

**Primary One Admission (POA) System 2024
(for Admission to Primary 1 in September 2024)
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 EDB in mid-January 2024 to make their choice of schools at a specified Central Allocation Centre at a suggested time slot on 27 January (WD) or 28 January (PM). Parents could follow the instructions of the letter to make their choice of schools at the Central Allocation Centre via paper form. If parents have not received the letter by 22 January 2023, 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).

Besides, if parents have registered as ePOA users and bind their accounts to "iAM Smart+", could choose to make school choices through electronic means. For details of the digitalisation of POA, please make reference to the relevant PowerPoint, videos and Parent Guides uploaded to the EDB website (URL: <https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/primary-secondary/spa-systems/primary-1-admission/index.html>) (Home >Education System and Policy >Primary and Secondary Education >School Places Allocation Systems >Primary One Admission System), as well as this Q (11) to (23) of this Q&As.

Question (2) What are EDB’s arrangements for parents to make their choice of schools for Central Allocation for POA 2024 at designated Central Allocation Centre?

Answer (2) The EDB will randomly arrange the parents of applicant children to make school choices at the designated Central Allocation Centre in different suggested time slots on the dates specified above . Parents who cannot make school choices for CA within the suggested time slot can go to the designated Central Allocation Centre from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on 28 January. Parents please follow the instruction of the letter to make their choice of schools at the Central Allocation Centre. The Choice of Schools Form will be sent together

with the letter to parents who submitted Application Form in paper form at Discretionary Places stage for filling in advance.. 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 who are unable to use ePOA or go to the Central Allocation Centre to make school choices in person, they can authorise in writing a representative to bring the completed “Choice of Schools Form” and their signed “Letter of Authorisation” to proceed with the related procedures.

Question (3) What should parents bring along when they go to the designated 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’/ the record of electronic application in ePOA.

Question (4) What should the above parents do if they are unable to go to the designated Central Allocation Centre on 27 January or 28 January to make choices of schools?

Answer (4) If the relevant 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 2024.

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>), the 24-hour Automatic Telephone Enquiry System at 2891 0088 (facsimile services) and via ePOA.

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 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 5 June 2024 to 6 June 2024 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 7 June 2024, they could collect the ‘Primary One Registration Form’ at the designated ‘Collection Centre’ from 8 June 2024 to 9 June 2024 (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 5 June 2024 to 6 June 2024.

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 2024 of their applicant children via SMS message on 5 June 2024, 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. For parents who have already activated their ePOA account via “iAM Smart+” or “iAM Smart”, they may also receive their Central Allocation results through ePOA on 5 June 2024.

Question (10) What should parents do if they apply for POA 2024 for their children after 28 January 2024 but wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 in September 2024?

Answer (10) For applications for participation in POA 2024 after 28 January 2024, parents need to complete the necessary procedures with the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau (Address: Podium Floor, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon). EDB will separately arrange a Primary One place for the applicant children in June 2024.

Digitalisation of POA

Question (11) What are the functions of the ePOA?

Answer (11) Parents could use the relevant modules of the ePOA to handle the application of POA more easily and conveniently, and to receive results of allocation of their children. Schools can process applications for POA through electronic means, including receiving allocation results.

Question (12) Upon digitalisation of primary one admission, how could parents make their choice of schools in Central Allocation Stage and check results of the Central Allocation via the e-Platform?

Answer (12) If parents have registered as ePOA users and bind their accounts to "iAM Smart+", they could choose to make their choice of schools through the e-Platform. For parents who have not registered "iAM Smart +" but already activated their ePOA account via "iAM Smart", although they have to submit paper form of "Choice of School Form" to the designated Central Allocation Centre for making choice of schools, they may still receive their Central Allocation results through ePOA.

To provide schools and parents with a better understanding of digitalisation of POA 2024, the EDB organised 8 briefing sessions for kindergartens, primary schools and parents in July and September 2023, to introduce POA 2024 and the ePOA. Besides, the EDB organised 3 briefing sessions for parents and kindergartens/ kindergartens cum child care centres in December 2023, to introduce application and actual operation of the ePOA at CA Stage. Relevant videos and Parent Guides have also been uploaded to the EDB website for reference.

Question (13) Is it mandatory for parents to register "iAM Smart +" ?

Answer (13) Parents must register "iAM Smart+" account to use the functions of "Authentication" and "digital signing" to fill in and submit their choice of schools application through the ePOA account. Parents could only choose to submit one application through the e-Platform or traditional paper form. For parents who have activated the ePOA account but without "iAM Smart +", or unable to proceed the choice of schools application under other circumstances, they could still submit the traditional paper form in Central Allocation Stage of POA 2024. No matter which method of submitting application form is used, parents who have activated the ePOA accounts could still check results of Central Allocation through the e-Platform account.

Question (14) What is the difference between "iAM Smart" and "iAM Smart+"?

Answer (14) "iAM Smart" account is available in two versions. The "iAM Smart" version has authentication, form-filling and personalized notifications functions, while the "iAM Smart+" version has the digital signing function in addition. If parents wish to submit applications through ePOA, they must bind their accounts with "iAM Smart+".

Question (15) If parents wish to register an "iAM Smart +" account, how could they apply for the account?

Answer (15) Parents can download and install "iAM Smart" mobile app and complete the registration of "iAM Smart" account online. If parents need to use digital signing, they can go to self-registration kiosk or registration service counters of various districts to register the "iAM Smart +" account. For details, please refer to "iAM Smart" website : <https://www.iamsmart.gov.hk/>

Question (16) Under what circumstances will I not be able to use "iAM Smart" Mobile App?

Answer (16) You will not be able to use "iAM Smart" Mobile App when:

- a. the network connection is bad;
- b. the version of your "iAM Smart" Mobile App is not up-to-date;
- c. your mobile phone is jailbroken or rooted or has security risks;
- d. your mobile phone does not support biometric authentication;
- e. the biometric authentication of your mobile phone has not been set up;
- f. the biometric authentication of your mobile phone has been changed since last use;
- g. your "iAM Smart" account is invalid;
- h. your "iAM Smart" account is suspended.

Question (17) Can "iAM Smart"/ "iAM Smart+" be used outside Hong Kong?

Answer (17) In principle, "iAM Smart" or "iAM Smart+" can be used wherever there is internet connection. However, there is a chance that some regions may not be able to use it due to the imposition of internal restrictions.

For upgrading the account to "iAM Smart+", parents must go in person to self-registration kiosks, registration service counters located in Hong Kong. If they are currently overseas, they will not be able to upgrade account to "iAM Smart+" until they are back to Hong Kong. For details, please refer to "iAM Smart" website.

Question (18) What should parents pay attention to before activating their ePOA account?

Answer (18) Before activating the ePOA account, parents should get ready a smart mobile phone with biometric authentication function and registered "iAM Smart" or "iAM Smart+", as well as the POA Application number and identity proof document of the applicant child (must be tally with the information as provided on the "Application Form for Admission to Primary One").

The person signing as the "Parent / Guardian" in the "Application Form for Admission to Primary One" will be regarded as the person fully responsible for processing the POA application for the applicant child (include making school choices in Central Allocation Stage). In general, once an account is activated (i.e. after binding the applicant child's ePOA account with parent's / guardian's "iAM Smart+" / "iAM Smart" account), the account binding cannot be changed.

Question (19) What are the important dates of ePOA in POA 2024?

Answer (19) Parents who have registered as ePOA users and bind their accounts to "iAM Smart+", they can submit "Choice of Schools Form" from 22 January to 28 January 2024 through ePOA. Besides, parents who have activated the account with "iAM Smart+" or "iAM Smart" could check allocation results through ePOA since 5 June 2024.

Question (20) What is the time limit of logging in ePOA each time?

Answer (20) To efficiently handle a large number of applications, each login to ePOA is limited to 30 minutes (the system will show an alert message 5 minutes before the time limit). Please complete the application procedures within 30 minutes. If necessary, parents may use the "Save as draft" function and continue with the application concerned at the next login.

Question (21) What is the deadline of the submission of Central Allocation Application via ePOA?

Answer (21) For parents who have activated their ePOA account and bound their account with "iAM Smart+", they can submit the "Choice of Schools Form" via ePOA from 22 January to 28 January 2024. The deadline for submission of Central Allocation Applications via ePOA is 11:59 p.m. on 28 January 2024 (Sunday) (based on system time). The network may be busy and congested on the dates / periods close to the online application deadline; and parents should reserve sufficient time to avoid delays in application.

Question (22) For parents who have activated their ePOA account and registered “iAM Smart+”, can they still choose to submit application in paper form?

Answer (22) Parents can only choose to submit **one** application for Central Allocation via ePOA or in paper form. For parents who have activated their ePOA account, they would continue to receive the Letter on Choice of Schools for Central Allocation but they should not submit duplicate applications.

Question (23) For parents with more than one child participating in the Central Allocation in the same year, what should they pay attention to during the submission of Central Allocation Applications?

Answer (23) If the parents have submitted “Application Form for Admission to Primary One” in paper form, they will receive more than one email. The parents should activate the ePOA account of one of the children using the activation link as instructed, then add other applicant child(ren) to the account. They may use their “iAM Smart+” in the same account to submit Central Allocation Applications of all their children one by one and check allocation results. If the parent 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” for all his / her children. The computer programme will assign the same “Random Number” for all his / her children.

Release of Results of Allocation of Discretionary Places

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

Answer (1) Parents can check the results of their application via POA e-Platform (ePOA) starting from **10 am on 20 November 2023**. Besides, 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 **the same day from 9 am to 5 pm**.

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

Answer (2) Parents should bring along the parent's copy of the paper Application Form for Admission to Primary One for checking their child's POA Application Number. Parents who have already activated their POA e-platform (ePOA) account can check the results via ePOA from 10 am on that day.

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 paper Application Form for Primary One Admission or the record of electronic application in ePOA, as well as the specified number of photographs. Parents should register their children on Wednesday (November 22) or Thursday (November 23) at the school to which they have applied during school hours. 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 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 (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 on a '**random**' basis.

Schools may draw lots on their own or refer the applications to the Education Bureau (EDB) to draw lots for them, to decide the admission priority of applicant children.

Question (7) What should parents do if they wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 in September 2024 but were unable to apply for a discretionary place for their children on time?

Answer (7) Parents should go to the School Places Allocation Section of the EDB **on or before 26 January 2024** to apply for participating in the Central Allocation. For details, parents may contact the School Places Allocation Section of the EDB (Tel: 2832 7700).

If parents wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 this school year, i.e. in the 2023/24 school year, they may contact the Regional Education Office of the EDB direct as follows:

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

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 EDB in mid-January 2024 that if they have registered as ePOA users and bind their accounts to "iAM Smart+", they may make choices of schools through the ePOA from 22 to 28 January. Besides, they can go to a designated Central Allocation Centre on 27 or 28 January 2024 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, or signing digitally, should go to the School Places Allocation Section at Podium Floor, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon 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 or the ePOA record of the Application Form for Admission to Primary One (2024); 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 EDB 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 EDB 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 statutory declaration as further proof of the applicant child's residential address. The EDB 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 and false statutory declaration commits an offence under the Crime Ordinance. The offender who makes a false instrument and false statutory declaration is liable on

conviction to imprisonment for 14 years and imprisonment for 2 years and to a fine respectively.

Discretionary Places Admission Stage

Question (1) Who can participate in POA 2024?

Answer (1) All Hong Kong children reaching the age of 5 years 8 months as at 1 September 2024 (i.e. **born on or before 31 December 2018**) are eligible to participate in POA 2024 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 who wish to apply for a POA discretionary place in a government or aided primary school should submit an application via POA e-Platform (ePOA) from **21 to 29 September 2023 (till 11:59 p.m.)**. Parents are required to upload the copies of the related documents to the e-Platform. If the parents choose to submit paper application forms, they may obtain an application form during the period from 1 to 29 September 2023 from their children's kindergarten or kindergarten-cum-child care centre, the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the District Offices and the Regional Education Offices or School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau (EDB). They should submit the completed application form together with all supporting documents to the school of their choice **DIRECT** during school hours from **25 to 29 September 2023**. Parents can sign on the photocopies, or show the original documents to the schools or the Education Bureau for verification of submitted documents.

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

Answer (3) When the parent 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 the parent cannot come in person, his or her representative should produce a photocopy of the parent's identity documents and the letter of authorisation. Parent can sign on the photocopies, or show the original documents to the schools or the Education Bureau for verification of submitted documents. For submission of the electronic application form, the parent / guardian is required to **upload the copies of the following documents** to the e-Platform:

- a. the applicant child's Hong Kong Birth Certificate (If the 'Hong Kong permanent resident status' in the last column of the Birth Certificate is 'Not Established', the 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 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). 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 EDB all along. The name on the document submitted as 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 of the EDB at 2832 7700 for appropriate advice and assistance; and
- c. 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?

Answer (4) Irrespective of whether the application is submitted via ePOA or in paper form, parents are allowed to submit only one application for their child. If parents have applied to more than one government or aided primary school, their application for a POA discretionary place will be rendered void. Besides, parents should not submit duplicate applications via ePOA and in paper form for the same child.

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

Answer (5) Parents who cannot submit the application form in person or via ePOA, they

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

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 25 and 29 September 2023. Parents can sign on the photocopies, or let the representative show the original documents to the schools for verification of submitted documents. Parents may make reference to the sample letters of authorisation 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 (6) What should parents do if they wish to apply for Central Allocation only, but not applying for a discretionary place?

Answer (6) For parents who wish to apply for Central Allocation only, they should submit application to the EDB via ePOA or in paper form **on or before 26 January 2024**. For submission of paper form, they should return the completed paper application form and supporting documents to School Places Allocation Section (Primary One Admission) of the EDB at Podium Floor, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon.

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 the POA System. If they have been allocated a place through the POA System, that school place 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:
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 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, applicant children would be selected on a 'random' basis. Schools may draw lots on their own or refer the applications to the EDB for to draw lots for them, to decide the admission priority of applicant children.

Question (9) Will there be any interviews or written tests for applicant children during the Discretionary Places Admission stage?

Answer (9) Schools must not conduct tests or interviews on the applicant children's acquired curriculum knowledge.

Question (10) How does the EDB verify the authenticity of the information provided by parents in relation to the POA application?

Answer (10) The EDB will select a number of applications randomly for checking. The EDB may request parents to attend interview / and produce other relevant documents and information, such as further proof of residential address, or to make statutory declaration. The EDB may also conduct home visits as and when necessary. 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 (11) When will the discretionary places admission results be released?

Answer (11) Parents can check the results via ePOA from 10 am of 20 November 2023. Besides, all schools will release their discretionary places admission results by putting up a notice at their premises on the same day. Parents of successful applicant children should register with the school on 22 and 23 November 2023. Parents failing to register with the school on the specified dates will be deemed to have given up the discretionary place.

Question (12) What should parents do if they wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 in September 2024 but cannot apply for a discretionary place before the deadline?

Answer (12) Parents should go to the School Places Allocation Section of the EDB **on or before 26 January 2024** to apply for participating in the Central Allocation. For details, parents may contact the School Places Allocation Section of the EDB (Tel: 2832 7700).

If parents wish to arrange their children to attend Primary 1 this school year, i.e.

in the 2023/24 school year, they may contact the Regional Education Office of the EDB direct as follows:

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

Question (13) 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 (13) 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 (14) How does an applicant child claim the points for “Applicant child of the right age”?

Answer (14) If an applicant child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 December 2018, 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 2024. 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 EDB at 2832 7700.

Question (15) 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 (15) 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 (16) What should parents consider when choosing a school for children?

Answer (16) When choosing a primary school for children, parents should first identify children's characteristics, personalities, abilities and interests, and then consider various factors such as the sponsoring body, history, location and religion of a school, so as to make a suitable school choice.

Digitalisation of POA

Question (1) “Email Address” is on the “Application Form for Admission to Primary One” this year, is it mandatory for parents to provide their email address?

Answer (1) In line with the Smart Government strategy, the EDB has fully implemented digitalisation of POA starting from this year. Parents can submit applications for discretionary places and central allocation, as well as check results of allocation of discretionary places and central allocation via ePOA. If parents submit paper “Application Form for Admission to Primary One” and provide email addresses in the paper application form, the EDB would send email to the email addresses as provided so that parents can activate the ePOA account on their own for checking the results of allocation of discretionary places, submitting applications and checking the results for central allocation via ePOA. After providing the email address in the application form and activating the ePOA account, parents can still make their choice of schools either in paper form or through the e-Platform.

Question (2) Upon digitalisation of POA, how could parents submit application for discretionary places and check results of allocation of discretionary places via the e-Platform?

Answer (2) If parents wish to submit application for discretionary places and check results of allocation of discretionary places via the e-Platform, they have to register their ePOA accounts via the “iAM Smart” mobile app. Parents who have bound their accounts to “iAM Smart+” can submit primary one applications and check the results of allocation of discretionary places through e-Platform. Parents who have bound their accounts to “iAM Smart” can check the results through the e-Platform.

Question (3) How does the EDB support parents in submitting applications for discretionary places through e-Platform?

Answer (3) The relevant videos and Parent Guides have been uploaded to the EDB’s website [Path: EDB homepage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk>) > Education System and Policy > Primary and Secondary Education > School Places Allocation Systems > Primary One Admission System] for parents’ reference. Besides, the EDB will also organised four parents’ talks to provide the information regarding POA System and ePOA to parents in September 2023.

Question (4) If parents wish to register an “iAM Smart +” account, how could they apply for the account ?

Answer (4) Parents can download and install “iAM Smart” mobile app and complete the registration of “iAM Smart” account online using mobile phone. If parents need to use digital signing, they can go to self-registration kiosk or registration service counters of various districts to register the “iAM Smart +” account. For details, please refer to “iAM Smart” website:

<https://www.iamsmart.gov.hk/>

Education Bureau

School Places Allocation

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