

FOREWORD

In the academic year 2001/02, Quality Assurance (QA) Inspection in its full mode was conducted in 70 schools. The method of stratified random sampling was used in selecting schools for inspection. The inspection period was shortened by adopting the Standard Inspection Mode, in which one to two subjects were sampled from each of the eight Key Learning Areas (KLA). To further enable more schools to enjoy the benefits of an external review, focus inspection on various themes such as curriculum reform, whole day primary schooling, financial management and self-evaluation, as well as subjects in different Key Learning Areas was conducted in 2001-02. A total of 184 schools were covered in focus inspection.

This annual report mainly summarises the major findings on the general performance of the 70 schools inspected in the full QA mode. It covers both their strengths and areas for improvement identified and gives a statistical summary of their performance by area and aspect of the work done. Despite the contextual differences among schools, we believe that the data collected from QA inspections can help to enhance our understanding of local school education and thus help us to make better informed decisions about what needs to be done to safeguard the quality of education in Hong Kong.

Quality Assurance Inspection evaluates the performance of schools in the areas covered by a set of published performance indicators. Post-inspection questionnaires show that the schools inspected value QA inspection in providing an objective and comprehensive view of school performance. The general public also appreciate the need for enhancing schools' accountability for the quality of education they deliver and increasing the transparency of school performance. The question that ensues is how inspections can be more cost effective, and how more schools can benefit from an external QA inspection.

In fact, the Quality Assurance Division is aware of all these concerns and is formulating an inspection framework of school self-evaluation and external review. It is our aim to build a more participatory, transparent and accountable culture where school evaluation information will be used more effectively for improvement. It is also considered that special back up measures may be necessary to follow through schools that fail to improve themselves in order to ensure that our pupils will receive quality schooling. The combination of school self-evaluation and external review will not only be more cost effective, but will enhance schools' reflection and give a sense of ownership to the evaluation.

This annual report has been the joint effort of the QA inspection teams and the schools involved. We look forward to continued co-operation between the inspection teams and schools in future modes of school evaluation in our effort to provide quality education for our children.