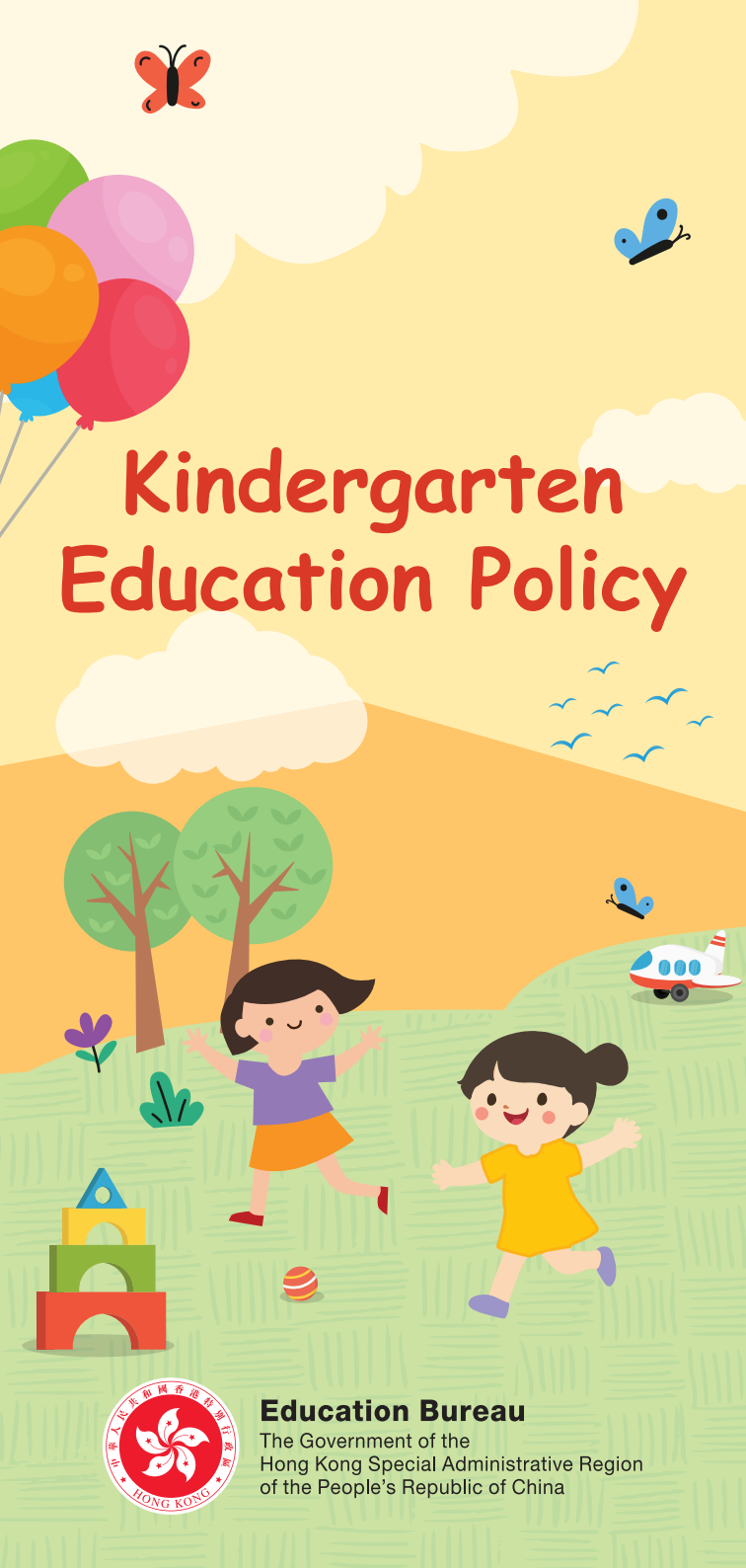




Kindergarten Education Policy

Kindergarten Education Policy

- * 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 Kindergarten Education Scheme ("the Scheme") has been implemented starting from the 2017/18 school year.
- * The policy objectives are to provide good quality and highly affordable KG education, and enhance the accessibility of students to different modes of services that suit their specific needs.

Government Provision

Non-profit-making (NPM) KGs joining the Scheme (Scheme-KGs) 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 NPM KGs will continue.

Enhancing the Quality

- * Enhancing the teacher-pupil ratio from 1:15 (including the principal) to 1:11 (not including the principal) so that teachers have more capacity for lesson preparation, development of school-based curriculum, professional collaboration and development, communication with parents and catering for the diverse needs of students;
- * Encouraging KGs to establish a career ladder and provide 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, formulating measures to increase the provision of KG premises in the long run, and adopting a streamlined mechanism for assessing applications for KG premises;
- * Enhancing parent education and encouraging KGs to set up Parent-Teacher Associations; and
- * Utilise findings from studies to enhance and support KG education.

Kindergarten Education Curriculum

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 instil in children positive values and attitudes.

Catering for Student Diversity

- * Students from needy families: Continuing to provide fee remission and a grant for school-related expenses¹ for eligible KG students;
- * NCS students: Different school-based support services are offered and KGs admitting NCS students may apply for the relevant services according to their school development needs; teacher training will be strengthened; starting from the 2019/20 school year, a 5-tiered grant is provided to Scheme-KGs according to the number of NCS students admitted to facilitate their support for NCS students. KGs admitting one NCS student also receive the grant; 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.

¹ The grant rate is pegged at the level of grant for school-related expenses for KG students under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance.

