

For discussion
on 12 March 2012

Legislative Council Panel on Education
Arrangements for Students Affected by Relocation of Private Schools

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the arrangements for students affected by relocation of private schools, and provides an update on the proposed relocation of Lingnan Primary School and Kindergarten (LPS&KG) and Lingnan Day Nursery (LDN).

Arrangements for students affected by relocation of private schools

School premises for relocation of private schools

2. According to the established policy, given the scarcity of government land and school premises and limited resources, the Government will not, in principle, provide land / school premises for the redevelopment and reprovisioning of existing private schools. If the operator of a private school intends to relocate the school, it should first identify a suitable private property/land/school premises by itself before making arrangements for relocation.

Provision of assistance to students affected

3. If students of a private school to be relocated wish to continue their studies in another school, the Education Bureau (EDB) will provide their parents with information of vacancies in schools in the same and nearby districts to facilitate their direct application to these schools. Relevant information will also be disseminated to the school for parents' reference in case the need arises. The EDB will also offer placement assistance to students on a need basis.

Update on the proposed relocation of LPS&KG and LDN

4. LPS&KG and LDN are two separate private schools built on sites owned by their School Sponsoring Body (SSB), i.e., Lingnan Education Organization Limited (LEO). In early 2011, LEO requested the two schools to relocate on the grounds of safety concerns of the school premises. However, assessments by the government departments concerned have confirmed that there is no obvious structural danger on the two school premises, and the Buildings Department (BD) informed LEO of the same in September and November 2011.

5. Based on the findings of the BD's assessments, the EDB has reminded the SSB to place pupils' interest in the first priority. If there is full justification for relocating the schools, the SSB should first identify suitable premises and then work out a reasonable relocation schedule. The schools should also communicate with all stakeholders to ensure that they are well informed of all the arrangements before relocation.

6. Following a discussion between the EDB and the SSB in conjunction with the School Management Committee, the SSB decided that the two schools would continue to operate in the existing location until the end of the current school year. The SSB has also put forward a tentative five-year plan for in-situ redevelopment and arrangements for temporary relocation.

7. It is understood that Lingnan Kindergarten and LDN are planned to be relocated to Cheerful Garden in Siu Sai Wan in the following school year to continue their operation. For the application for registration of the new premises, the School Management Committee submitted the updated layout plans of the premises to the departments concerned on 2 March 2012. Upon receiving the approved layout plans from the BD and documents confirming the safety of the school premises from the Fire Services Department, the EDB will process the application as soon as possible. As for Lingnan Primary School, its School Management Committee is still in the process of identifying suitable premises for temporary relocation.

8. LEO has written to parents and arranged briefings to inform them of the above arrangements, update them on the relocation plan and collect their views.

9. The EDB will keep in close contact with the schools and remind the school management of the need to consult parents and teachers on the detailed relocation arrangements and the latest developments as soon as possible so as to alleviate their concerns. It is hoped that the SSB will promptly conduct a feasibility study of the in-

situ redevelopment plan and keep the EDB informed of the progress. Regarding the relocation, the EBD will continue to offer advice to the schools to ensure that students' needs and parents' concerns are properly addressed by the schools.

Education Bureau

March 2012