

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary information on 289EP – A 36-classroom primary school at Pokfield Road, Kennedy Town

INTRODUCTION

In considering the paper referenced PWSC(2002-03)52 on the above project on 26 June 2002, the Public Works Subcommittee requested the Administration to clarify how the future operation of the proposed school would impact on the neighbourhood.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

2. Noise from school activities is to be assessed in accordance with a Technical Memorandum issued under the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400). Normal school activities that may have noise impact on nearby residents include the ringing of school bells, use of public address system during assembly and games or sports activities in the open playground. The actual noise impact on residential developments in the vicinity would depend on the layout of the school, design of school bells and public address system, and their distance from the school.

3. Due to the orientation of the proposed school under **289EP**, some residential flats at Sands Street and Pokfield Road will be affected by the noise arising from activities in the open playground of the school.

4. Unlike some other sources of noise such as road traffic, school activities usually take place intermittently during school hours. The Director of Environmental Protection has projected the noise levels that the premises in the vicinity of the proposed school may be subject to. His assessment is as follows –

/Ringing

| Activities ¹ | Estimated no. of events in a school day | Common duration of each event during which noise is generated | Projected range of noise levels at nearby residential flats | Remarks |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Ringling of school bells | 14 | about 15 seconds | 55 to 58 dB(A) | It is now a standard design to adopt a set of low-volume bells that generate musical tones instead of a few traditional high-volume bells that generate alarming sounds. |
| Games, sports and general activities in the open playground | 2 (recess) | 15 minutes | 62 to 65 dB(A) | |
| | 1 (lunch hour) | 30 minutes | 61 to 64 dB(A) | |
| | 8 (physical education lessons) | 35 minutes | 59 to 62 dB(A) | |

5. Our projection indicates that the noise generated from the proposed school will comply with the relevant daytime noise limit of 65 dB(A) as stipulated in the Technical Memorandum mentioned in paragraph 2 above. The Director of Education will remind the proposed school to minimise the noise impact on the neighbouring residential flats where possible.

Education and Manpower Bureau
July 2002

¹ As the proposed school will conduct assembly indoor in the assembly hall, the projected noise impact of the public address system is insignificant.