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# HANDBOOK OF SUGGESTIONS

FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF TEACHERS  
AND OTHERS CONCERNED IN THE WORK  
OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



BOARD OF EDUCATION

LONDON:

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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In its aims and content the present volume of Suggestions does not differ materially from previous editions. It does not pretend to be an exhaustive compendium of the subjects to be taught or of the methods to be adopted in teaching, but it is an attempt to bring together a body of opinion and practical experience of which it is hoped teachers will take advantage as their opportunities permit. The Suggestions remain "Suggestions for the consideration of teachers and others concerned in the work of Public Elementary Schools," and should be regarded as a challenge to independent thought on the subjects treated.

The Board desire to re-affirm the statement made in the following paragraph of the original Prefatory Memorandum :—

"Neither the present volume nor any developments or amendments of it are designed to impose any regulations supplementary to those contained in the Code. The only uniformity of practice that the Board of Education desire to see in the teaching of Public Elementary Schools is that each teacher shall think for himself, and work out for himself, such methods of teaching as may use his powers to the best advantage and be best suited to the particular needs and conditions of the school. Uniformity in details of practice (except in the mere routine of school management) is not desirable even if it were attainable. But freedom implies a corresponding responsibility in its use."

No detailed reference is now made in the Code to the subjects of the curriculum. As is pointed out in Circular 1375,

"Certain subjects of the curriculum are required by statute as, for instance, the provision of 'practical instruction' under Section 20 (1) of the Education Act, 1921. The list of additional subjects hitherto included in the Code probably represents a general consensus of opinion throughout the country as to the subjects suitable for children of elementary school age, but it is, and has long been, open to an Authority to vary the curriculum and there seems to be no sufficient reason for retaining in Grant Regulations a list which derives its authority from general agreement rather than from any exercise of the Board's statutory powers. The curriculum of a school will remain subject to the

general approval of the Board, but detailed comment or advice on the syllabus will in future be confined to the volume of ' Suggestions for Teachers and Others concerned in the work of Public Elementary Schools.' "

Since this volume is now the main channel for the expression of the Board's views on curriculum, a knowledge of its contents should be regarded as part of the necessary equipment of every teacher.

The Board fully realise that the standard and practice of teaching contemplated in this volume are not within the reach of every school, and in particular they recognise that the suggestions in their entirety cannot always be carried out in small rural schools or schools in very poor neighbourhoods. Teachers will naturally adopt special expedients to meet special needs. But it is hoped that every teacher will find encouragement and guidance in the consideration of what is being attempted and increasingly attained in a large number of our Public Elementary Schools.

This edition is more than a reprint. Though the volume contains much that appeared in the last edition, many of the chapters have been rewritten, and considerable additions and modifications have been made, particularly in view of the recent Report of the Consultative Committee, on *The Education of the Adolescent*.

Two Appendices have been added. Appendix A. supplements the section on Backward Children in the Introduction (Chapter I § 23), and consists of an extract from a memorandum by Dr. Cyril Burt, for permission to reprint which the Board are indebted to the London County Council. Appendix B. expands the reference made to the League of Nations in the chapter on History (Chapter III § 10), and contains a brief sketch of the origin, objects and activities of the League.

6th April, 1927.

AUBREY J. SYMONDS.