



Ms Indranee Rajah discussing with Admiralty Primary School's Thejesvi Ramesh, nine, their roles in a game of slap ball. ST PHOTO: JAMIE KOH

Teaching students to be a sport through, well, sports

PE teachers to impart values during lessons in new Singapore Sports Council scheme

By PRISCILLA KHAM

PLAY hard, but be gracious. Go all out, but remember sportsmanship.

These are the kind of values that the Singapore Sports Council aims to impart to students through physical education (PE) and sports, with the use of a new framework.

"Sport develops the whole person - body, mind and spirit," said Singapore Sports Council chief executive Lim Teck Yin at yesterday's launch of the programme.

"And we should strive to create op-

portunities for character growth, rather than leave it to chance."

Under the new "character and leadership through sport" framework, teachers and coaches will receive broadly-designed lesson plans, from games to role-play, which they can customise for students.

More than 450 teachers and students from schools including Admiralty Primary, Evergreen Secondary, and Singapore Management University (SMU), have taken part since the programme's pilot started last June.

Said Evergreen Secondary principal

Carol Lim: "It allows the PE teacher to do what the values education teacher does, to teach values in the time it takes to conduct a PE lesson."

Mr Shahril Jalani, a 33-year-old PE teacher at Admiralty Primary, has witnessed the positive impact the programme has had on his students.

"They are not only better able to articulate what graciousness means, but they also demonstrate it better. Now, during inter-class games, they are the first to offer handshakes to their opponents, win or lose," he said.

SMU undergraduate Oh Zhan Yuan, 22, said of the programme: "I realised that values can be imparted more effectively through experience rather than being explained verbally."

The programme, which is expected

to be rolled out to 120 more schools in the next two years, will begin its pilot in companies next month, to help develop teamwork and productivity in the corporate world.

The framework is part of the "Game for Life" toolkit launched by the sports council yesterday at the inaugural Leadership Symposium at the SMU, where Senior Minister of State for Law and Education Indranee Rajah was the guest of honour.

The toolkit also includes a book called Game For Life: 25 Journeys, which features 25 Singaporeans, including Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, whose lives have been changed through sports.

pkham@sph.com.sg