



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. : (40) in EDB(CW)6/21429/68(2)

電話 Telephone : 2863 4680

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : 2865 0491

23 May 2014

Miss Polly YEUNG
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss YEUNG,

Panel on Education

**Issues related to the relocation of and admission of students to
St Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong**

I refer to the letter dated 9 May 2014. Regarding the issues related to the relocation of and admission of students to St. Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong, please refer to our reply in the Appendix.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Ms Cynthia CHAN at 2863 4680.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Mable LEUNG)
for Secretary for Education

**Issues relating to the phasing out of
St Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong**

The Education Bureau (EDB) has given approval for St. Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong (SMGCHK) to use a vacant school premises in Shatin on a time-limited basis from September 2014 to August 2019 to enable its existing students to complete their secondary education smoothly during the phasing-out period.

2. By way of background, back in February 1999, SMGCHK, then a private school operating in leased premises, applied for joining the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) in the 1999/2000 school year. In accordance with the DSS policy, we conditioned approval for the school to join the DSS on the school's undertaking to secure its own premises. For this purpose, one of the options that the School may resort to is to compete for government sites or school premises. In the past years, SMGCHK has indicated repeatedly to EDB its wish for school relocation including through the award of a vacant school premises for long term use.

3. Though noting its wish, the EDB cannot allocate a school premises without going through a due process. Land is a valuable resource. So are vacant school premises. Both are much sought after by existing and prospective school operators. Demand far outstrips supply, at all times. Therefore, allocation of sites and premises, identified to be suitable for school use on a long term basis, has all along been done in a competitive and objective manner through an evaluation of proposals submitted in response to an open invitation for proposals announced on the EDB website and/or in a press release.

4. On 26 October 2012, SMGCHK informed the EDB of its intention to phase out operation from September 2014. EDB subsequently contacted SMGCHK to learn about its needs. SMGCHK indicated for the first time its wish to use a vacant school premises on a temporary basis to facilitate the phase out plan. The EDB reminded the school repeatedly and in very clear terms of the need to widely consult stakeholders (including parents and students) and duly address their concerns. In late August 2013, SMGCHK formally applied to the EDB for the temporary use of a vacant school premises in Shatin from September 2014 to August 2019. In response, the EDB gave

approval for SMGCHK to use the vacant school premises in Shatin, that had been reserved for primary school use, on a time-limited basis from September 2014 to August 2019 to enable its existing students to complete their secondary education in SMGCHK notwithstanding the phasing-out plan of the school. SMGCHK undertook that it would not enrol secondary one students during the period. It also undertook to ensure the continued provision of a broad curriculum to its students as well as the arrangement of school bus service for students residing on the Hong Kong Island. While the EDB will endeavor its best to safeguard students' interest, as a matter of principle, consulting and informing staff, parents and students of any plans that the school may have is the School's responsibility.

5. Should SMGCHK like to apply for the long term use of a vacant school premises, it could apply for a suitable premises through the established mechanism mentioned in paragraph 3 above.

Education Bureau
May 2014