

## Background

The design of the mentoring programme is based on the experience of collaboration between the Bishops' High School and the Bishops' High School Old Students' Association during the 2002-2003 academic year and from 2005 as well as that between the Tutorial High School and the Tutorial High School Old Students' Association from 2005. In the first instance, mentoring relationships were offered to third form students. In 2005, the programme was offered to first form students.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To foster development of positive values, attitudes and behaviours of the student;
- To promote development of a healthy self-esteem and self-image;
- To explore the nature and limits of relationships;
- To encourage the student in the selection/identification of a role model; and
- To facilitate exploration of goals, visions, wants and needs.

## Who is involved?

The programme involves current students, former students, parents/guardians, teachers, a Staff Liaison and a Programme Coordinator. It may also involve as mentors other persons who are considered suitable to guide the student's development.

## What does the programme offer?

A current student (mentee) is paired with a former student or other person considered suitable (mentor). Some students will have mentors who they will meet while others will have e-mentors with whom they communicate electronically.

The mentor, the mentee and his/her parent/guardian meet to introduce themselves. The mentor may expose the mentee to activities such as concerts, exhibitions or family outings.

Both the mentor and e-mentor interacts with the mentee, engaging in discussions on a wide range of issues, particularly those in which the mentee is interested. He/she also provides guidance on academic development and fosters a sense of citizenship.

Mentors and mentees may communicate in person, by telephone and/or electronically such as by email and instant messaging.

## What is the role of the parent/guardian?

The parent/guardian:

- Gives permission for the student to participate in the programme;
- Discusses the activities planned and their outcomes with the mentor and mentee;
- Gains feedback from as well as gives feedback to the mentor and mentee on progress in the mentoring relationship;

- Should provide support to the mentee, refraining from restricting participation in programme activities as a form of punishment;
- Participates in programme meetings for orientation and assessment of progress and workshops on adolescent development and other issues of interest; and
- Liaise with the Project Coordinator or the School's Liaison Officer whenever necessary, and especially where a major change occurs in the Mentee's situation.

## What are the potential benefits for parents/guardians/families?

They may benefit in the following ways:

- Increased tolerance and accommodation of the views of others;
- Exposure for mentee which the family may be unable to provide;
- Greater appreciation for the school administration and the Old Students' Association;
- Improved communication between the mentee and members of his/her family;
- Advice and support from a responsible adult; and
- Increased understanding of the needs and interests of the mentee.

## What if there are concerns?

The parent/guardian should contact the mentor, the Programme Coordinator or the Staff Liaison with respect to issues of concern as well as observations on the impact of the mentoring relationship.

### **How does one become involved?**

The parent/guardian should complete the application form and the associated agreement forms which are available at the school or on the website: [www.bhsosa.org.gy](http://www.bhsosa.org.gy).

The completed forms should be submitted to the school.

### **How will mentees be selected?**

Students will be randomly selected from the group of students whose parent/guardian completes and returns the application and signed agreement forms by the date indicated for face-to-face mentoring.

Other students may be assigned ementors who are resident in Guyana or overseas.

The number of students participating in the programme will be determined by the number of mentors and ementors available.

### **What will happen to students who do not have mentors?**

All students will have the opportunity to participate in workshops during the year. It is also likely that students assigned to mentors will share their experiences and new perspectives with other students.

### **How will the effect of the programme be determined?**

Mentors, mentees, parents/guardians, the Staff Liaison and staff will participate in workshops during the year. A selection of them will be involved in an evaluation of the programme at the end of the academic year.

### **What if you no longer want your child/ward to participate in the programme?**

You should inform, in writing, the Programme Coordinator, the Staff Liaison and/or the mentor of your decision.

### **What if you need more information on the programme?**

Go to the website of the Bishops' High School Old Students' Association:

[www.bhsosa.org.gy](http://www.bhsosa.org.gy)

or

Contact the Headteacher or Staff Liaison of the school.

Prepared by the Bishops' High School  
Old Students' Association (BHSOSA)  
with support from UNICEF

2007

## **MENTORING PROGRAMME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

### **INTRODUCING THE MENTORING PROGRAMME**



*Mentoring pairs an adult who has relevant experience and knowledge (a mentor) with a student (a mentee). It enables the mentor to give support and guidance to the mentee for personal and academic development.*

## Application Form

Please print clearly.

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Form \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from student's address) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(O) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

First Preference for Type of Mentoring

Face-to-face        Email   

Dietary Preferences \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian Agreement

As a parent/guardian in the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ School Mentoring  
Programme, I agree:

- To participate in Programme meetings
- To discuss with my child/ward activities to be undertaken and that have been undertaken with the Mentor
- To provide support to my child/ward
- To give permission for my child/ward to participate in Programme activities, as I see it.
- To communicate with my Mentor, the Staff Liaison Officer or Programme Coordinator with respect to issues of concern as well as observations on the impact of the Mentoring Relationship.
- To refrain from restricting participation in Programme activities as punishment.
- To notify the Mentor, the School Liaison Officer or Programme Coordinator if I would like to withdraw my child/ward from the Mentoring Programme.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Mentee Agreement

As a Mentee in the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ School Mentoring  
Programme, I agree:

- To be on time for our arranged meetings.
- To agree with my mentor on the appropriate forms and conditions of communication.
- To participate in programme activities, including meetings.
- To try new activities with my mentors.
- To communicate with my mentor on a change in appointment/plan.
- To notify my mentor or the School Liaison if I am unable to continue in the mentoring programme.
- To inform and discuss with my parents/guardians activities to be undertaken and that have been undertaken with my mentor.
- To inform the Staff Liaison or Programme Coordinator immediately if a problem arises.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_