



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局

Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref: EDB(SDCT)3/PRO/10/1/1

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25 February 2020

To: Supervisors / Principals of All Schools

Dear Supervisor / Principal,

**Arrangements on Deferral of Class Resumption for All Schools**

In consideration of the development of the novel coronavirus epidemic, the Education Bureau (EDB) decided that classes of all schools (including kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and private schools offering non-formal curriculum) will continue to be suspended, with classes to be resumed on 20 April the earliest. The exact date of class resumption is subject to further assessment. The EDB will continue to take into account the professional advice from health experts, and follow up on the readiness of schools as well as the supply of epidemic preventive materials in the community in deciding the date of class resumption. In this connection, we tend to resume classes in phases. Details will be announced in due course. Schools will be informed as soon as possible so that stakeholders could make preparation.

**"Suspending classes without suspending learning"**

We note that schools have been adopting diversified modes to achieve "suspending classes without suspending learning" during this period. They include providing learning materials, exercises and feedback to students through e-mails, school websites, postal mails or other effective means during class suspension. There are also schools conducting interactive learning and teaching on electronic platforms; and schools understanding students' needs and learning progress and offering them assistance as needed through telephone, e-mails and other platforms. We sincerely hope that schools could maintain close contacts with parents, catering for the diverse needs of students premised on the principle of not exerting undue pressure on parents and students.

During class suspension, various extra-curricular activities (such as interest classes) and after-school support programmes beyond the classroom are also affected. We encourage schools to consider using alternative modes to help students' learning, and formulate plans for the arrangements after class resumption, with a view to minimising the impacts brought by class suspension. There may be cases that schools employ tutors or instructors outside schools for these interest classes or support groups, or subsidise students' participation in training programmes organised by the school. They may discuss with the tutors or instructors about the arrangements. If they are able to provide services as appropriate (such as e-learning during class suspension, enhanced training upon class resumption, arranging relevant sharing sessions / performances / competitions, etc.), schools may charge the expenditure to the relevant grants, for example the Operating Expenses Block Grant / Expanded Operating Expenses Block Grant.

### **Arrangements for the summer holiday**

We are thankful to schools in implementing "suspending classes without suspending learning" systematically. While learning at home cannot fully replace classroom learning, we trust that, upon class resumption, schools will suitably adjust their teaching and learning arrangements, including rescheduling school activities and learning activities, with a view to keeping the learning progress of the students. Hence, we consider that, in principle, schools are not required to change their original arrangements for the summer holiday. If individual schools consider it necessary, they may arrange supplementary lessons at their discretion for individual classes, subjects, or students who need the support, according to their school-based circumstances and needs of parents and students. We understand that this in fact is the usual practice of schools.

Lastly, the EDB wishes to thank all schools, teachers, parents and students again for their efforts during class suspension to achieve "suspending classes without suspending learning". We look forward to overcoming the epidemic, so that students could return to school to enjoy learning in the school premises. The EDB will continue to liaise with government departments concerned, including the Centre for Health Protection, and disseminate to schools the latest information and health advice regarding the infectious diseases. For any enquiries, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officer or Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Verena LAU)

for Secretary for Education