



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

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Clerk to Panel
(Attn: Mr KWONG Kam-fai)
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr KWONG,

Meeting of Panel on Education on 9 May 2016

I refer to your letter dated 21 April 2016 concerning the captioned issue. Our response to the concerns raised by the Yan Oi Tong Chan Wong Suk Fong Memorial Secondary School about the following agenda item is set out in the ensuing paragraphs for Members' reference –

Item V – Capital Works Projects for Schools

(b) 3109ET- A school for social development for boys in Area 2B, Tuen Mun

School location

Schools for Social Development (SSDs) provide intensive support for students with moderate to severe emotional and behavioural difficulties in order to help them tide over their adaptation problems, enhance their learning motivation and life skills, and develop their self-care capabilities and the ability to adapt themselves to social environment so that they can resume education in ordinary schools as soon as possible. Most students only study at SSDs for a short period of time. If they show marked improvement after receiving support service in SSDs, arrangements will be made to reintegrate them into ordinary schools. All along, SSDs have never been

purposely located away from densely populated districts. In fact, of the seven existing SSDs operating in Hong Kong, with the exception of the Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School, six are located in urban districts. Two of them are located in Southern District of Hong Kong Island, two in Sham Shui Po district, one in Kwun Tong district and another in Wong Tai Sin district. These six SSDs are close to residential areas and schools. For instance, in the vicinity of one of the SSDs in Sham Shui Po district, there are a number of schools, including a government secondary school, a government primary school and two aided primary schools. Opposite to the SSD are private residential blocks with several public housing estates in the neighbourhood. The SSD has been operating smoothly.

According to the available information, in each of the school years from 2011/12 to 2015/16 (as at 15 January 2016), about one third of the students referred to SSDs for intensive support service after vetting by the Vetting Committee of Central Co-ordinating Referral Mechanism are living in New Territories West Region (i.e Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing districts). Hence, establishing an SSD in the New Territories will help meet the demand for SSD's support service (including day placement) of the districts.

Impact on the local community

We understand the concern expressed by the Supervisor of the Yan Oi Tong Chan Wong Suk Fong Memorial Secondary School over the possible impact on the school's teaching and learning and other activities given its close proximity to the Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School. The Education Bureau (EDB) has sought to minimise the impact on the schools nearby in designing the new school premises of Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School, including minimising the impact on the view and ventilation of buildings nearby.


At present, all the seven SSDs across the territory are able to integrate into and maintain a cordial relationship with the local community. On the other hand, with years of experience in running the SSD, the Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School and its sponsoring body are fully competent to handle students with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Besides, having served as a Special School cum Resource Centre of the EDB since 2007, the school works in close collaboration with ordinary

schools under the School Partnership Scheme to impart knowledge/skills on handling students with emotional and behavioural difficulties. We believe that the Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School will maintain a cordial relationship with the local community after its relocation to Area 2B, Tuen Mun.

Regarding the concern that the students of the SSD may associate with local people, we expect that about 75% of the SSD students are boarders. Under the current arrangement, boarders of the Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School go home at 5 p.m. on Fridays and return to the residential home at 3:30 pm on Sundays. The social workers at the residential home will evaluate the behaviour of the boarders and for those not found suitable for going home by themselves, parent pick-up is mandatory. As for day students, school bus service is arranged to take them to the nearby MTR station at 5:30 pm every day. The Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School expects that the arrangement in the new school premises will be largely the same.

For students with emotional and behavioural difficulties, apart from the support by schools, acceptance, respect and care shown by the community also help them improve their problems and develop positive values and good conduct. Therefore, we appeal to the community to accommodate and accept these students so that they may receive appropriate support service.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Elina CHAN)
for Secretary for Education