

In Times Of COVID-19

In the wake of COVID crisis when schools were forced closure, the chief concern was that the process of education should not be hampered. So the need of teaching online surged significantly. Moving with the pace of time, we at Shri Ram Ashram Public School took an initiative to start virtual classes and our exceptional IT teachers Ms. Pallavi Verma and Ms. Mamta Rampal worked incessantly under the dynamic patronage of Principal Ms. Vinodita Sankhyan to rise up to the occasion and made it a successful reality.

We are glad to share that we were the first in Amritsar to start online classes from March 27, 2020 onwards. This single step has changed the course of traditional education making virtual tutoring using e-tools and video conferencing indispensable to the students and teachers.

Transforming Regular Teaching Methodology to Virtual Platform

No stone was left unturned to explore new avenues and teachers worked around the clock to ensure smooth transition from physical classroom to virtual interactive sessions.

The focus is not just on finishing the syllabus but also ensuring desired learning outcomes with hands on practice. The competitive spirit in the students in all spheres is intact and is visible through their daily practice work and videos on different activities and important day's celebration.

The same goes for evaluation of each child; scheduled date sheet and regular work is sent to the students.

Training for Non-IT Teachers

The biggest challenge was bringing non IT teachers on board. Commendable work was done by IT teachers, Ms. Pallavi Verma, Ms. Mamta Rampal and Ms. Garima Sharma. With patient hand holding and repeated sessions they ensured that everyone of 150 teachers was comfortable using online platforms, conversant with all available tools, adding background colour, music, animation effects, creating videos, google form, editing, voice over and the entire gamut of things. The Principal contacted agencies like Microsoft etc. to conduct training sessions for the teachers.

Training Session for Students

Students struggled with new challenge and parents had to be made aware and comfortable with the whole idea. Class rules and guidelines were defined for decorum and a new concept of discipline, confidence, and self-esteem evolved. It is ensured that students attend the classes in proper uniform with videos on, using headphones and sit in proper posture. Virtual classes proved to be a boon and a routine was set.

Monitoring of Online Classes

Another challenge was to keep a check on the classes. Principal, Supervisor and IT teachers observe the classes on daily basis and proper feed back is given for improvement.

To avoid anonymous participants in the class, teacher allows students to join only with their name and roll no. both. If the student keeps his/her video off, he/ she is pointed out again and again. To ensure alertness and involvement activities are also conducted, responses elicited and session are made highly interactive and interesting using props, video sharing etc. Teachers use two devices to have a proper watch on all the students. Attendance is taken in every period. Virtual PT meets are also conducted.

Online Assessment as part of Transformation

Going beyond physical paper checking and other traditional forms of assessment to innovative digitalized assessment like Google Forms again the IT teachers came to help. With proper practice in creating Google tests they not only helped save time but also brought clarity in students' mind as results are immediate and unbiased. Subjective exams of all subjects are conducted by sharing the question paper during online classes, answers in PDF are sent by the students to the concerned teachers for evaluation within stipulated time.

Parents feedback for online classes

An overwhelming feed back from parents was received.

"We want to thank all the teachers for the hard work put in for the online sessions, explaining everything in a detailed manner each day. Even the assignments are easy to understand for the children."

"It is indeed a very difficult time for all of us but the teachers are making sure that learning doesn't stop. We appreciate their efforts."

"20 minutes break in between gives time for screen relaxation which is a good idea".
"Practical sessions are ensuring desired learning outcomes".

"Though experience of physical school can never be compared or replaced with virtual alternatives, but in the current situation they are helpful as children are spending quality time online instead of watching unguided inappropriate content."

Thus the teachers have exceeded all expectations and these words of encouragement and appreciation by parents are like a beacon of hope for us.

We continue to strive to always rise up to any situation and keep teaching learning a dedicated and outcome driven experience.