

教育統籌局



EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BUREAU

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13 April 2000

Jennifer Wisker
Chief Executive
The English Schools Foundation
43B Stubbs Road
Hong Kong

Dear Jennifer,

**Funding Arrangements for
English Schools Foundation (ESF) Schools**

Thank you for your letter of 16 March which gives a fair summary of the main points discussed at the meeting on 22 February 2000. However, I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate on a number of points.

First, I would like to put down a marker in relation to the Foundation's proposal to modify the land lease conditions of some ESF schools. I understand that one idea which the Foundation has in mind is to re-provision Island School at Borret Road to another site, and to redevelop the existing site for other purposes. As I explained to you over the telephone earlier, Government will have great difficulties agreeing to ESF redeveloping the Borret Road site if it is no longer required for educational purposes. Instead, we would expect the site to be returned to Government. We are prepared, however, to consider providing a replacement site to the Foundation for the redevelopment or expansion of Island School, or re-provisioning Island School at an existing ESF school site.

Secondly, we have taken up your suggestion that, in order to allow time for ESF to establish alternative income sources, as an interim measure, Government will only freeze the ESF per class subsidy at the prevailing level (i.e. the 1999/2000 school year level) without inflation adjustment with effect

from the coming school year (i.e. the 2000/01 school year). However, the number of eligible ESF classes will not be capped. I understand that this interim arrangement is acceptable to the Foundation and will not have any significant impact on fees. I now write to seek your formal agreement to this staged approach.

Thirdly, I understand that the ESF will submit proposals regarding redevelopment of existing school sites and possible expansion of ESF's activities to Government. However, I must emphasize that the approval of the Foundation's application for a private independent school (PIS) is independent of the proposal to phase out Government's subsidies. Indeed, as you know, applications for running PIS are being considered by a School Allocation Committee comprising government and non-government representatives and all applications will be considered on the merits of the applications.

Separately, I note that the Executive Committee of the Foundation has been advised of the latest development, and that in turn the Executive Committee will be consulting principal, parent and teacher representatives. While we have no objection to this, I trust that the deliberation will be conducted on a strictly confidential basis, as agreed at our meeting on 22 February. I also trust that Government's continual support for ESF should be emphasized.

I look forward to receiving an early formal response from the Foundation on the various points raised at the 22 February meeting, and arriving at a mutually acceptable agreement on the arrangement for phasing out Government's subsidies.

Yours sincerely,



(Joseph W P Wong)
Secretary for Education and Manpower

cc Director of Education (Attn: Mrs Fanny Law)