

Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 93/2026

From: Secretary for Education

Ref: 1200-2005-8040-9020-
00009(P001)

Date: 2 July 2026

To: Supervisors and Heads of all
Government Primary Schools,
Aided Primary Schools and
Primary Schools under the Direct
Subsidy Scheme (for necessary
action)

School-based After School Care Service Scheme for the 2026/27 School Year

Summary

This circular memorandum invites government primary schools, aided primary schools and primary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme to apply for participating in the “School-based After School Care Service Scheme” (hereafter referred to as “the Scheme”) for the 2026/27 school year. **All supervisors and heads of publicly funded primary schools are required to read the following details, and actively arrange for the schools’ participation in “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year.**

Background

2. With funding support from the Community Care Fund (CCF), the Labour and Welfare Bureau / Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Education Bureau (EDB) first launched “the Scheme” in the 2023/24 school year, wherein participating schools provide venues for service operators¹ to deliver after school care service, with a view to allowing students to stay after school to receive care and learning support services, including completing most if not all homework at school. It facilitates parents to work and students to have leisure time to develop their personal interests after returning home, as well as to enhance parent-child relationships.

3. “The Scheme” has received very positive feedback from the parents and schools since its launch. In the 2024/25 school year, “the Scheme” has been expanded to cover all 18 districts in Hong Kong. Until now, over 200 primary schools have participated in “the Scheme”, providing about 10 600 service places. The Chief Executive announced in the “2025 Policy Address” to enhance the “Scheme” by uncapping the number of places to support more primary students and parents in need.

¹ Service operators must be non-governmental organisations and charitable organisations exempt from tax under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112). They must also possess experience in operating after-school care or related services, which include providing homework guidance, parental guidance and education, skill learning, and social/developmental activities (such as games/extracurricular activities).

4. To assess the effectiveness of the implementation of “the Scheme”, SWD commissioned a research team of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to conduct an evaluation. The research report indicates that “the Scheme” has successfully achieved its key performance indicators², with some indicators exceeding expectations, and has brought about remarkable outcomes in the areas such as the learning support to students, parents’ employment situation, and parent-child relationships. In view of this, “the Scheme” will continue to be implemented in the 2026/27 school year.

Details

5. “The Scheme” provides after-school care and support for the students with service needs within their familiar school campuses mainly through the approved service providers appointed by the SWD. “The Scheme” will continue to be implemented across all 18 districts in Hong Kong in the 2026/27 school year, the participating schools will recruit eligible students from Primary One to Six to participate in “the Scheme”. To maintain service continuity, the schools which have participated in “the Scheme” for the 2025/26 school year will be automatically included in the list of participating schools in the 2026/27 school year.

Target Beneficiaries

6. Families of students will participate in “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year free of charge provided that they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- (i) families meet the income requirements³; and
- (ii) parents/guardians are unable to take care of their children during after-school hours owing to work, job seeking, participation in retraining courses/job attachment or other reasons⁴.

² (1) No less than 70% of the beneficiary students indicated upon completing “the Scheme” that “the Scheme” provided more appropriate care and learning support, and (2) not less than 70% of the beneficiary parents/guardians indicated that “the Scheme” helped reducing the pressure of child-rearing, enabling them to consider seeking employment or working outside.

³ Families receiving assistance under any one of the following schemes are deemed to have met the income requirement of “the Scheme” as they have passed the specific means tests:

- (i) Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme;
- (ii) full-rate allowance under the Working Family Allowance Scheme; or
- (iii) full level of assistance under the student financial assistance schemes (including the School Textbook Assistance Scheme/Student Travel Subsidy Scheme/Subsidy Scheme for Internet Access Charges).

For low-income families not receiving assistance from the Government under the 3 schemes as aforementioned, the income limit is set at 55% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income, and no asset test will be conducted. Service operators will require applicant families to provide income proof on a random basis.

⁴ Other reasons include social and medical reasons as assessed by service operators, such as health issues of parents/guardians, special care needs of children or other family members or family relationship problems, etc.

7. Students from needy families who do not meet the above-mentioned eligibility criteria can also participate in “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year by paying a flat fixed standard fee of \$1,700 per month.

Enhancement Measures

8. To enhance support for the schools on the related expenditures arisen from the implementation of “the Scheme”, schools participating in “the Scheme” in the 2026/27 school year will be disbursed a one-off fixed grant. Schools can utilise the subsidy flexibly on expenditure items related to the implementation of the “the Scheme”, including but not limited to hiring additional part-time staff, paying duty allowances and related expenditures for on-duty janitors and other technical/ support staff (such as mandatory contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund, employees’ compensation insurance, etc.), covering additional water and electricity bills or other consumable expenses (such as hygiene and epidemic prevention supplies, basic stationery or equipment, photocopying of documents, etc.). SWD will provide the details to schools.

Content of “the Scheme”

9. “The Scheme” will provide homework guidance and revision services (e.g. for examinations/tests/dictations) to help students complete their homework and revision in school as much as possible, thereby alleviating parents’ pressure in parenting and caregiving. In addition, it provides services such as parental guidance and education, skill learning and social/developmental programmes/activities (such as games/extra-curricular activities), etc. to support parents in nurturing and care for their children.

10. Under normal circumstances, service operators are required to provide school-based after school care service for no less than 3 hours every day from the end of school hours⁵ until 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. every Monday to Friday. Service hours will be extended to 7 p.m. if the school conditions permit. Assuming there are 22 school days every month and each session lasts 3 hours, a total of no less than 22 sessions or 66 hours of service should be provided each month. Service operators can also provide a total of six hours of service at the service units within the district for students in need on Saturday or Sunday, based on demand. During school holidays (including public holidays) and periods of class suspension⁶ when the school campus is not open, service operators will make

⁵ Depending on the dismissal time of individual participating schools, the service generally begins from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. On special days (such as examination periods or during off-campus activities), the service should start earlier according to the arrangements of individual schools.

⁶ Except when the Hong Kong Observatory issues a No. 8 or higher Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal, or a Black Rainstorm Warning Signal. Service operators are required to provide or suspend services in accordance with announcements made by the SWD during tropical cyclones, rainstorms, or extreme conditions.

every effort to arrange for care services to be provided at service units within the district.

11. If students are suspected of having learning difficulties, schools may refer them to school-based educational psychologists for follow-up. If families of students are identified as having welfare needs, service operators may refer them to service units of SWD or relevant organisations (such as integrated family service centres) for appropriate support and follow-up.

12. The tutor-to-student ratio of “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year will continue to follow the standard adopted by the After School Care Programme operated by district units (i.e. 1:8 for ordinary students and 1:5 for students with special educational needs). Service operators should arrange for students to receive services in groups of different levels based on their class levels/levels of studies.

Implementation Arrangements

13. Service operators are required to, in accordance with the content, procedures and requirements set out in the “Service Operator – Service Specifications” signed with SWD, discuss and reach a consensus with the participating schools on the administrative arrangements and content for “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year, including publicity, application methods, service hours, service content, tutor-to-student ratios, and class grouping arrangements, etc. Service operators will be responsible for drawing up these administrative arrangements and content, while schools will assist in promoting and introducing the service to parents and encouraging eligible students to participate in “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year. In addition, service operators are required to take out adequate insurance policies (including third-party liability insurance) for activities organised under “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year.

Online Briefing Session

14. To facilitate schools to have a better understanding of the details and application procedures of “the Scheme”, SWD will organise an online briefing session **on 16 July this year at 4:00 p.m.**. Schools should complete and return the “Enrolment Form for Online Briefing Session” at Annex 1 to SWD by email **on or before 13 July this year**, with a copy to EDB. Schools intending to participate in “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year are advised to send a representative to attend the above-mentioned online briefing session to understand the details of “the Scheme”.

Application Procedures

15. Schools intending to participate in “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year should complete and return the “Reply Slip for Application” at Annex 2 to EDB via the “Fast Information Transmission System – School Messaging Module” (SMM) or email on or before **27 July this year**. Schools which have participated in “the Scheme” for the 2025/26 school year will be automatically included in the list of participating schools for the 2026/27 school year and are not required to submit the aforementioned reply slip. SWD will discuss the relevant arrangements with the service operators partnering with the schools concerned later.

16. A written confirmation will be issued to the schools with applications accepted via email. SWD will upload the list of service providers on its webpage after the online briefing to facilitate schools’ negotiation with the service operators about the administrative arrangements and the content of “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year. The service operators will then submit the “Application Form for being an Approved Service Provider” to CCF Team of SWD accordingly. Upon SWD’s formal appointment of the approved service providers, schools can launch “the Scheme” officially.

Enquiry

17. For enquiries, please contact the following bureau/department:

Bureau / Department	Section	Telephone No.
EDB	School Governance and Efficiency 3 Section	2863 4709 / 2863 4624
SWD	Youth Section	3468 2941 / 3468 2944

Ms Mandy Yip
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

“School-based After School Care Service Scheme” for the 2026/27 School Year
Enrolment Form for Online Briefing Session

Please return the duly completed enrolment form to the Social Welfare Department by email, with a copy to the Education Bureau (EDB) **by 13 July 2026**.

To: Youth Section of the Social Welfare Department Email: **sba@swd.gov.hk**
 cc: School Governance and Efficiency 3 Section of the EDB Email: **sge3@edb.gov.hk**

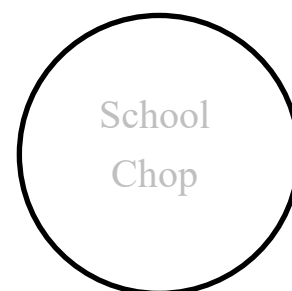
Date of Online Briefing Session : 16 July 2026 (Thursday)
 Time : 4:00p.m.
 Log-in : The relevant hyperlink will be sent via email by Social Welfare Department

Our school would like to register for participation in the online briefing session of “School-based After School Care Service Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year. The information of our school is given below:

Name of School: _____
 District: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone No. / Fax No.: _____ / _____
 Contact Person (Position Held): _____ ()
 Email Address of Contact Person: _____

I have read the **EDB Circular Memorandum No. 93/2026** regarding the “School-based After School Care Service Scheme” for the 2026/27 School Year and agreed with the content of the “Personal Information Collection Statement” appended in this enrolment form.

Signature of Principal: _____
 Name of Principal: _____
 Date: _____



“School-based After School Care Service Scheme” for the 2026/27 School Year
Reply Slip for Application

Please return the duly completed reply slip for application to the Education Bureau via the “Fast Information Transmission System – School Messaging Module” (SMM) or email (email: sge3@edb.gov.hk) **by 27 July 2026**. Please note that schools which have participated in the “School-based After School Care Service Scheme” for the 2025/26 school year will be automatically included in the list of participating schools for the 2026/27 school year and are not required to submit the reply slip for application.

To: School Governance and Efficiency 3 Section of the EDB Email: sge3@edb.gov.hk

Name of School: _____

Types of schools: _____

Government school / Aided school /

Direct Subsidy Scheme school*

**Please delete as appropriate*

District: _____

Address: _____

Our school intends to apply for participation in the “School-based After School Care Service Scheme” (hereafter referred to as “the Scheme”) for the 2026/27 school year and appoint the following persons as contact persons:

	Name	Position Held	Telephone No.	Email Address
1.				
2.				

Our school expects:

- (i) The total number of students who meet the eligibility criteria (i.e. can join “the Scheme” free of charge) and are intended to participate in “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year (calculated on a capita basis)¹: approximately _____ persons.
- (ii) The total number of students who do not meet the eligibility criteria (i.e. need to pay a flat fixed standard fee) and are intended to participate in “the Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year (calculated on a capita basis)¹: approximately _____ persons.

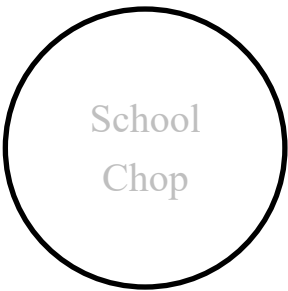
¹ If two children from the same family participate in “the Scheme”, the number of participants should be 2.

I have read the EDB Circular Memorandum No. 93/2026 regarding the “School-based After School Care Service Scheme” for the 2026/27 School Year and agreed with the content of the “Personal Information Collection Statement” appended in this reply slip.

Signature of Principal: _____

Name of Principal: _____

Date: _____



**“School-based After School Care Service Scheme” for the 2026/27 School Year
Enrolment Form for Online Briefing Session and Reply Slip for Application**

Personal Information Collection Statement

Purpose of Collection

1. The personal data provided by you in this form will be used by the Social Welfare Department and/or Education Bureau for processing the school’s application for the Briefing Session of “School-based After School Care Service Scheme” for the 2026/27 school year, appointment of service operators for the school, issuing relevant result notifications, future contact, statistics and event opinion surveys, as well as the administration and enforcement of rules and regulations including the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279).
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, the Social Welfare Department and/or Education Bureau may not be able to handle or further process the application / notification mentioned in paragraph 1 above.

Classes of Transferees

3. The personal data you provide will be made available to persons working in the Social Welfare Department and/or Education Bureau. Apart from this, they may be transferred or disclosed to the parties or in the circumstances listed below:-
 - (a) other Government bureaux and departments, including Labour and Welfare Bureau, for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 above;
 - (b) the schools and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) responsible for operating the services in which the form relates for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 1 above;
 - (c) where you have given your prescribed consent to such disclosure; and
 - (d) 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 Education Bureau. Request for access or correction of personal data should be made in writing to School Governance and Efficiency 3 Section of the Education Bureau [Address: 3/F, 14 Taikoo Wan Road, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong].