

30 January 2026

Education Bureau Circular No. 1/2026

Code of Practice for Private Schools

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors and Heads of Private Primary and Secondary Schools Offering Formal Curriculum (including International Schools) – for necessary action; and
- (b) Heads of Sections – for information.]

Summary

This circular informs private primary and secondary schools offering formal curriculum of the release of the “Code of Practice for Private Schools” (hereinafter referred to as “the Code”).

Background

2. Hong Kong’s education system has long been recognised for its diversity, quality, and inclusiveness. Against the strategic backdrop of the Mainland’s advancement in developing as a leading country in Education, Hong Kong is actively leveraging its unique advantages under “One Country, Two Systems” and striving to build a vibrant international education hub. Being an important part of our education system, private schools offering formal curriculum have flourished in recent years. The Chief Executive announced in the Policy Address 2025 that the Code would be formulated, with a view to improving the standards of private school operation. The Code will help further enhance the ecosystem of private education in Hong Kong, propelling the education sector towards new heights.

Details

3. The Code has been formulated in accordance with the provisions of the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) and the Education Regulations (Cap. 279A), as well as relevant guidelines on school management issued by the Education Bureau. The Education Bureau has recently promulgated the Code (pilot version), and uploaded it to the thematic webpage “Private Schools Offering Formal Curriculum” (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/private-sch-formal-curriculum>). The Code is applicable to private secondary and primary schools (including international schools) that are registered or provisionally registered under the EO and offering formal curriculum. The Code offers clear and practical management and operational guidelines for the



school sponsoring bodies, school management, and teaching staff to ensure that schools are operated within a robust governance framework while continuously improving educational quality and management standards.

4. According to the Education Ordinance, each school must be managed by its management committee. The management committee is responsible for ensuring that the school is managed satisfactorily and that the education of students is delivered properly. The management committee must be responsible for ensuring that the school fully complies with the Education Ordinance, Education Regulations, EDB circulars and other related legislations. EDB will use the Code as a reference basis for school inspections, and monitoring and supporting schools. Compliance with the Code will be considered as one of the factors in assessing the overall performance of schools. When considering whether the management and operation of a school is satisfactory and whether it promotes the education of students in a proper manner, the Permanent Secretary for Education may take into account relevant references including but not limited to the contents set out in the Code and take action in accordance with the circumstances.

Briefing Session on the “Code of Practice for Private Schools”

5. To help private schools better understand the content of the Code, a briefing session (conducted in Cantonese) will be held in the morning of 2 March 2026 (Monday) in the Lecture Theatre (WB), 4/F, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, (19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon). Please refer to the **Annex** for relevant details. Private schools can nominate 1 to 2 representatives (e.g. supervisor/ school manager/ school head/ school administrative staff) to attend the briefing session. Registration can be done by completing the electronic registration form with the QR code on the right or via this website (<https://forms.office.com/r/kneR2WQ3ge>) on or before 25 February 2026 (Wednesday).



Enquiry

6. For enquiries about the briefing session of “Code of Practice for Private Schools”, please contact the School Governance and Efficiency 3 Section (telephone no. 2863 4675); for other enquiries, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officers / officers of the Infrastructure and International School Section.

Ms Mandy YIP
for Permanent Secretary for Education

Briefing Sessions on the “Code of Practice for Private Schools”

Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
2 March 2026 (Monday)	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Registration begins at 9:45 a.m.)	Lecture Theatre (WB), 4/F, West Block, Education Bureau Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon (No parking facilities are available)	This session is conducted in Cantonese and supplemented by presentation slides in English.

Deadline for Registration: 25 February 2026 (Wednesday)

Registration Method: Sign up for participation through the following Microsoft Form

Electronic form URL and QR code: <https://forms.office.com/r/kneR2WQ3ge>



Remarks:

1. Applications for participation will be automatically accepted after registration. Participants please attend the briefing as scheduled. No separate confirmation will be issued.
2. The briefing session in the morning will be postponed if Extreme Conditions, Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above, Pre-no. 8 Special Announcement, or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is issued at or after 6:30 a.m.

Personal Information Collection Statement:

Purpose of Collection

1. The personal data provided by you in the form will be used by EDB for one or more of the following purposes:
 - (a) Activities relating to the processing, authentication and counter-checking of the nomination for attending the Briefing Session on the “Code of Practice for Private Schools”;
 - (b) Activities relating to matching of the personal data with the database of other relevant Government bureaux / departments in connection with the processing, authentication and counter-checking of the nomination mentioned in (a) above;
 - (c) Activities relating to matching of the personal data within the database of EDB for purposes of verifying / updating records of EDB;
 - (d) Activities relating to training and development including invitation of participation in programmes/activities, applications for reimbursement of course fees, assessment of nominations, awards and scholarship, and monitoring of attainment progress;
 - (e) Activities relating to the processing and vetting of applications for, and disbursement of, funding / grants / subsidies, and conducting of audits;
 - (f) Activities relating to compilation of statistics, research and Government publications; and
 - (g) Activities relating to the administration and enforcement of rules and regulations including the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279), its subsidiary legislation (such as the Education Regulations and the Grant/Subsidised Schools Provident Fund Rules) and the Codes of Aid.
2. The provision of personal data required by this form and during the processing of this form is obligatory. In the event that you do not provide those personal data, we may not be able to handle or further process the form.

Classes of Transferees

3. The personal data you provide will be made available to persons working in EDB. Apart from this, they may be transferred or disclosed to the parties or in the circumstances listed below:
 - (a) other Government bureau and departments for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 above;
 - (b) the school in which the form relates for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 above;
 - (c) personnel, agent, service provider or organisations engaged by EDB to provide services or advice for purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 above;
 - (d) where you have given your prescribed consent to such disclosure; and
 - (e) where such disclosure is authorised or required under the law or court order applicable to Hong Kong.

Access to Personal Data

4. You have the right to request access to and correction of your personal data held by EDB. Request for access or correction of personal data should be made in writing to School Governance and Efficiency 3 Section (address: 3/F, 14 Taikoo Wan Road, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong).