

Primary One Admission (POA) System 2026
(for Admission to Primary 1 in September 2026)
Frequently Asked Questions

Discretionary Places Admission Stage

Question (1) Who can participate in POA 2026?

Answer (1) All Hong Kong children reaching the age of 5 years 8 months as at 1 September 2026 (i.e. **born on or before 31 December 2020**) are eligible to participate in POA 2026, except those who are already attending a primary school or have been allocated a Primary 1 place.

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

Answer (2) Parents / guardians who wish to apply for a POA discretionary place in a government or aided primary school may submit an application via POA e-Platform (ePOA) (Website: <https://epoa.edb.gov.hk>) from **18 to 26 September 2025 (till 11:59 p.m.)**. Parents / guardians are required to upload the relevant documents to the ePOA. Regarding paper form submission, they may obtain an application form during the period from 1 to 26 September 2025 from the applicant children's kindergarten or kindergarten-cum-child care centre, the District Offices (Home Affairs Enquiry Centres) and the Regional Education Offices or School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau (EDB). They should submit the completed application form together with the photocopies of all supporting documents to the school applied for **DIRECT** during school hours from **22 to 26 September 2025**. Parents / guardians can sign on the photocopies, or show the original documents to the schools for verification.

Question (3) What documents are required when the parent / guardian submits the application form?

Answer (3) When the parent / guardian returns the completed application form to the school, the parent should bring along his / her Identity Card, Passport or other identity documents and **submit the photocopies of the following documents**. If a parent / guardian authorises a representative to submit the application form, his or her representative should produce a photocopy of the parent's / guardian's identity documents and the original letter of authorisation. Parent / guardian can sign on the photocopies, or show the original documents to the schools or the EDB for verification. For submission of the electronic application form, the parent / guardian is required to **upload the following documents** to the ePOA:

- a. the applicant child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate (If the 'Status of permanent resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region' in the last field of the Birth Certificate is 'Not Established', his / her travel document(s) with valid endorsements / landing slips or Permit to Remain in Hong Kong are required) or the applicant child's non-local Birth Certificate and document(s) permitting him / her to stay in Hong Kong;

- b. proof of residential address for applicant children residing in the POA School Net of Hong Kong¹ (including but not limited to stamped tenancy agreement, demand note for rates, public housing tenancy agreement or water / electricity / town gas / residential telephone bills). (Please note that 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 proofs of residential address for POA by the EDB all along.) In general, the name on the document submitted as a proof of residential address should agree with that of the parent / guardian. If parent / guardian cannot provide the above acceptable proof of residential address or have any enquiries, please contact the School Places Allocation Section at 2832 7700; and
- c. documentary proof required for Items (A) and (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 / guardians apply to during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?

Answer (4) **Irrespective of whether the application is submitted via ePOA or in paper form, parents / guardians should submit only one application for their applicant child. If parents / guardians have submitted applications to more than one government or aided primary school for the same applicant child, the applications for a discretionary place of the applicant child would be rendered void.** Besides, parents / guardians **should NOT** submit duplicate applications via ePOA and in paper form for the same applicant child.

Question (5) What should parents / guardians do if they could not submit the applications in person or via ePOA?

Answer (5) Parents / guardians who cannot submit the application form in person or via ePOA, they may authorise in writing a representative to bring along the completed paper application form with photocopies of supporting documents to the school on their behalf between 22 and 26 September 2025. Parents / guardians can sign on the photocopies, or let the representative show the original documents to the schools for verification. Parents / guardians may make reference to the sample letter of authorisation available on the EDB's POA website (URL: <https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/primary-secondary/spa-systems/primary-1-admission/index.html>).

Question (6) What should parents / guardians do if they wish to apply for Central Allocation only, but not applying for a discretionary place?

Answer (6) For applicant child who intend to participate in only the Central Allocation, parents / guardians should fill in only Part A and Part B of the application form, and submit the application to the EDB via ePOA or in paper form **on or before 23 January 2026**. For paper form application, please return the completed paper application form and the original and photocopies of the required documents to School Places Allocation Section (POA) of the EDB at Podium Floor, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon.

¹ Parents / guardians of applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong need not provide proof of residential address of their applicant children.

- Question (7) 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 (7) Children who have accepted the offer of Primary 1 places in DSS primary schools will not be allocated Primary 1 places through POA. Even if places have been allocated through POA, those school places will be withdrawn.
- Question (8) What are the criteria for schools to admit applicant children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?
- Answer (8) There are two categories of discretionary places admission:
- (A) A school must admit all applicant children with sibling(s) studying or parent(s) 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, on their own or refer the applications to the EDB for processing.
- Question (9) 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 (9) 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.
- Question (10) How does an applicant child claim the points for “Applicant child of the right age”?
- Answer (10) If an applicant child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 December 2020, he / she is awarded the points for “Applicant child of the right age” under the Points System at the Discretionary Places Admission stage of POA 2026. Parents / guardians are not required to claim this item when filling in the application form. The points will be awarded by the computer with reference to the date of birth of an applicant child. For any enquiries, please contact the School Places Allocation Section at 2832 7700.
- Question (11) Is Item 7 of the Points System (i.e. “Parent(s) being a member of the same organisation which sponsors the operation of the primary school”) applicable to civil servants applying for P1 places in government primary schools for their children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?
- Answer (11) Civil servants are employees but not “members” of the Government. Item 7 of the Points System is not applicable to civil servants applying for P1 places in government primary schools for their children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage.
- Question (12) Will there be any interviews or written tests for applicant children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?
- Answer (12) Schools must not conduct tests or interviews on the applicant children.

Question (13) How does the EDB verify the authenticity of the information provided by parents / guardians in relation to the POA application?

Answer (13) The EDB will select a number of applications randomly for checking. The EDB may request parents / guardians to attend interview and provide other relevant documents or to make statutory declaration as further proof of their being guardian / authorised person, their applicant child's residential address, etc. The EDB may conduct home visits for the purpose of verifying the information provided in relation to the application as and when necessary. In the process of verification, if parents / guardians cannot provide the EDB with such assistance and / or information within the time limit as required, the EDB will take any necessary action including holding the application in abeyance. Suspected cases of using false address for POA applications may be reported to the School Places Allocation Section by calling the Hotline at 2832 7700.

Question (14) How will the discretionary places admission results be released?

Answer (14) Parents / guardians can view the results via ePOA from 10 am on 24 November 2025. Besides, all schools will release their discretionary places admission results by putting up a notice at their premises on the same day. Parents / guardians of successful applicant children should register with the school on 26 or 27 November 2025. Parents / guardians who cannot register their applicant child with the school within the specified period should notify the person-in-charge of the school in advance to make alternative arrangements. Otherwise, they will be deemed to have given up their discretionary place.

Question (15) What should parents / guardians do if they wish to arrange their applicant children to attend Primary 1 in September 2026 but cannot apply for a discretionary place before the deadline?

Answer (15) If parents / guardians cannot apply for a discretionary place before the application deadline, they may arrange their applicant children to participate in the Central Allocation. For application procedures, parents / guardians may refer to Question 6 of this FAQ.

If parents / guardians wish to arrange their applicant children to attend Primary 1 this school year, i.e. in the 2025/26 school year, they may contact the Regional Education Office of the EDB direct. The telephone numbers of Regional Education Offices are as follows:

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

Question (16) What should parents / guardians consider when choosing a school for children?

Answer (16) When choosing a primary school for children, parents / guardians should first identify children's characteristics, personalities, abilities and interests, and then consider various factors such as the characteristics, school motto, religion, sponsoring body, location, scale and history of a school. Parents / Guardians may refer to the Primary School Profiles (<https://www.chsc.hk/primary/en>) for information of schools, or visit the individual school's website for more detailed information.

Digitalisation of POA

Question (17) If a parent / guardian has submitted paper application in Discretionary Places Admission stage, can he / she switch to submit choice of schools via ePOA in Central Allocation stage?

Answer (17) Yes. If a parent / guardian has submitted paper application in Discretionary Places Admission stage and provided email address in the application form, the EDB will send a relevant email to the email address so that the parent / guardian can activate the ePOA account by himself / herself. Parents / guardians who have bound their accounts to “iAM Smart+” can submit choice of schools via ePOA in Central Allocation stage.

Question (18) Upon digitalisation of POA, how could parents / guardians submit application for discretionary places and view the results of discretionary places admission via the ePOA?

Answer (18) If parents / guardians wish to submit application for discretionary places and view results of discretionary places admission via the ePOA, they have to register their ePOA accounts via the “iAM Smart” mobile app. Parents / guardians who have bound their accounts to “iAM Smart+” can submit primary one applications and view the results of allocation of discretionary places via ePOA. Parents / guardians who have bound their accounts to “iAM Smart” can view the results via the ePOA.

Question (19) How does the EDB support parents / guardians in submitting applications for discretionary places via ePOA?

Answer (19) The relevant PowerPoint, videos and Parent’s Guides have been uploaded to the EDB’s Resources on ePOA (URL: https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/primary-secondary/spa-systems/primary-1-admission/poa_eplatform/index.html) [Path: EDB homepage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk>) > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary Education > School Places Allocation Systems > Primary One Admission System > Resources on ePOA] for parents’ reference. Besides, the EDB will also organise four parents’ talks to provide the information regarding POA System and ePOA to parents in September 2025.

Question (20) If parents / guardians wish to register for “iAM Smart +”, how could they apply for the account?

Answer (20) Parents / guardians can download and install “iAM Smart” mobile app and complete the registration of “iAM Smart” account online using mobile phone. User with the new smart identity card and mobile phones supporting the Near Field Communication (NFC) technology and compliant with the operating system could use the 3.5.0 or later version of the “iAM Smart” mobile app to upgrade to “iAM Smart+”. Meanwhile, members of the public can still bring along their identity card to upgrade to “iAM Smart+” in person at self-registration kiosks, registration service counters or via the mobile registration teams. For details, please refer to “iAM Smart” website: <https://www.iamsmart.gov.hk>.

Education Bureau

School Places Allocation Section

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