

New Initiatives in Pre-primary Education
Professional Upgrading for Newly-appointed Kindergarten Principals
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. Q: Who are new principals? Will there be any qualification requirements for them?
A: “New principals” refer to those who are to be appointed as KG principals for the first time ever.

All new principals from the 2009/10 school year are required to have a degree in early childhood education [BEd(ECE)] or its equivalent, one-year relevant post-qualification experience and completed a certification course before their appointment, or exceptionally within the first year of their appointment with prior approval from the EDB.
2. Q: Will those ex-KG principals reappointed be regarded as new principals?
A: Generally speaking, ex-KG principals reappointed with a break of service of less than three calendar months (counting from the date of last service) will not be considered as new principals. However, all cases will be considered on individual merit. If ex-KG principals reappointed with a break of service of more than three calendar months, they need to fulfil the new policy requirements.
3. Q: If a serving KG principal re-deployed / transferred to other KGs within the same sponsoring body, will the KG principal be required to fulfil the qualification requirements for the new principals?
A: New principals refer to those who are to be appointed as KG principals for the first time ever. Serving KG principals re-deployed / transferred to other KGs within the same sponsoring body without a break of service (i.e. re-deployment/ transfer within three calendar months or less) will thus not be regarded as new principals.
4. Q: If I possess a locally recognised degree or higher degree in other subject disciplines plus locally recognised Certificate in Early Childhood Education [C(ECE)] qualification, do I need to pursue BEd(ECE) or other training programme of equivalent qualification so as to be newly appointed as a KG principal?
A: Generally speaking, a locally recognised Bachelor Degree / higher degree plus a locally recognized Postgraduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education [PGDE(ECE)] or C(ECE) qualification can be considered to have met the required BEd(ECE) requirement for new KG principal appointment. Other cases may need to be considered individually.

A Bachelor Degree or a higher degree alone in other subject disciplines generally may not meet the requirements for appointment as new KG principals.

5. Q: If I have a local Master of Education Degree in Early Childhood Education [MEd(ECE)], but without a locally recognised C(ECE) / BEd(ECE) / PGDE(ECE), am I eligible for appointment as a kindergarten principal under the new policy target requirement?

A: Teachers have to ascertain that the Master Degree of Education can also be accepted as comparable to C(ECE) / BEd(ECE) / PGDE(ECE), including the required practicum training, in order to be accepted as meeting the required professional requirement for new KG principal appointment.

6. Q: I have obtained an overseas qualification in BEd(ECE). Will my qualification be recognised as a BEd(ECE) or its equivalent?

A: Holders of non-local qualifications may apply for individual qualification assessment from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications [HKCAAVQ] direct and all the fees will be borne by the applicants. Applicant should indicate clearly that the assessment application is related to the teacher qualification requirement for teacher registration. For details and application, you may visit the website of HKCAAVQ.

7. Q: Should all new principals have to complete the Certification Course for Kindergarten Principals before their appointment? Is it possible for those aspiring principals who have satisfactorily completed the ‘Principal-ship Training Course for Kindergarten Principals and Child Care Centre Supervisors’ held before to be granted exemption from the EDB?

A: Generally speaking, all new principals should have completed a certification course before their appointment, or exceptionally within the first year of their appointment; and each exceptional case is to be considered on its own merits.

Those who have satisfactorily completed the ‘Principal-ship Training Course for Kindergarten Principals and Child Care Centre Supervisors’ commissioned by the EDB to the University of Hong Kong (from 2001/02 to 2002/03 school years only) and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (from 2003/04 to 2005/06 school years only) are considered as having completed the Certification Course for KG Principals.

8. Q: What is meant by at least “one-year relevant post-qualification experience”?

A: All new principals should have possessed at least one-year relevant post BEd(ECE) qualification experience. Generally speaking, the relevant experience includes teaching/administrative experience in kindergartens and/or kindergarten-cum-child care centres, or job experience related to education.