



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM



SCHOOLS' BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME



THE ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Education launched the **Adopt A School (AAS) Programme in September 2020**. A call was made for Corporate T&T, NGOs and other entities to work with the Ministry to donate devices (at that time) to schools for children who were in need. Additionally, they were also invited to provide connectivity where possible. The programme was rolled out over the course of one year from September 2020 and is still ongoing. This was **Phase 1** of the Adopt A School Programme.

This public engagement initiative was essential to mitigate the ravages of the pandemic on the Education Sector, by creating an enabling environment for students to learn using technology, while the world engaged in remote work and learning.

OBJECTIVES

The AAS programme is about creating a long-term meaningful partnership which would provide schools with vital resources and networks to facilitate the establishment of long-term philanthropic relationships between the corporate & education sectors.

The benefits of adoption for donors and sponsor included:

- ✓ Building a culture of philanthropy in T&T
- ✓ Improved school-community relations
- ✓ Improved corporate image (brand alignment)
- ✓ Enabling better quality education for all students
- ✓ Enabling a more educated workforce

ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAMME - PHASE 2

To date, corporate institutions, NGOs and other entities continue to give devices and other support towards the Ministry of Education. The Ministry is grateful for these contributions as there is always need within the sector.



As the world and Trinidad & Tobago continues the fight against the pandemic, two years in, other needs have arisen which are critical so that learning, teaching, safety, and wellness continue to be a feature in schools.

Phase 2 of the Adopt A School Programme therefore presents a framework for partnership between the corporate sector and schools that includes but extends past the provision of devices into the following areas:

AREAS OF FOCUS

- 1. Physical Environment**
- 2. Development & Educational Programmes**
- 3. Multi-Media Equipment**
- 4. Digital Transformation**
- 5. Health & Wellness**
- 6. Safety & Pandemic Protection**

The Ministry would like to focus on the **Physical Environment** to pilot and champion a ***School Beautification Programme***. This will focus on the following three (3) areas.

-  Beautification
-  General Upkeep & Maintenance
-  Physical Environment Building Works

This proposal therefore will focus on the Beautification Drive and other related Projects in Schools.

THE SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME

Beautification is the **process of making visual improvements in a town, city, school or organisation**. Visible and tangible results of school beautification projects are the changes to the physical surroundings, for example removing graffiti from walls, picking up litter and garbage and even planting new trees and flowers will help to create a clean and attractive learning environment. Physical changes inside the school could include adapting the classrooms and common areas by painting murals or encouraging the students to decorate the outside of the lockers.

The Benefits of School Beautification

1. Effects on School Climate

School beautification is an important contribution to improvements in school climate. The school climate refers to the quality and character of school life. It is based on patterns of students', parents' and school personnel's experience of school life and reflects norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices, organizational structures, and safety inside the school.

A sustainable, positive school climate fosters youth development and learning necessary for a productive, contributing and satisfying life in society at large. It impacts all the following areas:

- ✓ Norms, values and expectations that support people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe.
- ✓ People are engaged and respected.
- ✓ Students, families and educators work together to develop, live and contribute to a shared school vision.
- ✓ Educators model and nurture attitudes that emphasize the benefits and satisfaction gained from learning.
- ✓ Each person contributes to the operations of the school and the care of the physical environment.

Research has shown that a positive school climate not only decreases student absenteeism and dropout rates (Center for Social and Emotional Education, 2010) but it also has a significant incidence in students' academic performance (OREALC-UNESCO, 2008).

2. Effects on Student Psyche

Along with encouraging students to be more involved in their school, it **teaches students how to be more respectful of the environment and to clean up after themselves** Additionally, a well-maintained school provides a safe and attractive learning environment for students.

School beautification projects can offer much more than physical improvements to the school buildings and grounds. Teachers stated that involving students in the process of improving the quality of their school environment taught pride of ownership, community spirit, and leadership skills. Students who took part in campus beautification continued to seek experiences in campus improvement.



3. Effects on Educational Opportunities

Beautification projects provide a unique and relevant teaching opportunity. The educational objectives of such projects could be that children learn about the history of the school and surrounding area, or that they make signs about the plants that they add to the school grounds.

They could learn about the biodiversity of the school grounds or the correct way to apply paint for the murals. Tying the beautification project into the school's academic curriculum enhances the children's learning. The following are some of the curriculum subjects and skills a school beautification project can teach children in a fun and collaborative way.

- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Art & Craft
- ✓ Biology
- ✓ Chemistry
- ✓ Environmental Science
- ✓ Gardening
- ✓ Project Management
- ✓ Technical Drawing
- ✓ Woodwork

4. Effect on Environmental Awareness

Any changes to the school, whether to the physical buildings or to the grounds, allow the children to develop a heightened awareness of the environmental issues surrounding the school community.

Identifying the immediate natural environment and its characteristics as they plant trees, flowers and shrubs will connect the students directly to the earth. Developing solutions to improve the area and to keep it from regressing can create a sense of responsibility in the students and a desire to preserve the changes



5. Effect on Personal Development

There are many opportunities for personal development of the students within these projects. One objective is to have the students play leadership roles and take responsibility for the planning and conduct of the beautification project.

Participating in the project can instil a sense of pride and ownership for the school in the students. Working with peers and being involved in group decision-making also provide personal development opportunities.



6. Effect on Community Building

Building community relationships is an important objective, which will last beyond the beautification project. Involving a variety of people in the project is important, starting with the school community of teachers, students and support staff, and moving outward to parents. Local businesses can donate supplies and local organizations, such as senior homes or the Girl Guides, may offer to help. Developing a community sense of pride and ownership, and contributing to the improvement of the local environment, will establish lasting ties in the community.



The Ministry of Education invites companies, organisations, and NGOs to participate in the Adopt A School Beautification Programme.

Schools can be adopted from the Ministry of Education listing, then support can be pledged for these schools. Sponsors are also free to work with schools within their fence line areas and communities.

Note: The Ministry of Education and the school will be responsible for implementation of the project within the schools, based on the donation of the sponsors. The entire project will be a collaboration between all stakeholders.

**To pledge your support and to discuss further
Email adoptaschool@moe.gov.tt**