

教育統籌局



EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BUREAU

本局檔號 Our Ref.: ED(SAS)/F&A/35/01(CON)(4)
來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB(3)/PAC/R39

電子郵件 E-mail: embinfo@emb.gcn.gov.hk
電話 Telephone: 2892 6683
傳真 Faxline: 2574 1128

10 January 2003

Clerk, Public Accounts Committee
(Attn: Miss Sandy CHU)
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Chu,

**Director of Audit's Report on
Results of Value for Money Audits (Report No. 39)
Chapter 10 : Primary Education – Administration of Primary Schools**

I refer to your letter dated 2 January 2003 on the caption.

As at 31 December 2002, a total of 190 circulars and guidelines in respect of the administration of primary schools to government and/or aided primary schools were in force. They cover a wide range of issues, including financial, staffing, personnel, curriculum, maintenance and safety matters. Some of these circulars and guidelines were issued in response to an incident, e.g. the death of a student from height leading to our issue of a circular on installation of safety nets at stairwells in school premises. Many of the circulars and guidelines are advisory in nature. Some were issued in response to demands for guidance or standardised practice following major complaints (e.g. the circular on selection of textbooks and learning materials for use in schools covering donations by publishers) or public outcry (e.g. the circulars on guidelines on reducing the weight of school bags and tropical cyclones and heavy persistent rain arrangements for kindergartens and day schools which are regularly reviewed to address the concerns of the public).

/We trust

香港灣仔皇后大道東 213 號胡忠大廈 16 字樓
16/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

We trust that the Public Accounts Committee, in proposing to provide public sector schools with more flexibility in deployment of resources, is also keen to ensure that public funds are well spent to achieve the maximum benefit for students. To achieve this balance, it is of utmost importance that schools should know the scope of their responsibility and the limit of their authority. In line with the spirit of school-based management, the Administration will delegate to schools more authority over the deployment of resources and the operation of schools. In return, the community will demand greater transparency and accountability. Circulars and guidelines will only be issued to schools where absolutely necessary. We are in the process of reviewing the situation with a view to further reducing the number of circulars by consolidating similar or related subjects into one circular. Occasional announcements with short-term validity are promulgated in the form of circular memorandum, which is normally deleted within 12 months from the date of issue.

In addition to the above, you may wish to note that our School Administration Guide (SAG) makes reference to relevant circulars and guidelines in force for easy reference by schools. The SAG is regularly updated to reflect the latest situation.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Fanny Law)

Permanent Secretary for Education & Manpower

c.c. Secretary for Education and Manpower
Director of Audit