

Linking school and home leads to student success

By Jang Ellice Ramantan



A mother teaches her child at home (File Photo)

Children learn best when their parents, teachers and other community members work together to encourage and support them. In order to strengthen the delivery of basic education, schools alone cannot address every child's learning needs. The meaningful involvement of parents is essential.

In recognising the importance of this collaboration, Sekolah Rendah Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Omar Áli Saifuddin Kuala Belait (SRPSBSOASKB), has implemented the 'School-Home Link' programme. It is an initiative that aims at providing knowledge and skills to parents in monitoring the core subjects namely English, Mathematics, Science and Bahasa Melayu (EMSBM).

The programme, started in April 2019, was organised in collaboration with the parents of Year 6 students, teachers and the school administration, to improve the Year 6 achievements in Penilaian Sekolah Rendah (PSR). According to SRPSBSOASKB Headmistress Cikgu Hajah Nor Zurina binti Haji Asim, the role of Lead Teacher and Assistant Teacher was crucial for each subject as the school aimed at giving support and enhancing communications between the school and parents during the 'School-Home Link' sessions.

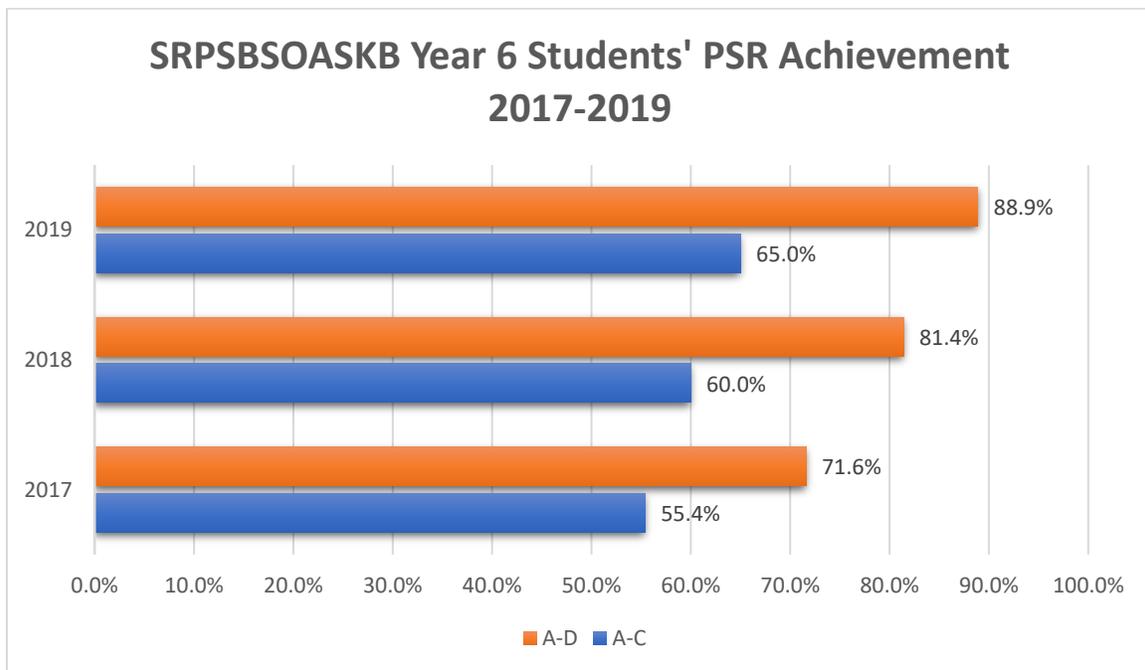
During the English Language 'School-Home Link' sessions for example, parents were briefed on techniques in answering every section of the papers by recognising keywords and analysing common errors. For the Mathematics 'School-Home Link' sessions, teachers initially briefed on methods to solve selected Mathematics problems and common misconceptions that focusses on weak areas, followed by a series of face-to-face discussions between parents and teachers. The parents were also given homework to help them reinforce their children's

learning at home. This includes answering worksheets handed out weekly after the sessions by their teachers.

Teachers also focused on techniques in answering open-ended questions during the Science 'School-Home Link' sessions. Parents were guided on how to spot possible answers from the questions that may indirectly imbedded in the paper. On the other hand, Bahasa Melayu teachers focused on helping parents to identify techniques in attempting comprehension or '*Fahaman*' questions. The parents also learnt how to teach and correct common errors that contribute to loss of marks.

The 'School-Home Link' sessions also involved parents trying out previous PSR questions to better equip themselves in supporting their children's learning at home.

As a result, in 2017, the school's Year 6 students' statistics for PSR revealed that 55.4 per cent and 71.6 per cent of 72 candidates achieved grades A-C and A-D respectively. In 2018, 60 per cent and 81.4 per cent of 70 candidates achieved grades A-C and A-D respectively. In 2019, out of 72 students, 65 per cent and 88.9 per cent achieved grades A-C and A-D respectively. The statistics below show progress, however, there is still room for improvement.



After every session, the parents were given forms to fill in their feedbacks. Additionally, they were given time to express their concerns when teaching their children at home. The feedbacks are important to help the school provide a more efficient support for the parents towards achieving the best interests of their children.

Zainun Jama, mother of Mohd Khaireen Iman from Indah Bestari 6 said, "The 'School-Home Link' programme really helped me to revise difficult topics with my son. My suggestion is that the school should continue the programme next year."

Rozey Hj Rosli, father of Md Fakhrol Razi from Indah Baina 6 stated, "Learning Maths for me is tough, but teachers did a good job in delivering the content to us. I like this programme and recommend it to start in January. Please continue the programme next year. Thank you to all Year 6 teachers for your effort."

Mardiana Md Kadri, mother of Sara Dania from Indah Bijaksana 6 suggested, "It would be helpful if the 'School-Home Link' programme has more sessions, say, twice a week so that we can benefit more."

Based on the steady increase in achievements, positive parental feedback on the programme, one can note SRPSBSOASKB has successfully leveraged on parental engagement to raise students' PSR performance. The 'School-Home Link' programme, has paved the way for clearer, more specific and targetted information from the school to parents which has led to the desired outcome on students' PSR results.