

## Acknowledgements

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the benefits for the students and school?

In this fun-filled programme, students can:

- Display their artistic creativity as they learn about the importance of toilet etiquette and social responsibility.
- Discover the importance of team work and hone their organizational and leadership skills as they embark on a whole new discovery about toilets.
- Forge a closer bond with each other while promoting the school spirit.
- Gain CIP points.

The school's overall image is also enhanced. A whole new perspective about toilets will be cultivated.

### What are the supervising teachers/staff expected to do?

- To attend a one-hour training session whereby their roles will be explained in details.
- To provide guidance and supervision to the students.
- To conduct the assembly talk and the Happy Toilet Visit.
- To supervise and advise the students on decoration of school toilets.
- To assist and guide the students in other extension activities of the programme such as having a "Toilet Patrol Team" etc.

### How many students should be involved?

A minimum group of 15 students are to be the main activists spearheading the programme.

These students who can be from different levels (e.g. Primary 5 and 6)/ different classes of same level (e.g. Primary 5A and 5B)/ same CCA (e.g. Green Club) will be the "pioneer batch" of Toilet Ambassadors.

Ideally, the entire school should participate in the programme. The forms of participation may include the following:

1. Giving suggestions as to how to decorate the toilets and name the newly-decorated toilets
2. Donating decorative materials/ ornaments
3. Making "Good Toilet Etiquette" posters/ decorative items
4. Voting of their favourite toilet(s)
5. Giving feedback and testimonial(s)
6. Being part of a "Toilet Patrol Team" to conduct routine toilet checks
7. Adopting other school toilets by participating in the HTSE programme again



### How many toilets should be decorated?

- A minimum of 2 student toilets (one male, one female).
- No limit to the number of toilets a school wants to decorate as long as the decorated toilets remain well-maintained and sustainable.
- Ideally, all of the school toilets, including staff toilets should eventually become Happy Toilets.

Recommendation: To start on a small and manageable scale. Schools are encouraged to repeat the programme on a larger scale after the pilot project; by using the newly decorated toilets as role models to motivate other students to adopt other school toilets.

### How long will the entire programme take?

Schools are strongly encouraged to complete the programme between three to six months.

As every school has different pools of resources and schedules, the programme is made flexible. RAS will coordinate the programme progress according to the school's schedule. It is recommended that the programme progress timeline fits into the school's time-table and curriculum.

### How much will it cost?

- RAS's services are free.
- Transportation and decoration material costs to be borne by the school.

If you would like to know more about the HTSE programme, please feel free to contact **RAS at 6297 9824 / [info@toilet.org.sg](mailto:info@toilet.org.sg)**. We look forward to sharing this programme with you.



# Happy Toilet School Education Programme



## President's Message

"Own the Toilets, Take Charge and Make it Shine!"

The other day, my 8 year-old boy chided me for not covering my nose when I sneezed. Surprised, I asked him who taught him that and he proudly replied that his teacher did.

Isn't it ironic how children can sometimes teach adults the correct social habits when we accidentally forget to "practise what we preach"? This is exactly what the Happy Toilet School Education (HTSE) programme hopes to achieve, i.e. to educate our next generation to be socially responsible toilet users who will in turn influence their parents and relatives.

Children spend at least 5 hours in school everyday, during which visits to the toilets are inevitable. Going to the toilet is as much a part of our culture as eating and drinking, and clean, well-maintained "Happy School Toilets" will definitely help to ensure healthy children.

At the Restroom Association (Singapore), also known as RAS, we believe in educating our young to become considerate toilet users through innovative and interesting methods. The HTSE programme aims to educate children and teens on the importance of practising good toilet etiquette and the effects of such on personal health. Through lively assembly talks, interesting Happy Toilet Visits and fun-filled Toilet Décor projects, students can learn more about Good Personal Hygiene Habits, Toilet Etiquette & Social Responsibility.

RAS is proud to launch the HTSE programme to raise the cleanliness standards and overall image of school toilets and to contribute to the enhancement of school toilets in a sustainable manner. Working together with the National Environment Agency (NEA), our dream is to have gracious Singaporeans who take pride in our public toilets being another icon of Singapore's star quality. I hope you will join us in this effort and look forward to working together with you.

By playing our parts as responsible toilet users, we can all "Own the Toilets, Take Charge and Make it Shine!"

**Ms Tan Puay Hoon**  
President  
Restroom Association (Singapore)

## Who is RAS?

The Restroom Association (Singapore) also known as RAS, is a private, non-profit organization that largely relies on volunteers' efforts. Established in Singapore in 1998, the organization is dedicated in raising the standards of cleanliness, design and functionality of public toilets in Singapore.

RAS serves the community by working with government bodies, legislators, developers, facility managers, cleaning contractors and the general public to achieve clean public toilets.

To reach out to the young – the next generation in our society, RAS (a **CIP-approved organization**) has initiated a public health educational programme for the primary and secondary school students.



## What is the Happy Toilet School Education (HTSE) Programme?

The HTSE programme is an ongoing fun educational initiative that is set out to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Inculcate Good Toilet Etiquette, Personal Hygiene Habits and Social Responsibility in the students.**
2. **Raise the Cleanliness Standards and Overall Image of School Toilets.**
3. **Support the 'Singapore's OK' Programme for Schools.**

Supported by National Environment Agency (NEA), the HTSE has improved the cleanliness and users' behaviour in many schools. Since its official launch in July 2005, 94 out of 329 Primary and Secondary Schools are actively involved in this fun and enriching programme. Many of which are repeating the programme for the second time.



## Learning Objectives

In a fun and interactive manner, children will learn:

- Dirty toilets are not just smelly and unpleasant, but are germ-ridden and can cause them to fall sick.
- Clean toilets are the responsibility of users, not just cleaners; each user has a social responsibility in keeping the toilets clean.
- To keep the toilets clean and dry, everyone needs to be considerate and adopt good toilet habits such as washing hands with soap after visiting the toilets and flushing the toilets after use.
- How to wash their hands correctly.

After the programme, the students will act as Toilet Ambassadors, spreading the message of clean toilets to their relatives and friends.

## How is the programme conducted?

This programme utilizes **creative, interactive activities** and **hands-on participation** for the students to create awareness of toilet-related health issues and to encourage active participation. With hands-on participation, it is also a **fun & interactive** way to teach good habits and to inculcate social responsibility.

It is a two-pronged approach:

### 1. Capacity Building for Teachers to ensure Sustainability of Programme.

Phase 1 – Training of Supervising Teachers/Student Leaders (1 hour)

### 2. Inculcating Social Responsibility & Toilet Etiquette in Students through Innovative, Hands-On activities.

Phase 2 – Let's Talk About "Loo-tiquette" (Assembly Talk: 20 – 30 mins)

Phase 3 – Loo Excursion (Happy Toilet Visit: 2.5 – 3 hours)

Phase 4 – "Light Up My Loo!" (School Toilet Decoration: 1 – 4 months – subject to the scale and extent of decoration)

Phase 5 – "Loo, Attention!" (Toilet Audit)

Phase 6 – "Cheers To My Happy Toilet!" (Reward and Recognition)

## Optional: Improving the Standards of Cleanliness in the School toilets

Phase 7 – Training of Cleaning & Maintenance Staff  
Phase 8 – Audit & reinforcement of Happy Toilet Standards



Upon request, for a fee, RAS can train and reinforce Happy Toilet standards for the toilet i.e. facilities & cleaning staff.

The school toilets will be certified under the Happy Toilet Programme. At the end of Phase 8, the toilets will have Happy Toilet standards in Cleanliness and Maintenance.

## Testimonials

*"This unique experience has given them a sense of ownership and pride towards their work. They appreciate the value of having a beautifully decorated and well-maintained toilet."*

Ms Oh, Teacher, Si Ling Primary School

*"There has been a change in the behaviour of the students since the programme. They tend to use the toilet that they are decorating more carefully."*

Ms Kandi-Mary, Cleaner, Zhonghua Secondary School

*"It has been a memorable experience as we have learnt more about teamwork, mixing colours and making decisions together. We are proud to have played a part in making the restroom a much more comfortable place for the students in our school."*

Student Council 2005, Temasek Secondary School

*"Not only have our pupils benefited from this splendidly crafted educational package that serves to make our pupils more responsible and gracious toilet users, our Learning Restroom concept was so successful that it was featured in the Channel News Asia Programme called 'Get Real'....."*

Mrs Sroya Jaswant, Principal, Zhangde Primary School