

INFORMATION PAPER

FACILITIES IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this paper is to present the initial views of the Education Department (ED) on the suggestions raised by members of the Panel on Education Subcommittee on Facilities in Special Schools for Physically handicapped Children of the Legislative Council (the Sub-committee) and school staff, following a visit to three special schools for physically handicapped children.

BACKGROUND

2. Following the discussion on the learning environment and facilities in special schools for physically handicapped children at the Legco Panel on Education on 26 October 1998, a visit to 3 special schools, namely, Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School, Margaret Trench Red Cross School and John F Kennedy Centre by the Sub-committee was arranged on 18 November 1998. During the visits, the Sub-committee and the school staff had made a number of suggestions for improvements to the facilities of the three schools. The Sub-committee requested ED to indicate what action could be taken.

INITIAL VIEWS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

3. The initial views of ED on the suggestions are at the Annex attached to this paper.

ADVICE SOUGHT

4. Members are requested to note the content of this paper. Views and suggestions are welcome.

Education Department
November 1998

Initial Views of the Education Department
on the Suggestions of the Sub-committee and school staff

Suggestions by Sub-committee Members / School Staff	Initial views of ED
<p><u>Installation of air conditioners in school hall and boarding section of special schools for physically handicapped children.</u></p>	<p>(1) An estimation of the capital and recurrent costs of air-conditioning the boarding sections is now being made. Pending on the costs, a decision will be made accordingly.</p> <p>(2) ED will not consider installing air-conditioners in school halls at this stage.</p>
<p><u>Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School</u></p> <p>1. <u>Medical Inspection Room</u> The following should be standard items:</p> <p>(a) Suction machine;</p> <p>(b) oxygen;</p> <p>(c) bed with railing;</p> <p>(d) emergency call bell;</p> <p>(e) small drawer set for medicine; and</p> <p>(f) Autoclave.</p> <p>2. <u>Toilets</u></p> <p>(a) Handrails for some toilets; and</p> <p>(b) Toilets should be attached to Junior classrooms to facilitate toilet training.</p> <p>3. <u>Classroom</u></p> <p>(a) Too small for wheelchair-bound students to move around; and</p> <p>(b) The desks with adjustable desktop are too expensive.</p>	<p>(1) Schools can acquire these items through the School and Class Grant if they cost less than \$3000 and apply for purchase through the Annual Estimates if they cost \$3000 or more.</p> <p>(2) ED will consider including the suggested items as standard provisions.</p> <p>(1) School can apply for installing the handrails in the Annual Estimates.</p> <p>(2) ED will consider including Item (a) as standard provision and Item (b) in future school design.</p> <p>(1) ED will review the existing standard size of classroom for this category of special schools, which is 45M².</p> <p>(2) Schools can apply for such desks through the Annual Estimates.</p>

<p>4. <u>Speech Therapy (ST) Rooms</u></p> <p>(a) Curtain to enable the observation through the one-Way mirror; and</p> <p>(b) A gap exists between the partition wall of the 2 ST rooms and the window.</p>	<p>(1) School should arrange installation of the curtain.</p> <p>(2) ED will seek the assistance of the Architectural Services Department for remedial measures.</p>
<p>5. <u>Kitchen at caretaker's quarters</u></p> <p>(a) No proper kitchen facilities, and</p> <p>(b) Food preparation and cleaning in room/toilet at caretaker's quarters</p>	<p>(1) The School has not been provided with a kitchen for students.</p> <p>(2) ED will liaise with the School to come up with solutions to the problem.</p>
<p>6. <u>Activity of Daily Living Room</u></p> <p>The cooking benchtop is inaccessible by wheelchair bound students.</p>	<p>The School can apply through the Annual Estimates for rectification.</p>
<p>7. <u>Physiotherapy Room</u></p> <p>(a) Insufficient physiotherapy furniture and equipment and the School resorted to recycle discarded bicycle and gymnastic bicycle; and</p> <p>(b) no ceiling hooks.</p>	<p>(1) The standard furniture and equipment list for the physiotherapy room includes 3 bicycles and 3 tricycles. Under the new grant for furniture and equipment, the School was allocated \$528,000 in the 1998-99 financial year. However, the School has only spent \$94,000 up to 31.10. 1998. The School should acquire such items through the new grant.</p> <p>(2) The ceiling rack of the room provides strong support, from which physiotherapy coupiment can be hooked (see picture attached).</p>
<p>8. <u>School Bus</u></p> <p>School bus should be provided by ED.</p>	<p>ED does not intend to provide school bus service. The students are entitled to Disability Allowance, of which travelling expenses are among the items covered,</p>
<p><u>Margaret Trench Red Cross School</u></p>	
<p>9. The School is too sub-standard and should be reprovisioned.</p>	<p>ED will continue it search for a suitable site for reprovisioning the School.</p>

<p>10. <u>Art and Craft Room, Occupational Therapy Room Cum Multi-sensory Room</u> There are rails for iron doors at the exits such that wheelchair-bound students are baffled.</p> <p>11. <u>Activity of Daily Living Room cum Occupational Therapy Room</u> The cooking bench is inaccessible by wheelchair- bound students.</p> <p>12. <u>Fire Exit</u> The fire exit has steps and is inaccessible by wheelchair-bound students.</p> <p>13. <u>Chairs</u> The chairs are 25 years old and should be replaced.</p> <p>14. <u>School Bus</u></p>	<p>There is another exit which is suitable for wheelchair-bound students. However, ED is seeking the views of Fire Services Department (FSD) whether there is a need to have another exit in that room. School is also considering whether such alteration is needed.</p> <p>The school can remove the furniture and other stuff in the way (see picture attached).</p> <p>Wheelchair-bound students do not use this exit as the School uses the front entrance as the fire exit. ED is seeking the views of Fire Services Department (FSD) on the need for improvement.</p> <p>The School considers the chairs safe and usable and there is no need to replace them at the moment.</p> <p>Same as No. 8 above</p>
<p><u>John F Kennedy Centre</u></p> <p>15. <u>Hydrotherapy pool</u> Hydrotherapy pool should be a standard provision, and the capital costs, repairs and maintenance costs should be subvented by Ed.</p> <p>16. <u>Emergency Call Bell</u> Should be standard provision in boarding section.</p>	<p>(1) ED will consult the Hospital Authority on the proper size, capital costs and recurrent costs of a hydrotherapy pool and will consider whether this is a feasible suggestion.</p> <p>Same as No. 1 above.</p>



(A) Physiotherapy Room of Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School



(B) Activity of Daily Living Room cum Occupational Therapy Room of Margaret Trench Red Cross School

TOTAL P.12