

Yong Le

泳乐

16 October 2012 – 29 July 2024

11 years old

He Cried Three Times. A child's story.

A Call for Deeper Emotional Care.

Visit his memorial at <https://gohyongle.wordpress.com>

We hope his story inspires quality emotional care for children across all schools for many years to come.

We pray for a better world, a kinder future, one that listens deeply to and accepts sensitive souls, with warm love and tender care.



Yong Le's Story

Yong Le was a quiet, thoughtful, and emotionally sensitive child. He loved simple things: drawing, reading, caring for small animals, and playing computer games with his siblings. His world was small, but full of feeling.

On 29 July 2024, Yong Le tragically passed away at the age of 11.

That day, Yong Le had **multiple crying episodes** in school during a disciplinary process. **Thirteen minutes** after school dismissal, he **fell 16 stories** from the top floor of a nearby apartment block

We do not know for certain what led to Yong Le's decision. The coroner's report on 19 May 2025 concluded that his death was a **voluntary act**, and acknowledged his **state of emotional distress**, though it did not explicitly connect these feelings to the events that took place that day.

A Case for Concern

The events of Yong Le's last day did not make sense to us. **We sent him to school happy. He was supposed to be cared for. Yet he came home in an urn.** Just a few more months and he would have completed PSLE and graduated to secondary school.

As parents, we were **not informed** before such a disciplinary procedure was carried out. We were **not told** about his multiple crying episodes until after his death. From our **own understanding** via various discussions:

- During maths lesson, he was brought out with his schoolbag and **taken to a conference room**.
- He was **questioned** by one, then two teachers, in a fact-finding process, **without a parent or counsellor**.
- His bag was **searched**, and he was asked to **write a statement**.
- He had two **crying episodes**, which he seemed to recover from.
- He was then **sent back to class** to complete a practice paper.
- At dismissal, he was asked to **apologize** to a classmate, where he **teared** again. He subsequently left school **unaccompanied**.
- In the above events, teachers noted that after each crying episode ended, **he appeared ok**. However, he was **not seen by a counsellor**.
- Approximately **13 minutes** after dismissal, he fell **16 stories** from a nearby apartment block.
- As his parents, we were not made **aware of the events** that day until after his passing. We received missed calls, then had been scheduled for a phone call later that afternoon, but the purpose of the scheduled call was not stated.

How Schools Can Care Better

In the wake of this tragedy, we feel that more can be done to better support children's emotional well-being in schools. Based on our experience, we would like to see the following improvements:

1. **Greater Empathy in School Discipline:** We believe that children who show signs of emotional distress can be treated with more care. Emotional well-being can be prioritized alongside academic and disciplinary concerns. Presence of supportive adults including parents and counsellors can be beneficial.
2. **More Immediate Communication with Parents:** If a child experiences emotional distress during the school day, parents can be notified promptly with surrounding context stated. This would allow parents to provide support and make informed decisions about their child's care.
3. **Better Emotional Support:** Schools can consider ensuring that children who are visibly emotionally upset, even after cries had stopped, are not dismissed alone. They should be seen by a counsellor. If possible, they can have adult supervision until they are safely sent home.
4. **Improved Post-Incident Communication:** After a traumatic event like this, we believe schools and ministry can provide a written account of what happened, provide a formal condolence letter, offer ongoing support for grieving families with responsive communication, and ensure deep reviews with relevant improvements. Lastly, emails can be promptly responded. It is important to rebuild trust through empathy and transparency.

How You Can Help

We hope that by sharing Yong Le's story, the world, communities, ministries and schools will be inspired to provide better quality care for emotionally sensitive children for many years to come.

Please share Yong Le's story within your networks, reaching out to ministries to help **push for better emotional care and support for sensitive children**.

Please educate the others. Let this not end in silence, but in change.

For more details, we share his story at <https://gohyongle.wordpress.com>

For Yong Le

You rest now among your snails, ash scattered in your aquarium, your toys, your favourite snacks. You are still with us in every moment, every outing, every meal, every place you touched.

We remember you, miss you, love you. You will never be forgotten. Rest well, my dear boy. May you be happy there over the rainbow, as your name Lele 乐乐 signifies happiness.

Love you forever and always,
Mummy, Daddy, Sisters and Brothers



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Disclaimer:

This letter reflects our family's personal recollections, understanding and feelings about the events surrounding our son's death. We do not claim to present an official account of what occurred and acknowledge that there may be different perspectives, and it is not intended to assign blame, assert legal claims, or cause reputational harm. Our goal is simply to share our personal experience in the hope of inspiring change and a more caring future for all children. We recognise also the constraints of organisations, inherent difficulties of the teaching career, and the sophistication of each and every child's world.