Highlights

- Over the past decade, an average of some 8 400 One-way Permit holders aged below 15 entered Hong Kong from the Mainland annually. Most of them were school-age children.

- The number of these pupils newly admitted to local primary schools peaked at 5 463 in 2007 and stayed in a steady downtrend to 2 656 in 2013. The trend then reverted in recent years when the number of such pupils rose to around 4 000 annually. As for secondary schools, some 3 000 admissions of new arrivals were recorded annually during 2007-2014, despite a drop to 2 139 in 2015 and a rebound to 3 832 in 2016. (Figure 1).

- In recent years, most of the pupils from the Mainland newly admitted to primary schools have been Primary One ("P1") students, accounting for more than half of their new admissions since 2014 (Figure 2).

- Since 2011, the proportion of newly arrived pupils who had attended kindergartens in Hong Kong has been on an uptrend from 42% to 69%. In other words, less than one third of the newly arrived pupils who had not received any pre-school education in Hong Kong directly admitted to P1 in Hong Kong (Figure 3). While more pupils might be better prepared for studying in local primary schools, this may exert pressure on local kindergarten places.
A vast majority of newly admitted primary pupils from the Mainland enrolled in aided schools (91.3%), followed by government schools (7.7%) in 2016. Only 1.0% attended local schools under Direct Subsidy Scheme or private schools, in contrast to 13.9% of all primary students in the territory enrolling in these schools. As for secondary schools, newly admitted pupils from the Mainland exhibited a similar distribution of attending government schools, aided schools and other local day schools compared to all secondary students in the territory (Figure 4).

In 2016, most newly admitted primary pupils from the Mainland (93.8%) attended schools within their home district. Analyzed by district, lower rates of schooling within home district were observed among pupils living in Central and Western (79.7%), Kowloon City (82.6%), North (86.3%), and Kwai Tsing (88.0%) (Figure 5).

By comparison, the rate of schooling within home district among newly arrived secondary pupils was lower (79.3%). Of 18 districts, less than half of newly arrived pupils living in Central and Western (42.9%) and Wan Chai (47.4%) were schooling within home district. The respective rate was also low in North (59.3%) (Figure 6).

Data sources: Latest figures from Education Bureau and Home Affairs Department.