



FACTSHEET: CODE IN THE COMMUNITY

Background

The Code In the Community (CITC) programme, started by Google in 2017 offers free coding classes to children from low-income families to learn basic coding skills and inspire them to discover and explore with technology. Feedback has been positive, and the programme has benefited 2,300 students since inception, helping to prepare them to be digitally ready to participate in the digital economy.

Expansion of the Code In The Community programme

In January 2020, Google and the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) announced that they will co-fund \$2 million to support the programme's expansion, run by Saturday Kids and 21C Girls, to bring free coding classes to an additional 6,700 underprivileged students over three years (2020 – 2022).

From 2020, CITC will be structured as a 16-hour curriculum and will accept students aged 8-12 years for the **Scratch course** and take in students aged 13 -16 years for the **Python course**. Each course will offer Level 1 Foundations and Level 2 Applications:

	Scratch course (for 8-12 years old)	Python course (for 13-16 years old)
Level 1 Foundations	Students will learn the block-based programming language Scratch to develop a foundation of computer science through fun and interactive lessons.	Students will learn basic computer science concepts through Python, a text-based programming language. Real-life applications will be included to introduce essential fundamental knowledge for programmers.
Level 2 Applications (New)	Building upon the knowledge from the Foundations course, students will reinforce their learning in a different context of hardware, and learn how to use both software and hardware to create a solution; this will include the use of Strawbees and a Quirkbot.	Students who completed the Foundations will get to learn about microcontrollers and apply their Python skills in a more physical space; this will include the use of Strawbees and a micro:bit.

In addition to equipping students with digital literacy skills, CITC also helps to impart important values such as creativity, presentation skills and teamwork to help children stay curious, build confidence and hone their problem solving skills.

The coding classes will be facilitated by partners Saturday Kids and 21C Girls, and supported by various partners including self-help groups Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Eurasian Association (EA), Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) and Yayasan Mendaki, to promote and ensure diversity among the program participants.

Course Eligibility Criteria

Students have to be:

- Aged 8 to 16 years old
- Currently a low family-income beneficiary at CDAC/EA/SINDA/Yayasan Mendaki, or
- Currently under MOE Financial Aid Scheme (FAS), or
- Currently holds a Blue or Orange CHAS card, or
- Currently a beneficiary of the MOE Edusave Merit Bursary, or
- Currently a beneficiary of any other government scheme for low-income families (including but not limited to ComCare, NeuPC etc.)

For information about the programme and registration, visit www.codeinthecommunity.com.

For media clarifications, please contact

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