Kindergarten (KG) education lays vital foundation for children's lifelong learning and whole person development. Capitalising on the strengths of the existing KG education in terms of vibrancy and diversity, the new KG education policy has been implemented starting from the 2017/18 school year.

The policy objectives are to provide good quality and highly affordable KG education for all eligible children, and enhance the accessibility of students to different modes of services that suit their specific needs.

**Government Provision**

Non-profit making (NPFM) KGs joining the KG provision scheme (Scheme) are directly provided with:
- A basic unit subsidy on a per student basis which is in principle sufficient for the provision of quality half-day (HD) services, for whole-day (WD) KG places, school fees will be at a low level;
- Additional subsidy for each WD place and long WD place at 30% and 60% of HD unit subsidy respectively; and
- Additional grants based on circumstances of schools, for example, rental subsidy, premises maintenance grant, grant for a cook, grant for support to non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students, etc. Refund of rates and government rent to NPFM KGs will continue.

**Enhancing the quality**

Improving the teacher-pupil ratio from 1:15 (including the principal) to 1:11 (principal not included) so that teachers have more capacity for lesson preparation, development of school-based curriculum, professional collaboration and development, communication with parents and catering for students with diverse needs;

Encouraging KGs to provide a career ladder and competitive remuneration to attract and retain quality teachers;

Promoting continuous professional development of KG principals and teachers, for example, implement the Continuous Professional Development policy and enhance the existing teacher training programmes;

Strengthening support to students with diverse needs;

Refining the Quality Assurance Framework;

Enhancing the governance and transparency of KGs;

Improving school premises and facilities, and formulating measures to increase the provision of KG premises in the long run;

Enhancing parent education and encouraging KGs to set up Parent-Teacher Associations; and

Conducting more researches on KG education in Hong Kong.

The aims of the KG Education curriculum are as follows:

- to foster children's balanced development in the domains of ethics, intellect, physique, social skills and aesthetics;
- to help children develop good living habits and a strong and healthy body;
- to foster in children an interest in learning, an inquisitive mind and eagerness to explore, and to instill in children positive values and attitudes.

**Catering for student diversity**

Students from needy families: Continuing to provide fee remission and provide an additional grant for school-related expenses for eligible KG students;

NCS students: All KGs admitting NCS students may apply for school-based professional support; teacher training will be strengthened; starting from the 2019/20 school year, a 5-tiered grant has been provided to Scheme-KGs according to the number of NCS students admitted for enhancing the support to NCS students. A KG admitting 1 NCS student also receives the grant;

Students with special needs or at risk of developmental delay: The Onnele Pre-school Rehabilitation Services has been regularised since the 2018/19 school year with a total of over 7 000 service places provided at participating KGs. The number of service places will be further increased by 1 000 annually in the 3 school years from 2020/21 to 2022/23, i.e. a total increase of 3 000, amounting to 10 000 in total; and

The enhancement of the teacher-pupil ratio to 1:11 has created more space for teachers to cater for the diverse needs of students. The Education Bureau will also offer more structured in-service training programmes for teachers.

The grant rate is pegged at the level of grant for school-related expenses for KG students under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance.