



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: EDB(KGA)ADM/55/1/1
來函檔號 Your Ref:

電話 Telephone: 3509 8520
傳真 Fax Line: 2119 9061

21 April 2017

Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

(Attn.: Ms Angel WONG)

Dear Ms Wong

Panel on Education
Support for private independent kindergartens

I refer to your letter dated 11 April 2017. The Administration's response to the concern raised by Hon HUI Chi-fung is provided at Annex as requested.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C S Woo', written over a faint circular stamp.

(C S Woo)

for Secretary for Education

Encl.

Support for private independent kindergartens

Kindergartens (KGs) in Hong Kong have all along been privately run, with diverse operating modes and different development targets of individual school sponsoring bodies (SSBs). KGs are located in a variety of premises such as self-acquired or self-owned premises, privately leased premises or public housing estates. Every year, there are KGs ceasing operation and KGs newly operated in different districts.

According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, the need of setting up KGs is taken into account in housing estates and large-scale private development projects where space is allocated for such uses. When there is space for KG uses in public housing estates, the Education Bureau (EDB) will review the supply and demand for KG places there and launch school allocation exercises (SAEs) as appropriate at the request of the Housing Department. When SAEs are launched, all eligible SSBs including existing and new SSBs may apply for using the premises concerned to operate new KGs or relocate existing KGs. As these KG premises involve public resources, the applicant SSBs must be non-profit-making organisations exempted from tax under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap 112).

As private independent KGs are profit-making in nature, on the principle of prudent use of public resources, we have no intention to provide any subsidy for their school premises. Besides, rental issues for KG premises of private independent KGs are private commercial decisions in which the government is not in a position to intervene. Currently, some private independent KGs are operated in self-owned premises while some are in leased premises. Private independent KGs have been flexible in operation, providing diverse choices for parents. To enhance the transparency of the operation of private independent KGs in leased premises, we will consider encouraging them to inform parents of their school development plans, including information on the tenancy agreement of the school premises (such as the expiry date of the tenancy agreement). Besides, we will also remind KGs to keep close contact with parents. In case they decide to cease operation, they should inform parents as soon as possible and make proper arrangement for the affected students. EDB has all along been concerned about students' learning. In case a KG ceases to operate, apart from support to the KG as appropriate, we would offer assistance to affected parents and students, including uploading the vacancy situation of KGs in the district concerned onto EDB homepage and setting up hotlines for parents' enquiries.