingredients:

Top down support from the principal, EPC and PSMCD



Collaboration between the AT and EPCs



PDNETwork as part of the school's PD strategy



Quality online feedback between teachers and AT-mentors



Value for PDNETwork certificates

PDNETwork for teacher choice and school topics

Flexible PD mode offering many possibilities

