

## School Places Allocation

### Primary One Admission (POA) System 2018

### Discretionary Places Admission Stage

### Frequently Asked Questions

Question (1) Who can participate in POA 2018?

Answer (1) All Hong Kong children reaching the age of 5 years 8 months as at 1 September 2018 (i.e. **born on or before 31 December 2012**) are eligible to participate in POA 2018 except those who are already attending a primary school or have been allocated a Primary 1 place previously.

Question (2) How should children apply for a discretionary place?

Answer (2) Parents can obtain an application form during the period from 4 to 29 September 2017 from the kindergarten or kindergarten-cum-child care centre the child is attending, the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the District Offices, the Regional Education Offices or School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau. Parents should return the completed application form **DIRECT** to the school to which they apply for a discretionary place **between 25 and 29 September 2017**.

Question (3) What documents are required when parents / guardians submit the application form?

Answer (3) When parents / guardians return the completed application form, they should bring along -

- a. the applicant child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate and its photocopy (If the 'Hong Kong permanent resident status' in the last column of the Birth Certificate is 'Not Established', the original and photocopy of his / her travel document(s) or Permit to Remain in Hong Kong are required) or the applicant child's non-local Birth Certificate and passports (the original and photocopy);
- b. proof of residential address for applicant children residing in the POA School Net of Hong Kong<sup>1</sup> (including but not limited to stamped tenancy agreement, demand note for rates, public housing tenancy agreement or water / electricity / town gas / residential telephone bills) and a photocopy of the document. The address on a bank letter, court summons and tax bill may be a correspondence address but not a residential address in general. Therefore, such documents have not been accepted as proof of residential address by the Education Bureau all along. The name on the document submitted as proof of residential address should agree with that

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<sup>1</sup> Parents of applicant children residing in the Mainland need not provide proof of residential address of their children in the Mainland.

of the parent / guardian. If parents / guardians cannot provide the above acceptable proof of residential address or have any enquiries, please contact the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau at 2832 7700 for appropriate advice and assistance;

- c. the parent / guardian's Identity Card; and
- d. documentary proof required for Item (B) of Part C (if applicable). For details, please refer to the Notes on How to Complete the 'Application Form for Admission to Primary One'.

Question (4) How many schools can parents apply to during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?

Answer (4) During the Discretionary Places Admission stage, parents may apply to only ONE government or aided primary school which may be in or outside the school net in which they reside. If more than one application is submitted, the applications for the discretionary place will be rendered void.

Question (5) For children who have accepted the offer of Primary 1 places in Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) primary schools, will they be allocated Primary 1 places through the POA System?

Answer (5) Children who have accepted the offer of Primary 1 places in DSS primary schools will NOT be allocated Primary 1 places through the POA System. If they have been allocated a place through the POA System, that school place will be withdrawn.

Question (6) What are the criteria for schools to admit applicant children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?

Answer (6) There are two categories of discretionary places admission:  
(A) A school must admit all applicant children with siblings studying or parents working in the school.  
(B) The remaining discretionary places will be allocated to other applicant children according to the points they have obtained under the Points System. If there are applicant children with equal scores and the number of such applicant children exceeds that of the remaining discretionary places, the school will select applicant children by drawing lots on their own or refer the applications to the Education Bureau for processing.

Question (7) Will there be any interviews or written tests for applicant children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?

Answer (7) Schools must not conduct tests or interviews on the applicant children's acquired curriculum knowledge.

Question (8) How does the Education Bureau verify the authenticity of the information provided by parents in relation to the POA application?

Answer (8) The Education Bureau will select a number of applications randomly for checking. The Education Bureau may request parents to attend interview / and produce other relevant documents and information, such as further proof of residential address, or to make sworn declaration. The Education Bureau may also conduct home visits as and when necessary. The public are encouraged to report suspected cases of using false address for POA applications to the School Places Allocation Section by calling the Hotline at 2832 7700.

Question (9) When will the discretionary places admission results be released?

Answer (9) All schools will release their discretionary places admission results by putting up a notice at their premises on 27 November 2017. Parents of successful applicant children should register with the school on 29 and 30 November 2017. Parents failing to register with the school on the specified dates will be deemed to have given up the discretionary place.

Question (10) What should parents do if they wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 in September 2018 but cannot return the completed application form to the school to which they apply for a discretionary place before the application deadline?

Answer (10) If parents cannot return the completed application form to the school to which they apply for a discretionary place before the application deadline, they may arrange their children to participate in the Central Allocation. For details, parents may contact the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau (Tel: 2832 7700).

If parents wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 this school year, i.e. in the 2017/18 school year, they may contact the Regional Education Office of the Education Bureau direct as follows:

Hong Kong Regional Education Office	Tel: 2863 4646
Kowloon Regional Education Office	Tel: 3698 4108
New Territories East Regional Education Office	Tel: 2639 4876
New Territories West Regional Education Office	Tel: 2437 7272

Question (11)      If an applicant child is not the eldest child in the family but his / her brother or sister is not a Hong Kong resident / was not born in Hong Kong / is not studying in Hong Kong, can the applicant child who is not the eldest be awarded the points for “First-born child”?

Answer (11)      If an applicant child is not the eldest child in the family, even though his / her brother or sister is not a Hong Kong resident / was not born in Hong Kong / is not studying in Hong Kong, the applicant child cannot be awarded the points for “First-born child” under the Points System at the Discretionary Places Admission stage.

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