

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN GHANA

Ghana's school system is patterned after the British system, but underwent a number of changes over the past 60 years. Before 1974, for instance, the system was structured into six years of elementary education and four years of secondary education. At some point, it also changed to ten (10) years elementary (six years primary and four years middle) schooling. After elementary school, students could further go on to do five years secondary education or pursue technical vocational education. Those who pursued five years secondary education could further go on to complete a two-year UK-based equivalent advanced level (A-level) university-preparatory curriculum before enrolling in three-year undergraduate programs (10+5+2+3).

At present, the system is divided into two years kindergarten, six years of primary, three years of junior high education (jointly referred to as **basic education**), followed by three years of senior high education and four-year university programs (2+6+3+3+4). Basic education until grade nine is compulsory for all Ghanaian children, but senior high education is not but free for all who enroll.

Basic education in Ghana begins at age 4 when the child is expected to enroll at kindergarten one.

THE INVOLVMENT OF THE RELIGIOUS BODIES IN GHANA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Missionary involvement in education in the then Gold Coast now Ghana, dates as far back as 1828 when the Presbyterian Church started operating schools. These efforts were complemented by the Methodists and the Roman Catholics. Since then the church has, been at the forefront of education in the present day Ghana.

The missionaries used education as a tool to propagate the gospel. They taught it more convenient and easier to evangelize people who could read and write than illiterate community. They, therefore, set up schools in all parts of the country to teach people how to read and write so that they could read and understand the Holy Bible. The missionaries also set up training

colleges to train indigenes to become teachers and pastors (catechists) in the schools. This eventually led to the establishment training colleges across the length and breadth of the country.

Missionaries operating schools in Ghana include Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, A.M.E Zion, Roman Catholic and the Salvation Army. As socio-political climate of the country changed with the attainment of Ghana's independence, the curriculum of the various schools and training colleges also changed to prepare the human resource for the country's developmental needs.

With the attainment of independence in March, 1957 the education of the masses became part of the responsibilities of the government. With the religious organizations already involved in education of the people, government thought it prudent to share these responsibilities and not be seen to be usurping the frontiers of these religious bodies. Government, consequently, took over all schools in the country, as policies regarding education changed, but allowed the religious bodies to assist by running the administration of the schools. It must be emphasized that schools started by government after independence are being administered by the district and municipal assemblies within their jurisdiction. The central government has absolute control of all schools in Ghana. Thus, government became responsible for the supply of logistics, provision of infrastructure, payment of teachers' salaries, supervision, design and implementation of policies and programmes, design of curriculum and training and posting of personnel. This is to ensure uniform education for all children in the country.

Currently, all teachers in schools in Ghana (both missionary and non-missionary) are paid from government sources. Teachers' remuneration is based on teacher qualification, experience and grade.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES:

By the practice of FIMEM, a new movement starting in a country needs an old movement from another country to help them with organization and training and be introduced into FIMEM. As a result of this, the Swedish Freinet Movement has taken up this task for the movement in Ghana.

The Ghanaian Freinet movement is, therefore, under the training and direction of the Freinet Movement in Sweden. So far the movement in Sweden has donated screen projector, books on

Freinet pedagogy, three programmed computers and English story books to the movement in Ghana. They also decided to pay for the total cost (flight, accommodation and feeding) for two members of the Freinet Movement Ghana to attend ridef 2018 which could not materialize due to visa acquisition challenges. The Swedish Frienet Movement invited three members from Ghana to Sweden for twenty days for training and further collaboration. The visiting team visited four Freinet schools in Sweden to have a first-hand observation and experience on Freinet pedagogy.

The team upon return to Ghana has organized two training sessions for its members. The first one was at Potsin DA Primary School and the other at Methodist A/C JHS in Winneba.

SCHOOL	NAME	SUBJECTS TAUGHT	DISTRICT	PHONE NO.
POTSIN DA PRIMARY	LINDA QUAYE	ENGLISH,	GOMOA EAST	0546547728
	MILLICENT ABAIDOO	MATHEMATICS		0245712645
	APPIAH	SCIENCE		0242109854
	ONWONA- AGYEMANG	MORAL EDUCATION		0246593978
	FRED ERICK OPPEY	PHYSICAL EDUCATION		0541787942
	EVELYN SAKYIWA	ICT		0246619596
	KUSI DORIS ARHIN	CREATIVE ARTS *(primary school subjects)		
METHODIST A/C JHS	SELMA ABBAN	PRINCIPAL	EFFUTU MUNICIPAL	0244962130
	ESTHER OSSEI	HOME		0540699841

	ESTHER WILSON THEOPHILUS B. MENSAH BERNARD ADAMS JOHN MENSAH DOREEN ASHONG	ECONOMICS SOCIAL STUDIES FRENCH SCIENCE ART MATHEMATICS		0263291868 0541240196 0208154783 0243859912
AJUMAKO BROFOYEDUR DA BASIC	THOMPSON OWUSU	SOCIAL STUDIES	AJUMAKO/ENYAN ESSIAM	0503769929
NEW WINNEBA MA BASIC SCHOOL	JOYCE ODURO EMMANUEL SETH PANWUM LINDA ANNOR	ENGLISH PRINCIPAL ICT	WINNEBA DISTRICT	0202020894 0242830169
UNIPRA SOUTH JHS	GRACE ABEDU FAUSTINA ESHUN RUTH MENSAH	MATHEMATICS CREATIVE ARTS ENGLISH	EFFUTU MINICIPAL	0240564390 0244091145
A.M.E ZION BASIC	MABEL QUARTEY	SOCIAL STUDIES	EFFUTU MUNICIPAL	

	ESTHER ARMAH JULIANA BOTWE	MORAL EDUCATION		
NSUAEM DA BASIC	ERIC GYASI VIDA ARTHUR	CLASS TEACHERS	GOMOA CENTRAL	0249972515 0244621756

***GHANAIAN SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

Subjects taught in Ghanaian schools are the same across the length and breadth of the country.

The basic school syllabus/curriculum is the same in all schools. Pupils are taught English Language, Mathematics, Science, Creative Arts, Physical Education, Moral Education and Information and Communication Technology.

At the primary level, class teachers are responsible for teaching all the subjects to their pupils in the class. Thus, each class teacher teaches all the subjects. The situation is different at the Junior High School level. Teachers are allocated subjects which they have specialized in teaching. Periods are also allocated on the schools time table for each subject. Thus, teachers teach their various subjects in each class as and when their periods are due.