

**Education and Manpower Bureau**  
**Circular Memorandum No. 314/2003**

From: Secretary for Education  
and Manpower

To: Supervisors, heads and teachers of  
all kindergartens

Ref: EMB(QA/HPS)/HAR/1

- for necessary action

Date: 26 November 2003

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**Implementation Plan for Harmonisation of Pre-primary Services**

(Note: This circular memorandum should be read by supervisors,  
heads and teachers of all kindergartens.)

**Summary**

The purpose of this circular memorandum is to inform kindergartens (KGs) that the Working Party on Harmonisation of Pre-primary Services has recommended the harmonisation of KGs and child care centres (CCCs) to take effect from the 2005/06 school year onwards.

**Details**

2. In May 2003, KGs were informed of the harmonisation measures recommended by the Working Party on Harmonisation of Pre-primary Services. While the Working Party is making preparation for harmonisation, it has noted the following observations -

- The pre-primary services sector has been facing difficulties in operation due to the continued decrease in child population. The SARS incident gave a further hard blow to the sector. In the light of the prevailing economic situation, a longer period of transition would help the sector to recuperate from the adverse operation conditions; and
- Since announcement of the harmonisation measures, both the KG and the child care sectors have expressed the need for a relatively longer period to get familiarized with the operation of one another to achieve harmonisation. Besides, there are other practical issues of concern such as the arrangements of in-service and pre-service training for child care

workers and KG teachers, formation of school management committees, etc. which require a longer preparation period before the new measures are introduced.

3. In the light of the aforesaid observations, the Working Party has sought views from the pre-primary services sector as well. The findings indicate that a longer period of transition would ensure smoother implementation. On the other hand, the Working Party is given the understanding that some KG operators have interest in providing additional child care services on a trial basis.

4. After careful consideration, the Working Party recommends that the implementation of harmonisation measures would be effective from the 2005/06 school year onwards to enable the sectors to be better prepared. Except for the implementation plan, the Working Party's recommendations on harmonisation detailed in Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) [Circular No.20/2003](#) will remain unchanged. Nevertheless, the Working Party considers that some administrative measures such as provision of training to harmonise the pre-primary services could be introduced prior to full implementation. KGs will be informed of the relevant arrangements in due course.

5. In the meantime, the Harmonisation of Pre-primary Services (HPS) Section of the Quality Assurance Division, EMB will continue to serve as a contact point to provide the necessary information and assistance on harmonisation of pre-primary services, including provision of advice to those ready and interested operators to apply for operation of CCCs under the existing regulatory framework and requirements.

### **Enquiry**

6. For enquiries, please contact the HPS Section of the Quality Assurance Division, EMB at 2117 7446.

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for Secretary for Education and Manpower

c.c. Heads of sections - for information