



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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8 March 2018

Ms Angel WONG
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Wong

Panel on Education
Follow-up to Meeting on 5 January 2018

I refer to your letter dated 12 January 2018. The information requested at Items (e) to (i) in respect of kindergarten education is provided at the Annex for Members' reference.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs CHAN SIU Suk-fan)
for Secretary for Education

Encl.

Panel on Education
Follow-up to the meeting on 5 January 2018

- In the 2017/18 school year, there are 748 kindergartens (KGs) joining the new kindergarten education scheme (Scheme-KGs). Among them, about 500 KGs offer half-day (HD) programmes. The range of school fees per instalment after deduction of government subsidy for HD programmes and the respective number of KGs concerned are tabulated as follows:

Range of school fees per instalment	Number of KGs
\$1 to \$300	18
\$301 to \$600	11
\$601 or above	2

- When Scheme-KGs conduct trading operation on sale of school items and provision of paid services to students (generally referred as “miscellaneous charges”), they are required to observe the guiding principles set out in EDB Circular No. 16/2013 “Collection of Fees, Sales of School Items and Provision of Paid Services in Kindergartens”, in particular the principle that all purchases of school items and services by parents must be entirely voluntary. As the same item or service, e.g. tea and snacks, summer uniform, winter uniform, exercise books, etc., in different schools may vary significantly in terms of materials/quality and quantity, etc., it is inappropriate to compile such information and present in terms of price ranges. To help parents understand the situation of collection of fees in individual schools, all Scheme-KGs are required to disclose the reference prices of major paid items and services in the “Profile of Kindergartens and Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres”.
- The increase in provision of whole-day (WD) places mentioned in paragraph 18 of LC Paper No. CB(4)427/17-18(02) provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) to the Legislative Council Panel on Education refers to revising the relevant part of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to increase the provision of KG places, in particular WD places. The proposal has been circulated to Bureaux/Departments concerned. Upon endorsement, the revised standard will be applied to new public housing estates and large-scale private development projects for developing new KGs as appropriate. In fact, the KG sector is characterised by a high level of flexibility and diversity as well as prompt responses to the needs of parents, including the demand for different modes of KG services such as HD and WD services, etc. In the 2016/17 school year, the number of WD places of KGs joining the Pre-primary

Education Voucher Scheme was about 46 700, including about 23 400 long WD (LWD) places. In the 2017/18 school year, the number of WD places of Scheme-KGs was about 48 900, including about 24 000 LWD places¹.

- In the 2017/18 school year, EDB has commissioned The University of Hong Kong to operate a basic training programme on support to non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students in KGs. The course aims to enhance the professional knowledge and capability of KG teachers in teaching NCS students' learning of Chinese and raising teachers' cultural and religious sensitivity. Content of the programme covers:
 - (1) Importance of learning Chinese for the development and social inclusion of NCS students;
 - (2) Features and difficulties of NCS students in learning Chinese in light of their cultural backgrounds;
 - (3) Basic principles in curriculum development and planning taking into account how NCS students learn Chinese and peg with the modes of learning and teaching in KGs;
 - (4) The strategy in reviewing the NCS students' progress in learning Chinese and encouraging parental engagement; and
 - (5) Sharing school-based experiences or frontline practices in supporting NCS students' learning of Chinese.

- According to the information from the Social Welfare Department, the Government has planned to regularise the pilot scheme on On-site Pre-primary Rehabilitation Services from October 2018. Upon regularisation of the service, the number of service places will be increased in two phases. The first phase will take place in October 2018, and the current 3 000 service places will be increased to 5 000. The second phase will take place in October 2019, and the service places will be increased from 5 000 to 7 000.

¹ Figures refer to the position as at mid-September of the respective years; figures include nursery, lower and upper classes in KG-cum-child care centres; figures on places do not include vacant classrooms and vacant child care centre portions; figures for the 2017/18 school year are provisional.