

Education Bureau Circular No. 13/2024

Kindergarten Education Scheme Guangdong-Hong Kong Sister Kindergarten Exchange Programme

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors and Heads of Kindergartens, Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centres and Schools with Kindergarten Classes joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme – for action; and
- (b) Heads of Sections – for information.]

SUMMARY

This circular informs kindergartens, kindergarten-cum-child care centres and schools with kindergarten classes (collectively referred to as “KGs” hereafter) joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme (Scheme-KGs) of the details about the “Guangdong-Hong Kong Sister Kindergarten Exchange Programme” to be launched by the Education Bureau (EDB) starting from the 2023/24 school year.

BACKGROUND

2. To actively promote the professional exchanges and collaboration between KG teachers in the Mainland and Hong Kong (HK), the Chief Executive in his 2023 Policy Address announced the launch of the “Guangdong-Hong Kong Sister Kindergarten Exchange Programme” (the Exchange Programme) starting from the 2023/24 school year to strengthen connection between the Mainland and HK in early childhood education, with a focus on fostering teachers’ professional exchanges and collaboration, as well as enhancing the quality of KG education.

DETAILS

3. The Exchange Programme will serve as a platform for professional interflows to facilitate the formation of learning circles among KGs in the Mainland and HK. By the launching of various professional exchange activities through different channels and in diversified modes (e.g. forums, exchange visits, online and offline exchanges), the Exchange Programme will be conducive to promoting the development of KGs in the two places and enhancing teachers’ professionalism. EDB will implement the Exchange Programme, starting by inviting 50 HK KGs and 50 KGs from different cities in the Guangdong Province to participate in the Exchange Programme in the first year, and expanding the learning circles gradually as appropriate.

4. The Contract Signing Ceremony-cum-Annual Exchange Activity for the Exchange Programme in the first year is tentatively scheduled to be held in mid-2024. EDB will also provide HK KGs with professional support, by assisting KGs to identify their needs and facilitating KGs to organise exchange activities with Mainland KGs and disseminate good practices, among others.

Application Procedures and Selection Criteria

5. All Scheme-KGs may apply for joining the Exchange Programme and applications should be on a per-school basis based on school registration. A Scheme-KG, regardless of the number of its registered locations under the same school registration, will be counted as one eligible KG. Duplicate applications will not be considered further.

6. Interested KGs should submit the completed application form (at **Annex**) **on or before 3 May 2024** by post to the EDB Kindergarten Administration 2 Section (Address: Room 2329, 23/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong). Application form (in Word format) can be downloaded from the EDB webpage (Home > Education System and Policy > Kindergarten Education > Kindergarten Education Scheme > 4. Circular).

7. EDB will take into account various relevant factors, including the education quality of the KGs (i.e. performance in the aspects of "Management and Organisation", "School Culture and Support for Children", and "Learning and Teaching" in the Quality Review), whether the KGs' overall operating standards in the past were satisfied by EDB (if KGs have been served written warning by EDB due to serious management issues or glaring practices, their applications will not be considered), and whether the KGs have formed Sister KGs with their Mainland counterparts by the signing of formal agreements (regardless of forming as Sister KGs on their own initiative or through other channels), etc., in considering the KGs to be selected for participating in the Exchange Programme in the 2023/24 school year. Selected KGs will be informed within May 2024.

ENQUIRIES

8. For enquiries about this circular, please contact the EDB Kindergarten Administration 2 Section at 2892 6351 or 2892 6546.

Ms W S LEUNG
for Permanent Secretary for Education

Kindergarten Education Scheme
“Guangdong-Hong Kong Sister Kindergarten Exchange Programme”
Application Form

(To be returned on or before 3 May 2024 by post)

To: Permanent Secretary for Education (Attn: Kindergarten Administration 2 Section) Address: Room 2329, 23/F Wu Chung House, 213 Queen’s Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong)
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School Information

Name of School: (Chinese) _____
(English) _____

School Registration No.: _____

(1) Participation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong Sister Kindergarten Exchange Programme (the Exchange Programme)

Our School: *(Please put a “✓” in the appropriate boxes)*

would like to participate in the Exchange Programme in the 2023/24 school year.

is interested in the Exchange Programme, but would like to participate in the Exchange Programme in subsequent school years. The reason(s) is/are: _____

does not intend to participate in the Exchange Programme for the time being. The reason(s) is/are: _____

(2) Overview of the formation of “Sister Kindergartens (KGs)” with Mainland KG(s)
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Our school **has / has not*** formed Sister KGs with Mainland KG(s) with formal agreements signed.
 (* Please delete as appropriate)

If the school has already formed Sister KGs with Mainland KG(s) by the signing of formal agreement(s), please set out the information of the Sister KG(s) in the Mainland in the table below:

Sister KG (1):

Name of KG:			
Year of Forming Sister KG:			
Location of Sister KG:	Province	City	Area

Sister KG (2):

Name of KG:			
Year of Forming Sister KG:			
Location of Sister KG:	Province	City	Area

(If there are more than two Sister KGs formed, please use a separate sheet to provide supplementary information)

Declaration**I / our school:**

- (a) confirm(s) that all the information provided in the application form is factually correct;
- (b) understand(s) that KGs will be selected to participate in the Exchange Programme with reference to paragraph 7 of Education Bureau Circular No. 13/2024;
- (c) am/is fully aware that, if being selected to participate in the Exchange Programme, our school has to arrange representative(s) to attend the Contract Signing Ceremony-cum-Annual Exchange Activity to be held in mid-2024 tentatively, to participate in the professional support to KGs in Hong Kong offered by EDB, and to join (if possible) the professional exchange activity among the Sister KG learning circle during the period from May to October 2024; and
- (d) am/is fully aware that, if being selected to participate in the Exchange Programme, the information provided by our school in this application form would be transferred to the service contractor(s) commissioned by EDB, to facilitate their liaison with our school regarding the Exchange Programme.

Signature of Principal:

Name of Principal:

Date:

(School chop)

Contact person (Name): _____

(Post): _____

Tel. No.: _____