



# Discovery Bay International School

Discovery Bay  
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Principal Grant Ramsay

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Ms Meisy Kwok  
LGA (2) 6  
Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Re: Provision of International School Places

F.A.O. The Panel on Education

## Background:

Discovery Bay International School (DBIS) opened 29 years ago with 3 students. We are a private, independent and not for profit school. We currently offer 10 Kindergarten classes, 25 Primary classes and 7 Secondary classes. We can only absorb 3 further Secondary classes as we grow into Year 11. Our Kindergarten and Primary School are at maximum numbers for the operation of our school.

Today our school has 930 students enrolled, having grown markedly in the past six years as follows (our opening roll figures for September each year):

	Kindergarten	Primary	Secondary	Total
2005	180	504	-	684
2006	198	549	-	747
2007	194	568	-	762
2008	200	552	16	768
2009	200	593	43	836
2010	200	599	91	890
2011	200	597	131	928

## Leased Sites:

DBIS leases a building for our Kindergarten, offering 200 places. This building is leased through the Government Property Agency on a current 2 year plus 2 year lease. There is no guarantee that we will be able to continue using this facility. Our DBIS Primary and Secondary School operates on a zoned education site leased through Hong Kong Resort Limited. Our school is confident in remaining on this site.

## New DBIS Secondary Facility / Discovery College:

We opened the beginning of a Secondary School in 2008 (Year 7 and Year 8) due to the extremely limited places then available for our graduating Year 6 students in Hong Kong. Up until 2008, between 90% to 100% of our then 80 graduating Year 6 students were able to be enrolled in a Hong

Kong international Secondary School, mostly of the parent's choice. This 'ease of choice' changed dramatically in 2007 and 2008. The limited number of Year 7 places in Hong Kong has continued since 2007 and is now even more difficult.

Discovery College opened in Discovery Bay in 2007. As a result of this new school, some additional places became available in Primary and Secondary school for residents within Discovery Bay. It is important to note that our roll and waiting list numbers continue to grow at a greater rate than at any time in our school's history. This accelerated growth continued through the world wide economic recession year and has shown no signs of slowing down.

We have extended our Secondary School operation through to Year 11 and we have just completed a new purpose built Secondary School facility on our current DBIS site, using the last of the site's Gross Floor Area. This recent Secondary School extension allows for a total of 220 students (Year 7 to Year11) only. Our school has 96 Year 6 students graduating each year. We only have 66 spaces in Year 7. This will reduce to 44 spaces once all classes in Year 7 to Year 11 are operating (2014).

**Waiting Lists / Request for Placement:**

We have extensive waiting lists in Kindergarten and Primary as well as reasonable waiting lists for Secondary classes. All waiting lists have continued to grow – but at particularly accelerated rates over the past six years. Our current waiting list numbers are as follows:

	<b>Birth to 3 yrs Awaiting Kindergarten</b>	<b>Kindergarten Classes</b>	<b>Primary Classes</b>	<b>Secondary Classes</b>
<b>2012</b>	670	309	478	31

Our school receives many requests for placement. We operate a prioritised waiting list as a largely non-selective school. Every week, we are aware of at least three families who make genuine enquires, directly or through relocation agents, for school places. These families are seeking to relocate, or are being relocated by their employing body, to Hong Kong. Our anecdotal information shared by these parents, and also communicated between international schools in Hong Kong, indicates that the places in international schools is severely limited in Early Years (Kindergarten), Primary School as well as in Years 7 to Year 10 in Secondary School throughout Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely

Grant Ramsay M Ed Admin (Hons)  
Principal