

**Application for “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission”
in the 2017/18 School Year**

Frequently Asked Questions

1 Q: If my child is going to enrol in nursery (K1) class in a kindergarten (KG) in September 2017, do I need to apply for a “Registration Certificate for KG Admission” in the 2017/18 school year (hereafter referred to as the “2017/18 RC”)?

A: The Education Bureau (EDB) will continue to implement the Admission Arrangements for K1 Classes in KGs for the 2017/18 school year (hereafter referred to as “2017/18 K1 Admission Arrangements”). The “2017/18 RC” will be used for K1 registration in the school year. As such, parents who wish to enrol their children to K1 classes in KGs in the 2017/18 school year are required to apply to EDB for the “2017/18 RC” from September to November 2016. Upon receipt of the application with all necessary information and documents provided, EDB will generally take six to eight weeks to complete processing of the applications and issue the “2017/18 RC” to eligible applicants by post.

2 Q: Where can parents obtain the information on eligibility criteria for application for the “2017/18 RC” and the application forms?

A: Information leaflets, application forms and guidance notes for the “2017/18 RC” are available at District Offices, Post Offices or Regional Education Offices of EDB. Application forms and related documents may also be downloaded from the EDB’s website (http://www.edb.gov.hk/k1-admission_e) or obtained by fax via EDB 24-hour automatic telephone enquiry system at 2891 0088.

3 Q: Who will be eligible to apply for the “2017/18 RC”?

A: Eligible students must be Hong Kong residents with right of abode, right to land or valid permission to remain without any conditions of stay (other than limit of stay) in Hong Kong, and born on or before 31 December 2014.

4 Q: How can I differentiate the application form for “2017/18 RC”?

A: Please note that the application form for “2017/18 RC” will be printed in light yellow paper and the application year, i.e. “2017/18”, shown at the upper right-hand corner will be enclosed within a rectangular box for easy identification.

- 5 Q: How should parents return the completed application forms for “2017/18 RC”?
- A: Parents may send the duly completed application form together with copies of necessary identity documents by post to “P.O. Box 23179, Wan Chai Post Office, Hong Kong”. Alternatively, parents may enclose all relevant documents in a sealed envelope marked “Application for Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission (2017/18)” and drop it into the drop-in box of EDB on 14/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen’s Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
- 6 Q: When should parents return the application forms?
- A: Application for the “2017/18 RC” is open starting from 1 September 2016. **The related application form and details will be uploaded to the EDB’s website in a timely manner.** As the “2017/18 RC” will be used for K1 registration in 2017/18, parents who wish to enrol their children to K1 classes in KGs in the 2017/18 school year are required to apply to EDB for the “2017/18 RC” from September to November 2016. Upon receipt of the application with all necessary information and documents provided, EDB will generally take six to eight weeks to complete processing of the applications and issue the “2017/18 RC” to eligible applicants by post.
- 7 Q: I wish to apply for the “2017/18 RC” for my children. May I know if my application will not be accepted after 30 November 2016?
- A: EDB will still accept application beyond this date. However, as it takes time for EDB to process the applications, parents wishing to receive the “2017/18 RC” for their eligible children before the “centralized registration dates” (i.e. between 12 and 14 January 2017), for K1 registration are advised to submit their application form from September to November 2016. Upon receipt of the application with all necessary information and documents provided, EDB will generally take six to eight weeks to complete processing of the applications and issue the “2017/18 RC” to eligible applicants by post. If parents cannot obtain the “2017/18 RC” before the “centralised registration dates”, the KG concerned may not be able to complete registration for their child.
- 8 Q: Can I fill out the Chinese application form for “2017/18 RC” by using Simplified Chinese?

A: In general, Chinese version of the application form should be filled out by using Traditional Chinese characters. This is to enable data capture into the computer system for application processing. However, if parents encounter great difficulty in filling out the form, we are ready to offer assistance. As the name of student will be printed on the “2017/18 RC”, when filling in the application form, applicants must provide the student name as shown on the valid identity document. Or else this may result in inability to complete registration.

9 Q: As I do not live in Hong Kong, can I provide a home address in the Mainland as my correspondence address?

A: Correspondence address must be an address within the territory of Hong Kong. If the applicant does not live in Hong Kong, please provide an address in Hong Kong for correspondence use as far as possible. Or else this may result in delay in mailing of the result to the applicant.

10 Q: How do parents know whether their applications have been received by EDB?

A: EDB will issue acknowledgement to applicants by either one of the following methods within 10 working days after receipt of the application

- if the applicant has filled out the local mobile phone number in the application form, EDB will send an “Acknowledgement of Application” SMS to the applicants.
- if local mobile phone number is not provided, EDB will issue acknowledgement by post to the applicant.

If applicants do not receive any acknowledgement from EDB three weeks after submitting their application forms, please call EDB at 3540 6808/3540 6811 (Working hours: Mondays to Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays) or the 24-hour automatic telephone enquiry system at 2891 0088.

11 Q: When will parents receive the “2017/18 RC”?

A: Upon receipt of the application with all necessary information and documents provided, EDB will generally take six to eight weeks to complete processing of the applications and issue the “2017/18 RC” to eligible applicants by post. Applicants who are required to provide supplementary information will be notified of the result later pending their response on the provision of supplementary information. For

enquiries about individual applications, please call EDB at 3540 6808/3540 6811 (Working hours: Mondays to Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays) or the 24-hour automatic telephone enquiry system at 2891 0088.

12 Q: How will EDB issue the “2017/18 RC” to the applicant? Can I collect the “2017/18 RC” from EDB in person?

A: EDB will inform eligible applicant of the result by post. Each eligible student will be issued with a “2017/18 RC”, which will be mailed to the residential/Hong Kong correspondence address of the applicant. The applicant must therefore ensure that the residential/Hong Kong correspondence address is accurately provided in the application form. In case the applicant changes the residential/Hong Kong correspondence address in the course of application for the “2017/18 RC”, such change must be made known to EDB in the first instance. Otherwise, the “2017/18 RC” may not be mailed to the applicant and the applicant would have to bear any possible consequence. As the “2017/18 RC” will be issued to the successful applicant by post directly, it is not necessary for the parents to collect the “2017/18 RC” from EDB in person.

13 Q: Do parents need to apply for “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission” on a yearly basis?

A: Under normal circumstances, EDB will issue to each eligible child a “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission” with a suitable validity period that will tie in with the period of study of the child to complete the pre-primary education. Those already issued with a “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission” need NOT re-apply for “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission” within the validity period as specified in “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission”. In any case, the validity period of “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission” will not exceed three years.

14 Q: Can children who are born in Hong Kong with father and/or mother holding student visa or visitor visa apply for “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission”?

A: Eligible children applying for “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission” must be Hong Kong residents with right of abode, right to land or valid permission to remain without any conditions of stay (other than limit of stay) in Hong Kong. Those who are born in Hong Kong, in possession of the Hong Kong

Birth Certificate with the word 'Established' shown in the 'Status of Permanent Resident' column or bear the identity of Hong Kong Permanent Residents are eligible to apply for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission", regardless of whether their parents are permanent residents of Hong Kong or not (e.g. residents of the Mainland). In other words, children with established Hong Kong permanent residency status are all eligible to apply for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission".

Children holding the Hong Kong Birth Certificates which bear the words 'Not Established' in the 'Status of Permanent Resident' column are usually those who are permitted to stay in Hong Kong for a limited period of time. Their permitted period of stay normally coincides with the permitted period of stay of their parents. In such circumstances, the parents of the children must be holding valid travel documents with the visa issued by the Immigration Department of the HKSAR Government not falling into the category of student visa or visitor visa for the children to be eligible to apply for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission". For enquiries about individual applications, please call EDB at 3540 6808/3540 6811 (Working hours: Mondays to Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays) or the 24-hour automatic telephone enquiry system at 2891 0088.

15 Q: The student was born in Hong Kong but his/her parents are holding identity documents issued by the Mainland, is he/she eligible to apply for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission"?

A: If the student born in Hong Kong has a valid Hong Kong Birth Certificate and meets the age requirement, he/she is still eligible to apply for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission" even when their parents are holding identity documents issued by the Mainland. For those students holding Two-way Exit Permit, they are not eligible to apply for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission".

16 Q: Are children of the ethnic minorities eligible to apply for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission"?

A: Children who are Hong Kong residents with right of abode, right to land, or valid permission to remain without any conditions of stay (other than the limit of stay) in Hong Kong, are eligible to apply for "Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission", regardless of the ethnicity.

17 Q: What kind of documents should be submitted in applying for “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission”?

A: Applicant has to provide copies of his/her Hong Kong identity card in applying for “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission”. If this is not available, applicant should provide copies of other valid identity documents, e.g. copies of his/her valid travel document or identity document issued by other authorities.

As for the child, if he/she was born in Hong Kong, the applicant should submit a copy of the Hong Kong Birth Certificate of the child. If the word “Established” is shown in the “Status of Permanent Resident” column of the Birth Certificate, the applicant needs not provide other documentary proof.

However, if the “Status of Permanent Resident” is “Not Established”, apart from providing a copy of the Hong Kong Birth Certificate of the child (if applicable), the applicant should provide one of the following valid identity documents of the child–

1. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Re-entry Permit
2. HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes (pages 1 to 3)
3. HKSAR Passport
4. Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card
5. One-way Exit Permit
6. Permit to Remain in the HKSAR (ID235B)
7. Entry Permit issued by the HKSAR Government or travel documents issued by other countries/territories bearing a valid permission to remain without any condition of stay (other than the limit of stay) in Hong Kong

If the identity document of the child belongs to category (6) or (7) above, the applicant and the child have to produce their own valid travel documents (pages showing the bearer’s particulars, the latest visa label issued by the Immigration Department of HKSAR Government and the latest “Permission to remain” stamp issued by the Immigration Department indicating the latest period of lawful stay of the applicant and the child) to EDB as well. Please note that children holding visitor visas, two-way exit permits or student visas only are not eligible to apply for “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission”.

18 Q: If parents wish to change to another KG after completing the registration procedure at a KG, can they get back the “2017/18 RC” from the last KG?

- A: If parents wish to change to another KG after registering with a KG, they should obtain the “2017/18 RC” from the KG they have already registered with. Upon applicant’s request, the KGs should return the “2017/18 RC” to the parents. Parents should note that upon obtaining the “2017/18 RC” from the last KG, the KG concerned will no longer keep the school place for that student.
- 19 Q: If parents wish to enrol in a KG not joining the “Free Quality KG Education Scheme” but having joined “Not More Than One Place for Each Child” measure under the “2017/18 K1 Admission Arrangements”, should they submit “2017/18 RC” for registration of K1 place?
- A: KG not joining the “Free Quality KG Education Scheme” but having joined “Not More Than One Place for Each Child” measure under the “2017/18 K1 Admission Arrangements” will also collect the “2017/18 RC” from the parents for registration of K1 Place. The list of the KGs concerned will be uploaded to EDB’s website in a timely manner.
- 20 Q: If my child has applied for the “2017/18 RC” but eventually cannot get a K1 place in a KG, what should I do?
- A: If parents get the “2017/18 RC” but subsequently find that development of the student is not fit for enrolment in a KG in 2017 and decides to defer K1 study to the next school year, he/she should return the original copy of the “2017/18 RC” to EDB stating that the “2017/18 RC” should be voided.
- 21 Q: Should the original of the “2017/18 RC” be kept by the KG the student enroll? If yes, will the KG return the original to the student concerned upon transfer?
- A: The “2017/18 RC” will be kept by the KG the student enrolls and KGs will issue a receipt to the parents. Upon students’ graduation or transfer/termination of studies in the middle of a school year, the KGs should return the original copy of the “2017/18 RC” to the parents.

If a student changes to another KG under the “Free Quality KG Education Scheme” during the validity period, his/her parent should get back the “2017/18 RC” from the KG registered with and submit it to the KG that the student is being transferred to.

- 22 Q: If the “2017/18 RC” is lost or damaged, what should be done? Will EDB reissue

the “2017/18 RC”?

A: The “2017/18 RC” is an important document. It should be properly kept by the applicant for registration of school place. All loss or damage of the “2017/18 RC” must be reported to EDB immediately [EDB hotline at 3540 6808/3540 6811 (Working hours: Mondays to Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays) or the 24-hour automatic telephone enquiry system at 2891 0088] so that EDB can void the “2017/18 RC”. Invalidated “2017/18 RC”, even when recovered, would not be used as a KG registration document. Eligible applicant can apply for reissue of the “2017/18 RC” from EDB at cost.

23 Q: If a student holding a “Certificate of Eligibility for the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme” (“voucher”) has obtained approval in principle from Student Finance Office (SFO) for extension of voucher validity to the 2017/18 school year, what should parents do?

A: If a student’s “voucher” is going to be expired in the 2016/17 school year and he/she has been notified by the SFO that his/her application for extension of voucher validity to the 2017/18 school year has been approved in principle, parents should submit the reply slip (the reply slip has been issued to parents upon obtaining approval in principle for extension of voucher validity) to SFO during the designated time (i.e. from February to April 2017). SFO will pass the applicant’s information to EDB for issuance of a “2017/18 RC” with 1-year validity period by EDB. After the implementation of the “Free Quality KG Education Scheme” in the 2017/18 school year, holders of voucher will be automatically covered under the funding mode of the “Free Quality KG Education Scheme” during the validity of the voucher.

24 Q: What should be done if a student holding a “voucher” intends to apply for extension of voucher validity to the 2017/18 school year or afterwards in the 2016/17 school year ?

A: Since the “Free Quality KG Education Scheme” will be implemented with effect from the 2017/18 school year, if a student holding a “voucher” intends to apply for extension of voucher validity in the 2016/17 school year, he/she should submit the application to the SFO. Application for extension of voucher validity will only be considered by the SFO under very special circumstances of individual children with proven special educational needs. In the event of such application, the applicant

must provide strong and solid proof, for example, an assessment report issued by registered medical practitioner or professional, confirming special educational difficulties of the child that warrant the need for the child to pursue pre-primary education for a period longer than the normal three years. If the validity period has been extended, parents should submit the reply slip to EDB during the designated time as shown below for issuance of a “Registration Certificate for KG Admission” to the applicant:-

Application for extension of voucher validity to the fourth year	Relevant Arrangements
2017/18 (The first year of application for “voucher” is the 2014/15 school year)	Parents should submit the reply slip to EDB from February to April 2017 / SFO will pass the reply slip collected to EDB for processing
2018/19 (The first year of application for “voucher” is the 2015/16 school year)	Parents should submit the reply slip to EDB from February to April 2018 / SFO will pass the reply slip collected to EDB for processing
2019/20 (The first year of application for “voucher” is the 2016/17 school year)	Parents should submit the reply slip to EDB from February to April 2019 / SFO will pass the reply slip collected to EDB for processing

25 Q: If a child is applying for the “2017/18 RC” for the first time and he/she will start to attend K1 class in KG in the 2017/18 school year, what will be the validity period of his/her “2017/18 RC”?

A: As long as the child can meet all eligibility criteria to apply for the “2017/18 RC”, and he/she will start to attend K1 class in the 2017/18 school year, he/she will be issued with a “2017/18 RC” with validity period of three years from the 2017/18 school year to the 2019/20 school year.

26 Q: If children, without proven special educational needs, repeat their study in the same level during the validity period and require more than 3 years’ time to complete the KG programme, what should their parents do?

A: Application for extension of validity of the “Registration Certificate for Kindergarten Admission” will only be considered under very special circumstances of individual children with proven special educational needs. Parents in need should approach KGs for enquiries.

(29 August 2016)