

政府總部
勞工及福利局
香港添馬添美道
政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices
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17 June 2021

Ms Maisie LAM
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Welfare Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LAM,

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Follow-up to the Meeting on 10 May 2021**

Thank you for the letter from the Legislative Council Secretariat to the Labour and Welfare Bureau dated 2 June 2021 on the captioned. In consultation with the Education Bureau (EDB), we provide a consolidated response as follows -

2. The Government attaches great importance to the well-being of children. As we have explained at the meeting of the Panel of Welfare Services on 10 May 2021, apart from the considerable number of legislation in place that protect children from abuse, the Government has since 2018 implemented a number of measures for early identification and appropriate intervention of cases of children suspected or found to be abused, including -

- (1) strengthening social work services at pre-primary institutions, primary and secondary schools;
- (2) issuing guidelines to schools to implement a reporting mechanism for non-attendance cases, and requesting schools to pay more attention to students' conditions; and
- (3) providing guidelines and enhancing training for relevant professionals including social workers, teachers, healthcare personnel and the Police with a view to strengthening inter-disciplinary co-operation .

3. Furthermore, EDB requests schools to formulate school-based measures and follow relevant guidelines to handle properly suspected child maltreatment cases, and to conduct reviews from time to time of relevant policies and measures to safeguard the well-being of students. According to relevant guidelines, schools should activate their school-based contingency mechanism and Crisis Management Team, and assign the school social worker and designated personnel to handle suspected child maltreatment cases and take follow-up actions in accordance with the established principles and procedures. When handling child abuse cases, schools may report to the Family and Child Protective Services Unit of the Social Welfare Department in light of the circumstances of each case. Where criminal offences may have been committed, or if the circumstances of the case are serious, the school should report the case to the Police as soon as possible. EDB has all long kept close liaison with the schools concerned, provided appropriate support and advice at different stages (for instance: improving the administration and management of the school, enhancing the awareness of the staff of the school on crisis management, etc.) and followed up as appropriate.

4. Regarding the case mentioned in the letter, EDB indicates that as the judicial proceedings have not been completed, EDB is not in a position to provide the relevant information. Upon completion of the relevant procedures, EDB will conduct investigation according to the established mechanism. If misconduct is found, EDB will follow up seriously.

Yours sincerely,



(Huggin TANG)
for Secretary for Labour & Welfare

c.c. Secretary for Education (Attn: Ms Kitty HO)