TO: All Teachers, Headteachers, Curriculum Developers, Teacher Trainers

cc.: MEI, NCPC members, SEO(S), Thirds

SUBJECT: USE OF LANGUAGES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since the 1981 decision establishing Kreol, English and French as our national languages and providing guidance to their teaching and use in schools much work and debate have gone on for effective implementation. In essence the decision called for the valuing of our mother tongue, its introduction and development as well as the maintaining and development of English and French; all three being considered to have significant cultural, social and economic importance to this country.

1.2 However, a certain degree of confusion currently exists in schools over the use of these languages, perhaps caused by misinterpretation and differing viewpoints. This Ministry being largely responsible for implementing the 1981 decision deems it necessary to re-state and clarify the policy which must be followed by all those involved in Primary Education, in particular curriculum developers, teacher trainers, headteachers and teachers.

2. POLICY

2.1 Kreol, our mother tongue, is established as our first national language, is formally taught from Primary 1 onwards as a subject and is used as a medium of all subjects up to Primary 4 and for certain subjects such as Political Education, Physical Education, Creative Arts and Religious Studies throughout the nine years.

2.2 English, widely used in our society, is considered a national language, is introduced in Primary 2 and is used as a medium for Science, History and Geography of Social Sciences and Mathematics as soon as English is sufficiently mastered.* It is also used as a support language in other subjects (certain extracts in English are included in Political Education material for instance).

*This has been decided to start at P5 except for Mathematics where further study is required to determine the best time for transfer.