



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.: (1) in EDB(SB) 435/B/396/80 X

電話 Telephone: 3509 8504

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真 Fax Line: 2573 3467

22 January 2019

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,

Meeting of Panel on Education on 7 December 2018

At the Panel on Education meeting on 7 December 2018, five motions were passed under the agenda item on “3358EP – A 30-classroom primary school at Shui Chuen O, Sha Tin; territory-wide mechanism on school building works and standard of school premises (including facilities)”. Our consolidated response is set out as follows.

Planning for School Building

Under the prevailing mechanism, the Planning Department (PlanD) reserves sites for school development when preparing town plans and planning large-scale residential developments having regard to the planned population intake and service demand of the community in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning

香港添馬添美道 2 號政府總部東翼 6 樓基礎建設及研究支援分部
Infrastructure and Research Support Division,
6/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

網址 : <http://www.edb.gov.hk>
Web site : <http://www.edb.gov.hk>

電子郵件 : edbinfo@edb.gov.hk
E-mail : edbinfo@edb.gov.hk

Standards and Guidelines. In the process, the Education Bureau (EDB) is consulted.

Insofar as planning of public sector primary and secondary school building projects at reserved sites is concerned, land is a scarce resource and construction of new school premises involves immense resources. We therefore have to consider with prudence if operating a new school would commensurate with the long term sustainable development of the district concerned so as to avoid negative impacts on the steady development of the school sector as a whole. In this regard, we will take into account factors including the planned development of the area concerned, the school-age population projections which are compiled based on the population projections updated regularly by the Census and Statistics Department and the projection of population distribution released by PlanD, the actual number of existing students and school places available at various levels, the prevailing education policies and other factors which may affect the supply and demand of school places, etc., in order to decide whether the planned premises should be used for operating a new school or re-provisioning an existing school, and when to kick-start the relevant school building project. Hence, the commencement date of a new school may not necessarily tie in with the population intake schedule of the nearby new housing development. Despite the unavoidable limitations of the population projections, we will continue to explore ways to improve the planning mechanism. To this end, we will enhance our communication with relevant departments to obtain timely updates on the school-age population projections, compiled with reference to the latest programme and intake schedule of major housing development, as far as practicable with a view to confirming the need for construction of new school premises and kicking-start the relevant school building project in time.

Ancillary Transport Facilities for the Proposed Primary School Premises at Shui Chuen O

EDB held two inter-departmental meetings with relevant government departments, including the Transport Department (TD), Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), in October and December 2018 respectively to explore practicable ways to improve transport arrangements for students and teachers of the proposed TWGHs Shui Chuen O

Primary School.

On public transport arrangements, TD is actively studying the feasibility of providing a new green minibus stand at an appropriate location near the pedestrian entrance/exit of the proposed school to facilitate staff, students and escorts travelling to and from school. Apart from green minibus service, TD is also considering the provision of new franchised bus route(s) or extending existing bus routes to Pok Chuen Street, where the proposed school premises is to be located, to further enhance public transport connection. Furthermore, relevant departments are contemplating the installation of railings along the pedestrian walkway from Lok Chuen House to the proposed school to enhance pedestrian protection, and will continue to look into the feasibility and urgency of other proposals to further enhance pedestrian accessibility.

In addition, the Police will implement established measures to maintain smooth traffic and step up enforcement against illegal parking at relevant road sections around the school at the beginning of the school year. The Police will closely monitor the traffic situation of Shui Chuen O Estate and deploy appropriate manpower to maintain road safety and smooth traffic.

Schedule of Accommodation (SoA) and Reference Lists of Furniture and Equipment (F&E) for New School Premises

Having regard to the prevailing school building standards, the Government has put in place SoA for standard-design public sector primary and secondary schools to list out the number and types of rooms and facilities required for teaching and learning, school administrative and support use. For school building projects undertaken by ArchSD, EDB, together with ArchSD and its design consultant, will make reference to SoA to prepare the detailed design of school premises in close consultation with the schools/school sponsoring bodies (SSB) concerned. To ensure that the premises to be built can cater for the specific needs and long-term development of the school concerned, ArchSD and its design consultant will heed the views of the school/SSB concerned as far as practicable. Flexibility will be allowed in the school design and provision of facilities, including the location and layout of rooms, as appropriate provided that the overall progress and budget of the project will not be affected. And, a 10% adjustment in the floor area of individual rooms/facilities is allowed provided that the overall increase in total floor area of the premises does not exceed 5%. Such flexibilities not only enable schools to better

utilise their new premises, but also promote diversity in school premises design. For school building projects taken forward by consultants engaged by SSBs themselves with capital subvention from the Government, the relevant SoA will also be provided to the SSBs concerned for school premises design purpose. EDB will update SoA as appropriate when ancillary facilities are required to facilitate the implementation of new initiatives. To this end, relevant SoA were suitably updated when initiatives such as the new senior secondary academic structure, green lunch arrangements in schools, and provision of air-conditioning systems for standard teaching facilities (including classrooms and special rooms), student activity centres and assembly halls, were introduced.

EDB also provides reference lists of F&E for public sector primary and secondary schools respectively to serve as general guidance on furnishing and equipping the new school premises concerned. Under the prevailing mechanism, the Government is responsible for the F&E cost for reprovisioning / redevelopment projects for existing schools, while that for a newly set up school is borne by the SSB concerned. In order to balance the need to ensure prudent use of public money through proper monitoring on the scope and hence cost of F&E items on one hand, and to provide sufficient flexibility for schools in procuring items that meet their school-based teaching and learning needs on the other, the aforementioned F&E lists seek to set out the basic facilities and the associated reference costs for schools' reference when compiling the procurement list for seeking F&E subsidy from the Government. To cater for school-based needs, schools are free to procure F&E items not on the reference lists provided that they are justified by operational needs and in line with the cost-effective principle. Separately, EDB is providing existing schools with a recurrent Composite Furniture and Equipment Grant (CFEG) for replacing or procuring F&E according to the objectives and policies laid down by their School Management Committees/Incorporated Management Committees. CFEG is subsumed under the Expanded Operating Expenses Block Grant (EOEBG). Schools can flexibly deploy EOEBG resources by setting spending item priorities and related appropriation, including F&E replacement or procurement. EDB will also provide schools with non-recurrent resources for replacing or procuring F&E if situation warrants. Additional provision will be given as necessary to meet specific teaching needs, such as the one-off grant to strengthen the support in promoting STEM education in schools. Schools can use this one-off grant to purchase relevant equipment, instruments and tools. In view that we have not comprehensively reviewed the reference F&E lists for some time and some of the items therein may no longer meet the prevailing learning and teaching needs, we are

reviewing the lists and will consult the sector when ready.

Allocation of Primary School Places

Implemented since the 1982/83 school year, the Primary One Admission (POA) System is primarily a net-based mechanism underpinned by the principle of vicinity. In accordance with the prevailing POA mechanism, all public sector primary schools should earmark about 50% of its primary one places for the central allocation, of which 10% are for the unrestricted school choices and the remaining places are allocated by a computer programme based on school nets and parental choices. In fact, when selecting school for their children, apart from location, parents will take into account a number of factors, including the education vision and programme features of the schools concerned. The existing POA System has fully balanced the need to give parents choices and the practicability of students travelling to school. It has also adopted the principle of vicinity at the central allocation stage as far as possible, which is in line with the recommendations related to primary one admission set out in the proposal of the Education Commission's report entitled "Reform Proposals for the Education System in Hong Kong" published in September 2000.

As for students who need to change school because of removal or other special reasons, their parents can approach EDB for placement assistance or apply for admission with their preferred schools direct. In principle, we seek to place students to schools in the districts of their residences having regard to their home addresses, the supply and distribution of public sector school places in the districts concerned, and transport facilities support. Taking Shui Chuen O Estate as an example, in the 2018/19 school year, we have placed about 40 primary school students moved to the Estate in primary schools within the district.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Elina CHAN)
for Secretary for Education