

New Initiatives in Pre-primary Education
Professional Upgrading for Newly-appointed Kindergarten Principals
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. Q: Who are new principals? Will there be any qualification requirements for them?

A: (1) “New principals” refer to those who are to be appointed as KG principals for the first time ever.

(2) All new principals from the 2009/10 school year will have a degree in early childhood education (BEd(ECE)), one-year post-qualification experience and will have completed a certification course before, or exceptionally within the first year of their appointment with prior approval from the EDB.

2. Q: Will those ex-KG principals reappointed be regarded as new principals?

A: Generally speaking, ex-KG principals reappointed with a break of service of less than three calendar months (counting from the date of last service and the proposed date of new appointment) will not be considered as new principals. However, all cases will be considered on individual merit. If ex-KG principals reappointed with a break of service of more than three calendar months, they have to fulfil the new policy requirements.

3. Q: If a serving KG principal re-deployed/ transferred to other KGs within the same sponsoring body, will the KG principal be required to fulfil the qualification requirements for the new principals?

A: New principals refer to those who are to be appointed as KG principals for the first time ever. Serving KG principals re-deployed/ transferred to other KGs within the same sponsoring body without a break of service (i.e. re-deployment/ transferal within three calendar months or less) will thus not be regarded as new principals.

4. Q: What is a degree in Early Childhood Education (BEd(ECE)) or its equivalent?

A: In general, newly appointed kindergarten principals should be holders of the Bachelor of Education Degree in Early Child Education (BEd(ECE)) or its equivalent. For kindergarten principals holding other relevant qualification, they should make reference with the “Teacher Professional Development Question and Answers” uploaded on the EDB webpage: <http://www.edb.gov.hk/index.aspx?nodeID=5964&langno=1>
However, all cases will be considered on individual basis.

5. Q: I have obtained an overseas qualification in BEd(ECE). Will my qualification be recognised as a BEd(ECE) or its equivalent?

A: According to the existing policy, all non-local qualifications are required to undergo individual assessment for local equivalency. Holders of non-local qualifications may apply for qualification assessment to the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) direct and all the fees will

be borne by the applicants. For details, you may refer to its website at: <http://hkcaa.edu.hk/zh/main.asp>

In general, when submitting their applications, applicants should indicate clearly that their assessment applications are relevant to the requirements for teacher qualification.

6. Q: Should all new principals have to complete the Certification Course for Kindergarten Principals before their appointment? Is it possible for those aspiring principals who have satisfactorily completed the Principal-ship Training Course for Kindergarten Principals and Child Care Centre Supervisors held before to be granted exemption from the EDB?

A: Generally speaking, all new principals should have completed a certification course before, or exceptionally within the first year of their appointment; and each exceptional case is to be considered on its own merits. Those who have satisfactorily completed the Principal-ship Training Course for Kindergarten Principals and Child Care Centre Supervisors commissioned by the EDB to the University of Hong Kong (from 2001/02 to 2002/03 school years only) and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (from 2003/04 to 2005/06 school years only) are considered as having completed the Certification Course for KG Principals.

7. Q: What is meant by at least “one-year post-qualification job-related experience”?

A: All new principals should have possessed at least one-year post BEd(ECE) qualification job-related experience. Generally speaking, the job-related experience includes teaching and administrative experience in kindergartens and/or kindergarten-cum-child care centres, or job experience related to education.

8. Q: If a newly appointed kindergarten principal who should take up his/her post as from the 2009/10 school year but already starts coordinating work in the kindergarten with effect from July 2008, will he/she be required to fulfil the requirements for all newly appointed kindergarten principals?

A: If the appointment of newly appointed kindergarten principal starts from the 2009/10 school year, the principal should fulfil the new qualification requirements which includes having a degree in early childhood education (BEd(ECE)), one-year post-qualification experience and will have completed a certification course before, or exceptionally within the first year of their appointment. The effective date of appointment of the new kindergarten principal should be in accordance with the effective appointment letter issued by the respective school sponsoring body.

9. Q: If a school sponsoring body cannot appoint any suitable candidate to fill up the vacant KG principal post in the 2009/10 school year, is it allowed to appoint a candidate holding C(ECE) to fill up the post of kindergarten principal as temporary replacement?

A: Starting from the 2009/10 school year, all new principals will have a degree in early childhood education (BEd(ECE)), one-year post-qualification experience and will have completed a certification course before (or exceptionally within the first year of their appointment with prior approval from the EDB). The school sponsoring body should arrange the appointment of an appropriate KG principal at its earliest convenience. Individual consideration may be given to cases of very special situation.

10. Q: As from the 2009/10 school year, will the existing application procedures for new KG principals still stand?

A: Yes, as from the 2009/10 school year, the existing application procedures for new KG principals still stands. Kindergartens should submit applications to their respective School Development Officer or Pre-primary Services Officer (JOPS) and for enquiries.

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