

# ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF DISCIPLINE (AMD)



# WHAT IS ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF DISCIPLINE?

- A holistic approach to discipline resulting desired positive and pro-social behaviour
- The opposite of corporal punishment
- Promotes mutual respect
- Identifies and explores the belief behind the behaviour
- Involves effective communication and problem solving
- Focuses on solutions rather than causing hurt or harm
- Teaches discipline and expected behaviours

# What is Corporal Punishment?

- Any punishment or physical force intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort in response to unacceptable behaviour including but not limited to: hitting with the hand, a cane, strap or other object, kicking, shaking or throwing students, scratching, pinching, gagging, locking students up and forcing them to stay in uncomfortable positions or under unreasonably and uncomfortable conditions, such as standing in the sun for extended periods.

# Corporal Punishment

- It impairs the development of children towards their optimal potential as socially responsible adults and may adversely affect their self image, achievement and attainment targets and may contribute to the increase of disruptive, anti-social and violent behaviours.

# Why some teachers use Corporal Punishment...

- It is the quickest way to stop a behavior
- It is assumed that it is effective
- Teacher administering punishment were punished too.
- To send a message to the class that they are in charge.
- The teacher has no more strategy

# Why some teachers use Corporal Punishment...

- The teacher is frustrated
- Angry because of repeated behavior
- It is easy to do
- Permission given by parent(s)/caregiver
- Think students are more responsive to that kind of discipline
- Tradition/Culture

# Impact of Corporal Punishment on Children

- Erodes basic trust and stimulates anger and resentment
- Slows the development of feelings of autonomy and produces some degree of shame and doubt
- Demeans the child, inhibits initiative and stimulates development of shame, guilt, anger and the desire to retaliate
- Causes the teacher to lose some flexibility in relating with the students
- Produces feelings of inferiority, helplessness and the inability to succeed

# Why Alternative Methods of Discipline?

- A new strategy is needed to provide discipline
- There is the overwhelming need to reduce anti-social behaviour and violence in our schools, communities and country
- Better use of human resources in schools
- Building better relationships
- Alignment with global trends, practices and conventions
- Alignment with local mandate



## In support of AMD

June 12, 2006 the Archdiocesan Education Board declared :

“Opposition to the use of any form of corporal punishment in Roman Catholic Schools. No student shall be subject to the infliction of corporal punishment”



# The Ministry's Position

- In 2008, the Hon. Minister of Education called for all forms and practices of Corporal Punishment to be abandoned in all schools.
- This was in light of the numerous cases that were presented wherein teachers were in trouble for hurt and injury inflicted on students as they attempted to correct anti-social behaviours
- Corporal Punishment seek to hurt and harm rather than teach and discipline
- Jamaica's faithfulness to Local Law & International Conventions



# The Ministry's Position

- A policy on School Safety and Security is being written for presentation to the Parliament
- The Child Friendly Schools thrust is presented in the policy as well as the move to position to have all forms of Corporal Punishment outlawed in our school system
- Legislation is to follow which will make the use of Alternative Methods of Discipline the only legal options available deal with anti-social behaviours in our school system



# The Ministry's Position

- Educators must be sensitized to Alternative Methods of Discipline Strategies and be trained in the use of these strategies
- Resources be provided to assist educator to deal with students who display levels of anti-social behaviours and violence which is beyond the school system
- Ongoing training, Printed materials, Manuals and Tool Kits on AMD strategies will be prepared for the system. Programmes such as In-school Suspensions, PASS, ASIP and the Schools Safety and Security bolstered to meet needs

# Classroom Discipline is not:

- Classroom management.
- Strictly a punishment system.
- Strictly a reward system.
- Screaming, shouting, or any other confrontational behavior
- A list of don'ts.
- A cure-all for teaching woes
- To eat up valuable class time.

# Classroom discipline is:

- A companion to classroom management.
- Part of a routine class session.
- A system to maintain desired behaviours.
- Managed, modeled and maintained by the teachers and students
- Imperative



# Discipline Strategies

## Preventative Discipline

- Clear expectations
- An attractive and welcoming environment
- Well- planned room
- Adequate resources to keep students occupy
- Organize curriculum to cater for mixed ability

# Discipline Strategies cont'd...

## Corrective Discipline

- Teacher's response to negative behaviours in the classroom – casual and direct questioning
- A simple warning, motion/instruction to redirect actions
- Defusing conflicts
- Remind and apply the consequences for breaking the rules

# Discipline Strategies cont'd...

## Supportive Discipline

- Following up on disruptions (try not to out all fires, this will result in “burn out”).
- Encourage your students
- Re-establish working relationships
- Develop and maintain respect
- Try to maintain a positive classroom
- Encourage team work



# What can you do?

- Embrace concept of AMD
- Teach/Train your colleagues in use of AMD strategies
- Use AMD strategies to discipline
- Document your actions and findings
- Institutionalize the use of AMD as the natural response to discipline to be used in your school
- Abandon all practices of Corporal Punishment
- Educate the parents of the school's thrust toward the use of AMD strategies