



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局  
Education Bureau  
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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3 April 2017

Clerk to Panel  
(Attn: Ms Angel WONG)  
Legislative Council Panel on Education  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms WONG,

**Panel on Education**  
**Monitoring of the training camps for primary and secondary students**

I refer to your letter dated 21 March 2017. In regard to the concern raised by Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai about the monitoring of the training camps for primary and secondary students, please find below our response.

The Education Bureau (EDB) has all along been attaching importance to the whole person development of students. Schools are encouraged to organise diversified learning experience to enhance students' self-discipline, self-confidence and resilience in accordance with different learning objectives. Outdoor learning activities/training camps, as a kind of learning strategy which aims to enable students to gain life experiences from nature and extend classroom learning, are widely adopted by schools. Under school-based

management, schools may invite service providers to organise various types of training camps according to their needs to promote student learning and whole person development. Schools should exercise their professional judgment to consider if the activities are conducive to the learning of students and can cater for their needs, and to ensure that the education of the school is promoted in a proper manner. According to EDB's School Administration Guide, teaching staff are encouraged to adopt positive means to nurture students and bring about positive changes in students' behaviour. This principle is also applicable to those activities procured from outside service providers by schools. Under all circumstances, teaching staff and activity instructors should always take into account students' self-esteem, physical, psychological and mental health conditions. During the planning process, schools should make reference to the relevant safety guidelines issued by EDB (such as the Guidelines on Outdoor Activities and Guidelines on Extra-curricular Activities in Schools) in designing the training camps activities. In addition, schools should take effective measures to ensure student safety and monitor the quality of activities, including whether the activities are led by qualified instructors.

Schools generally evaluate the quality and effectiveness of activities through different means (such as questionnaires, teacher observation, etc.) to ensure that the activities meet the requirements. If government subsidies are used for procuring service, EDB's guidelines should be observed in selecting a suitable service provider through competitive quotation or tender procedure. In selecting a service provider, the school should have a clear understanding of the details of its services and, as far as possible, refer to the evaluations of other schools having joined the activities. For activities which have been held by the school previously, due consideration should be given to its evaluation records (e.g. feedback of the students or/and parents who have participated in the activities).

Besides, schools can take part in various programmes organised by EDB, such as the Outdoor Education Camp Scheme (OECS), the Enhanced Smart Teen Project for secondary schools and the Understanding Adolescent Project for primary schools. EDB invites secondary and primary schools to participate in the OECS on a yearly basis, and a partial subsidy is provided for participating students. EDB collects feedback on the activities from the participants and instructors through questionnaires and conducts visit to camps as and when necessary. In addition, EDB holds regular meetings with camp representatives

to review the overall implementation and arrangement of the OECS and takes follow up actions if required. In the last three years, the overall feedback on the OECS as well as the performance of camp instructors has been positive. As for the Enhanced Smart Teen Project for secondary schools and the Understanding Adolescent Project for primary schools, both projects provide structured training camp activities, including discipline training or experiential learning activities. Participating schools are required to appoint teachers to take charge of the work in the camps for the support and supervision of the activities. Upon completion of the activities, schools are also required to collect feedback from students and other stakeholders for the evaluation and review of the effectiveness. Similarly, participants have expressed positive feedback on the training camp activities on guidance and discipline provided by EDB.

In response to the incidents reported by the media, this Bureau has contacted the schools concerned to understand the situation and follow up the cases. Besides, school authorities have been reminded to put students' safety and the suitability of the activities as their paramount consideration when arranging student activities and to explain the arrangements to the parents. We will continue to keep in view the development of the related incidents. Should any complaint be received, it will be handled seriously according to the existing mechanism.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Teresa CHAN)

for Secretary for Education