



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

本局檔號 Our Ref.: (51) in EDB(SB)AL/3/17

電話 Telephone: 3509 8504

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB4/PL/ED

傳真 Fax Line: 2575 4291

31 May 2017

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

Dear Ms WONG,

Panel on Education
Follow-up to the special Meeting on 15 May 2017

I refer to your letter of 17 May 2017 to the Secretary for Education. At the captioned meeting, the Panel requested the Government to provide the following supplementary information on project 3352EP "A 30-classroom primary school at Tonkin Street, Cheung Sha Wan":

- (i) As the physical conditions of the existing premises of Pak Tin Catholic Primary School were poor, the Deputy Chairman asked about the need to reserve the premises for educational use. In this regard, the Administration was requested to provide the impact of population projections on the demand for primary school places in the district where Pak Tin Catholic Primary School was located.
- (ii) The Administration was requested to provide the selection criteria for considering applications under the School Allocation Exercises.

香港添馬添美道 2 號政府總部東翼 6 樓基礎建設及研究支援分部
Infrastructure and Research Support Division, 6/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

網址: <http://www.edb.gov.hk>
Web site: <http://www.edb.gov.hk>

電子郵件: edbinfo@edb.gov.hk
E-mail: edbinfo@edb.gov.hk

2. The requested information is set out below:

- (i) Under the established mechanism, the Government will reserve sites for public sector school development when preparing town plans and planning large-scale residential developments having regard to the planned population intake and on the basis of the needs for community services in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. The Education Bureau (EDB) will also gainfully use vacant school premises (VSP). Having considered factors including the size, location, physical conditions, etc. of the VSP, as well as the educational needs and relevant policy initiatives, EDB will assess whether to re-allocate the concerned premises for school use. EDB will make reference to the school-age population projections, which are compiled based on the population projections updated regularly by the Census and Statistics Department, and take into account the actual number of existing students at various levels and the estimated number of cross-boundary students as well as the latest demographic changes, including the number of newly-arrived children from the Mainland, in estimating the future demand for school places and relevant resources. EDB will consider the latest projections, other factors that may affect the demand for school places in certain districts, different options to increase the supply of school places in particular districts, the prevailing educational initiatives, etc. before deciding whether it is necessary to allocate a school premises to set up new school or reprovision existing school(s).

The Pak Tin Catholic Primary School is located in Sham Shui Po. With reference to the latest Population Projections released by the Census and Statistics Department and Projections of Population Distribution released by the Planning Department, the school-age population aged 6 (considered appropriate for Primary One ("P1")) who are residing in Sham Shui Po District is projected to rise to 4 000 in the 2018/19 school year. After reversing to 3 600 in the 2019/20 school year, the school-age population is expected to rebound and then hover around the 4 000 level.

To cope with the projected increase in demand for public sector P1 school places up to the peak in the 2018/19 school year, EDB and the

school sector have earlier reached a consensus to adopt flexible arrangements including borrowing school places from other district(s) or school net(s), making use of their vacant classrooms, deployment of vacant school premises for operation of time-limited schools, exploring conversion of other rooms into and/or construction of additional classrooms, and temporary allocation of more students to each P1 class.

Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the Pak Tin Catholic Primary School (which is currently operating 21 classes in a 24-classroom school premises) will be reprovisioned to the proposed new 30-classroom school campus at Tonkin Street in the 2020/21 school year. Subject to the demand, it may operate up to 30 classes in the new school premises. EDB would continue to closely monitor the demand of P1 places in the district and ensure sufficient provision of public sector school places.

With regard to the existing school premises of the Pak Tin Catholic Primary School, EDB will handle the to-be-vacated premises following the established mechanism. In gist, we will consider factors including the size, location, physical conditions, etc. of the VSP, as well as the educational needs and relevant policy initiatives, and assess the need for re-allocating the concerned premises for school or other educational use. In this regard, EDB needs to earmark/retain certain VSP to cater for the uncertainty relating to the future demand for school places. In addition, the EDB needs VSP to flexibly address various and changing needs, including re-provisioning needs of existing schools, decanting use by schools undergoing in-situ redevelopment or extension works, etc. Once it is confirmed that the premises is no longer required by EDB for school or other educational uses, EDB would inform the Planning Department and other relevant departments (such as Lands Department) for consideration of suitable alternative uses in accordance with the central clearing house mechanism.

- (ii) According to the established school allocation mechanism, once a new school premises or VSP is confirmed to be required for allocation for school use, EDB will normally invite applications from all eligible applicant bodies in the territory through School Allocation Exercise

(SAE) on a fair and competitive basis and make relevant announcement on its website. For reprovisioning cases, existing schools may take into account their school-based considerations and consider if they would like to submit an application. Proposals of the concerned applications are assessed by the School Allocation Committee (SAC) comprising official and non-official members, with its recommendations submitted to the Permanent Secretary for Education for consideration. Education quality is the most important factor considered by SAC when making recommendations on school allocation. Other factors, including the school plan submitted by the applicant body, operation track record of the school sponsoring body and conditions of the existing premises (if applicable), etc. will also be considered. In respect of the school plan, the following aspects will be assessed:

- (1) vision and mission;
- (2) management and organisation;
- (3) learning and teaching;
- (4) school ethos and support for students;
- (5) performance targets; and
- (6) self-evaluation indicators.

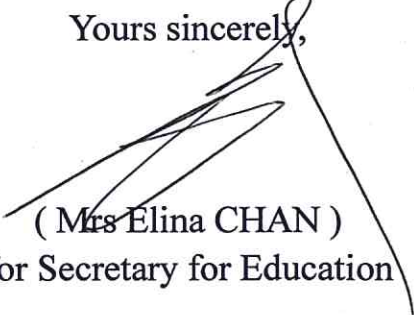
Relevant information about SAE, including the composition and terms of reference of SAC, eligibility requirements for SAE application, assessment criteria, past and latest SAE, etc. are available at EDB's website (the relevant link is : <http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/sch-admin/sch-premises-info/allocation-of-sch/index.html>).

The physical condition of the school's existing premises is one of the major considerations in cases of school reprovisioning. Generally speaking, schools with site area less than 3,000 square metres and premises over 30 years old which have not benefited or have only marginally benefited from the School Improvement Programme will warrant serious consideration. Besides, the location of the concerned schools, i.e. whether they are currently operating in the same district as the location of the school premises under application, will also be taken into account. Yet, these are not the prerequisites for submission of applications since each case has to be assessed on its

own merits. When assessing the applications, SAC will consider each case thoroughly before making recommendations on school allocation. If necessary, SAC will invite the applicant bodies for interview to follow up with questions about their submitted proposals and related information. We believe that by deliberating on the actual situation of individual schools under the existing practice instead of pre-defining a certain type of schools for consideration of reprovisioning, we can better cater for the needs of schools.

SAC will consider the aforementioned basket of factors, assess each case thoroughly and, when necessary, invite applicant bodies to interview before selecting the applicant school that is more meritorious in every aspect for recommending the allocation.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Elina CHAN)
for Secretary for Education