

**Primary One Admission (POA) System 2021  
(for Admission to Primary 1 in September 2021)  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Choice of Schools Exercise for Central Allocation**

Question (1) If parents have already submitted an application form during the “Discretionary Places Admission” stage but their children have not been offered a discretionary place, should they submit another application form again for Central Allocation?

Answer (1) A fresh application for Central Allocation is NOT necessary. Parents will be invited by letter by the Education Bureau (EDB) in mid-January 2021 to make their choice of schools at a specified Central Allocation Centre at an assigned timeslot on 30 January (WD) or 31 January (AM). Parents please follow the instructions of the letter to make their choice of schools at the Central Allocation Centre. If parents have not received the letter by 26 January 2021, they should contact the School Places Allocation Section (Hong Kong Island & Islands 2832 7610, Kowloon 2832 7620, NT West 2832 7635, NT East 2832 7659).

Question (2) In light of the epidemic development of COVID-19, are there any special arrangements for parents to make their choice of schools for Central Allocation?

Answer (2) In light of the latest epidemic development of COVID-19, to reduce the gatherings of people and maintain social distancing, EDB will arrange the parents of applicant children to make school choices at the designated Central Allocation Centre in different timeslots on the dates specified above according to the applicant children’s POA application number. Parents who cannot make school choices for CA within the specified timeslot can go to the designated Central Allocation Centre from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on 31 January. Parents are requested to follow the instruction of the letter to make their choice of schools at the Central Allocation Centre. EDB has also arranged to send the Choice of Schools Form together with the letter to parents in advance for filling to reduce their length of stay at the Central Allocation Centre. For parents of applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong and the Non-Chinese Speaking applicant children, please follow the instruction of the letter and go to the designated centre to make their choice of schools.

Besides, should individual parents of applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong or parents who are outside Hong

Kong be unable to go to the Central Allocation Centre to make school choices in person, they could authorize in writing a representative to bring the completed “Choice of Schools Form” and the “Letter of Authorization” to proceed with the related procedures. If parents are not able to make school choices in person or through their authorized representatives, they could arrange to return the “Choice of Schools Form” by post on or before January 31.

Question (3) What should parents bring along when they go to the Central Allocation Centre to make choices of schools?

Answer (3) Parents should bring along the following documents:

- (a) Hong Kong Identity Card / Identity document(s); and
- (b) the letter inviting parents to make choices of schools or the parent’s copy of the ‘Application Form for Admission to Primary One’.

Question (4) What should parents do if they are unable to go to the designated Central Allocation Centre on 30 January or 31 January to make choices of schools?

Answer (4) If parents are unable to go to the designated Central Allocation Centre on the specified dates, they should authorize in writing a representative to complete the ‘Choice of Schools’ form on their behalf. Parents may make reference to the sample letters of authorization available on the EDB’s Primary One Admission website (URL: <https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/primary-secondary/spa-systems/primary-1-admission/index.html>).

Question (5) How can parents obtain the school lists of all school nets / the ‘Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation’ for applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong?

Answer (5) Parents will receive a letter inviting them to make choices of schools together with a ‘Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation’ of their home net / ‘Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation (For Applicant Children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong)’ in mid-January 2021. The Choice of School Lists for Central Allocation of all school nets are available for parents’ reference at the kindergarten or the kindergarten-cum-child care centre their child is attending. Besides, the ‘Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation’ of individual school nets can also be obtained from the EDB’s Primary One Admission website (URL: <https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/primary-secondary/spa-systems/primary-1-admission/index.html>) and the 24-hour Automatic Telephone Enquiry System at 2891 0088 (facsimile services).

Question (6) Do parents need to bring their child along for making school choices at the Central Allocation Centre? What should parents do in the event of adverse weather or other special conditions?

Answer (6) Parents **need not** bring along their child to the Central Allocation Centre for making school choices. In the event of adverse weather or other special conditions on any day(s) during the period of making school choices, please pay heed to radio or television announcements on any special arrangements.

Question (7) How is the Central Allocation processed?

Answer (7) The computer-programmed Central Allocation will first process Part A ('Unrestricted School Choices') and then Part B [choices of 'Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation' of their home net / 'Choice of Schools List for Central Allocation (For Applicant Children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong)']. During the process of Central Allocation, the computer will first assign a 'Random Number' to each applicant child. The allocation of places will be based on parental choices and 'Random Numbers' of the applicant children to ensure fairness.

Question (8) What should parents do if they have more than one child participating in the Central Allocation and wish to have them allocated to the same school?

Answer (8) If a parent with more than one child participating in the Central Allocation wishes to have his/her children allocated to the same school, he/she is advised to make identical choices on the 'Choice of Schools Forms' of his/her children. In such cases, his/her children would be put under one 'Random Number' during the school place allocation process.

Question (9) When will the results of Central Allocation be released?

Answer (9) EDB will arrange to deliver the 'Primary One Registration Form' with the result of Central Allocation by post to parents' correspondence address provided in the POA application form from 2 June 2021 to 3 June 2021 through the 'Local CourierPost' service provided by Hongkong Post. The letter will be delivered to door. If attempt of door delivery by Hongkong Post fails, a 'Mail Collection Notification Card' will be left for parents to collect it from the designated post office starting from the afternoon of the following working day. If parents have not received the 'Primary One Registration Form' or the 'Mail Collection Notification Card' issued by Hongkong Post by 4 June 2021, they could collect the 'Primary One Registration Form' at the designated 'Collection Centre' from 5 June 2021

to 6 June 2021 (For the latest arrangements, please refer to EDB Primary One Admission Website).

For applicant children who intend to commute daily to schools in Hong Kong, providing with correspondence address in Mainland China, EDB will arrange to deliver the 'Primary One Registration Form' with the result of Central Allocation by post to your correspondence address in Mainland provided in the POA application form through the 'Speedpost' service provided by Hongkong Post. The expected delivery dates are from 2 June 2021 to 3 June 2021

Apart from issuing the 'Primary One Registration Form' by post, if parents wish to receive the results of the Central Allocation for Primary One Admission 2021 of their applicant children via SMS message on 2 June 2021, they may provide a mobile phone number which can receive SMS message on the Choice of Schools Form and indicate their consent to receive the results of the CA via this mobile phone number. If the mobile phone number provided for receiving SMS does not receive the corresponding testing SMS message from EDB on 7 May 2021, please contact the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau by phone on or before 18 May 2021.

Question (10) What should parents do if they apply for POA 2021 for their children after 31 January 2021 but wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 in September 2021?

Answer (10) For applications for participation in POA 2021 after 31 January 2021, parents need to complete the necessary procedures with the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau (Address: Office 2, 2/F, Manulife Financial Centre, 223 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon). EDB will separately arrange a Primary One place for the applicant children in June 2020.

### **Release of Results of Allocation of Discretionary Places**

Question (1) How can parents know the results of allocation of discretionary places?

Answer (1) Parents can go back to **the primary school to which they have applied for a discretionary place** to check whether their application is successful on **23 November 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** In light of the impact of COVID-19 epidemic, if parents cannot check the results at the school to which they have applied due to special conditions, they may check the results on the school website or contact the school by phone.

Question (2) What should parents bring along when they go to the school to check the results?

Answer (2) Parents should bring along the parent's copy of the Application Form for Admission to Primary One for checking their child's POA Application Number.

Question (3) If the child's application is successful, what should parents note?

Answer (3) Parents whose children have been offered a Primary One place are advised to note carefully the registration arrangements of concerned schools and the documents required for registration, such as the parent's copy of the Application Form for Primary One Admission and the specified number of photographs, as well as the measures of individual schools to maintain social distancing. Registration of successful applicant children should be made on Wednesday (November 25) or Thursday (November 26) during school hours according to the arrangements of individual schools. Parents should confirm with the school on the registration procedures and requirements.

Question (4) What should parents do if they cannot register with the school within the specified period?

Answer (4) If parents cannot register within the specified period due to matters of grave importance or the impact of COVID-19 epidemic should notify the responsible person of the school in advance to make alternative arrangements. Otherwise, they will be deemed to have given up their discretionary place.

Question (5) What are the criteria for schools to admit applicant children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?

Answer (5) There are two categories of discretionary places admission:

Type A — A school **must admit** all applicant children with siblings studying or parents working in the school.

Type B — The remaining discretionary places will be allocated to other applicant children according to the **Points System**.

Question (6) How would schools select applicant children with equal scores under the Points System when the number of such applicant children exceeds the number of the remaining discretionary places?

Answer (6) If there are applicant children with equal scores under the Points System and the number of such applicant children exceeds that of the remaining discretionary places, applicant children would be selected by

**‘randomisation’. Schools may draw lots on their own or refer the applications to the Education Bureau for processing.**

Question (7) What should parents do if they wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 in September 2021 but did not apply for a discretionary place for their children?

Answer (7) Parents should go to the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau **on or before 29 January 2021** to apply for participating in the Central Allocation. For details, parents may contact the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau (Tel: 2832 7700).

Question (8) If a child has accepted the offer of a Primary 1 (P1) place in a Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) primary school, can he / she still be allocated a P1 place through the POA System?

Answer (8) Children who have accepted the offer of P1 places in DSS primary schools will not be allocated P1 places through the POA System. If they have been allocated a discretionary place, that school place will be withdrawn.

Question (9) What should parents do if their child has not been offered a P1 discretionary place?

Answer (9) For those applicant children who have not been offered a P1 discretionary place and those applicant children who participate in the Central Allocation only, the parents will be informed by letter from the Education Bureau in early January 2021 to go to a designated Central Allocation Centre on 30 or 31 January 2021 to make their choices of schools for Central Allocation.

Question (10) What should parents do if they have moved / will move in the near future after submitting the Application Form?

Answer (10) If parents have moved / will move in the near future and require a transfer to a new school net, parents signing on the application form should go to the School Places Allocation Section at Office 2, 2/F, Manulife Financial Centre, 223 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon to complete the net transfer formalities in person.

To complete the net transfer formalities, the parent is required to bring along the following documents:

- The parent’s copy of the Application Form for Admission to Primary One (2021); and
- Proof of the new residential address (original copy and photocopy)

Proof of the new residential address includes but not limited to stamped tenancy agreement, demand note for rates, public housing tenancy agreement or water / electricity / town gas / residential telephone bills. If the name on the document submitted as proof of the new residential address belongs to the spouse of the parent signing on the application form, the Marriage Certificate / the applicant child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate and its photocopy should be submitted to show the relationship between the resident and the applicant child. If parents cannot provide the above acceptable proof of residential address, please contact the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau at 2832 7700 for appropriate advice and assistance.

Parents should note that they are required to declare that the new residential address on the net transfer application form is true and correct. The Education Bureau may take measures as deemed necessary and appropriate to verify the information provided by parents and may request parents to provide other relevant documents (e.g. title deeds, stamped tenancy agreement, etc.) or to make sworn declaration as further proof of the applicant child's residential address. The Education Bureau may also conduct home visits for the purpose of verifying the information provided in relation to the residential address as and when necessary. If false information is provided, the application will be rendered null and void. The P1 place allocated on the basis of the application will be forfeited. Parents should also note that a person making a false instrument commits an offence under the Crime Ordinance. The offender is liable on conviction to imprisonment for 14 years.

### **Discretionary Places Admission Stage**

Question (1) Who can participate in POA 2021?

Answer (1) All Hong Kong children reaching the age of 5 years 8 months as at 1 September 2021 (i.e. **born on or before 31 December 2015**) are eligible to participate in POA 2021 except those who are already attending a primary school or have been allocated a Primary 1 place previously.

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

Answer (2) Parents can obtain an application form during the period from 2 to 25 September 2020 from the kindergarten or kindergarten-cum-child care

centre the child is attending, the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the District Offices, the Regional Education Offices or School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau. Parents should return the completed application form **DIRECT** to the school to which they apply for a discretionary place **between 21 and 25 September 2020**.

Question (3)      What documents are required when parents / guardians submit the application form?

Answer (3)      When parents / guardians return the completed application form, they should bring along -

- a. the applicant child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate and its photocopy (If the 'Hong Kong permanent resident status' in the last column of the Birth Certificate is 'Not Established', the original and photocopy of his / her travel document(s) or Permit to Remain in Hong Kong are required) or the applicant child's non-local Birth Certificate and passports (the original and photocopy);
- b. proof of residential address for applicant children residing in the POA School Net of Hong Kong<sup>1</sup> (including but not limited to stamped tenancy agreement, demand note for rates, public housing tenancy agreement or water / electricity / town gas / residential telephone bills) and a photocopy of the document. 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 proof of residential address by the Education Bureau all along. The name on the document submitted as proof of residential address should agree with that of the parent / guardian. If parents / guardians cannot provide the above acceptable proof of residential address or have any enquiries, please contact the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau at 2832 7700 for appropriate advice and assistance;
- c. the parent / guardian's Identity Card; and
- d. documentary proof required for Item (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 apply to during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?

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



- Answer (4) During the Discretionary Places Admission stage, parents may apply to only ONE government or aided primary school which may be in or outside the school net in which they reside. If more than one application is submitted, the applications for the discretionary place will be rendered void.
- Question (5) Will there be any interviews or written tests for applicant children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?
- Answer (5) Schools must not conduct tests or interviews on the applicant children's acquired curriculum knowledge.
- Question (6) How does the Education Bureau verify the authenticity of the information provided by parents in relation to the POA application?
- Answer (6) The Education Bureau will select a number of applications randomly for checking. The Education Bureau may request parents to attend interview / and produce other relevant documents and information, such as further proof of residential address, or to make sworn declaration. The Education Bureau may also conduct home visits as and when necessary. The public are encouraged to report suspected cases of using false address for POA applications to the School Places Allocation Section by calling the Hotline at 2832 7700.
- Question (7) 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 (7) 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 (8) How does an applicant child claim the points for "Applicant child of the right age"?
- Answer (8) If an applicant child was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 December 2015, 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 2021. Parents 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 of the Education Bureau at 2832 7700.
- Question (9) Is Item 7 of the Points System (i.e. "Parent(s) being a member of the same organization 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 (9) 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.

Education Bureau  
School Places Allocation  
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