



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. :  
來函檔號 Your Ref. :

電話 Telephone : 2810 2568  
傳真 Fax Line : 2537 9276

29 May 2009

Dear Parents,

**Fine-tuning Arrangements for the  
Medium of Instruction for Secondary Schools**

It is with pleasure that I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for the fine-tuning of the medium of instruction (MOI) for Secondary Schools. With the fine-tuning, schools would be able to exercise their professionalism in designing an appropriate MOI strategy in order to meet the diversified needs and capabilities of their students. As a result, students would have more opportunities to be exposed to, and to use English throughout the junior secondary levels, an opportunity which we deem vital to students's future as we enter the era of globalization. The fine-tuning arrangements were formulated with students' interest as our prime concern and we spared no effort in consulting key stakeholders during the past year. The arrangements announced today represent a balanced improvement to the current policy.

Starting with Secondary One level from the 2010/11 school year onwards, secondary schools may adopt English as the MOI in up to 25% of total lesson time (excluding the lesson time of English Language subject) across subjects, subject to teachers' readiness to teach in English. Alternatively, schools may allocate the relevant lesson time to the teaching of one or two non-language subjects in English. They may also opt to teach some or all non-language subjects in English provided that the three prescribed criteria (i.e. students' ability to learn in English, teachers' readiness to teach in English and schools' support measures) are met. For details, please visit the Education Bureau homepage at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/index.aspx?nodeID=1900&langno=1>.

To facilitate parents and your children to make school choices, schools must spell out clearly their MOI arrangements in the annual Secondary School Profiles booklet. Apart from considering the MOI a school offers, I urge parents to take into account the school's vision and mission, characteristics and teaching strategies, all of which are essential consideration criteria for selecting the most suitable schools for your children.

The fine-tuning arrangements will give more flexibility to schools in creating a rich language environment, helping students to develop more confidence and ability towards the usage of English in a progressive manner tailored to their needs, interests and learning progress. We will do our utmost to support schools in developing their school-based MOI arrangement, and we sincerely hope that parents will cast their vote of confidence in the schools' professionalism.

There is no shortcut for language learning. A solid foundation of English is built upon the accumulation of small steps. While we will continue to improve the teaching and learning of English at schools, we appeal to parents to encourage your children to make good use of every opportunity in their daily life to learn and practice English, such as the reading of English novels and newspapers, watching English TV programmes. Let us join hands in nurturing our future generations with proficiency in both Chinese and English.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael M. Y. Suen', written in a cursive style.

(Michael M. Y. Suen)  
Secretary for Education