

**Quality Education Fund for  
Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools  
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**1. Q: Are the applications related to the ‘Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools’ (the Programme) processed on a first-come, first-served basis?**

A: To ensure the effective use of resources and allow schools time to assess their needs, the Quality Education Fund (QEF) will reserve sufficient funds for schools to apply. We do not recommend that applications be made on a first-come, first-served basis. The Programme will be implemented for four years so that schools will have sufficient time to submit applications according to their needs. The QEF will invite schools to submit an expression of interest form in June annually. Schools may review and update their needs in applying for the fund.

**2. Q: Is the funding ceiling for pre-primary sector the same as that of primary and secondary school sector? Can the funding under the Programme be used to conduct improvement works?**

A: As the size, the number of students and the funding mode of kindergartens are generally different from those of primary and secondary schools, the indicative values for reference will vary.

If the kindergartens have their own school premises or secure a relatively long tenancy agreement, and permission from the landlord is obtained, they can use the funding to conduct improvement works related to school-based curriculum development and students support measures.

Schools should follow the School Administration Guide, Kindergarten Administration Guide and relevant requirements in carrying out any improvement works on the school premises.

**3. Q: Why are the simplified procedures under the Programme not applicable to non-publicly-funded schools?**

A: While the 'Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools' will be applicable to publicly-funded schools, i.e. primary, secondary schools, including schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS), special schools and kindergartens under the New Kindergarten Education Scheme, non-publicly-funded schools or other applicants may continue to apply for QEF under the prevailing procedures.

**4. Q: Can non-governmental organisations or tertiary institutions submit an application if the school applicants plan to collaborate with them?**

A: This is a programme designated for publicly-funded schools. As the school teachers are more familiar with the schools' situation and the development needs and will be responsible for the overall implementation of the QEF project, the school applicant should register as the project holder. Non-governmental organizations or tertiary institutions can participate in the project as collaborators. Projects led by non-governmental organizations or tertiary institutions may continue to apply for QEF under the prevailing procedures.

**5. Q: Will the QEF introduce simplified application procedures to facilitate applicants to submit applications?**

A: The QEF has accumulated years of experience in approving funding, in particular, reference has been made to the arrangements for the mini-applications (grant sought less than \$200,000) launched a few years ago. Under the Programme, the QEF has enhanced the application and processing procedures, such as uploading project exemplars based on past QEF successful applications to facilitate schools to submit applications in a simpler way.

**6. Q: How the QEF sets the total indicative values of projects from different**

**types of schools?**

A: The QEF sets the total indicative values of projects with reference to the amounts of the projects previously submitted by different types of schools, the schools' size, etc.

**7. Q: Is there any restriction on the project period for applications under the Programme?**

A: The QEF receives applications from schools for four school years starting from the 2018/19 school year. To ensure that the funding will be utilized to support schools' imminent needs and bear fruits timely, the duration of each project normally will not exceed three years. If the school submits an application in the 2021/22 school year, the project should be completed in the 2024/2025 school year.

**8. Q: How will the QEF assess applicants' proposals under the Programme?**

A: The Assessment and Monitoring Sub-committee (AMS) of QEF is responsible for assessing applications. The AMS assesses applications in accordance with the guidelines and recommends applications that are worthy of support to ensure the proper use of public funds.

**9. Q: Does the QEF support applications involving improvement works such as upgrading the lighting systems or audio systems of school hall?**

A: In assessing applications, the QEF will consider if the improvement works is related to the launch of the school-based curriculum and student support measures, with a view to improving the quality of education in schools. The improvement works and the supplies funded by the QEF are generally one-off. The schools should bear the recurring expenses in the future, including the maintenance costs.

**10. Q: Does the QEF support applications involving the purchase of supplies**

**or equipment?**

A: In assessing applications, the QEF will consider whether the hardware is conducive to the attainment of project goals and the launch of the school-based curriculum and student support measures. Schools should be aware that the QEF is only responsible for the expenditure incurred during the project period and schools have to be responsible for the recurrent expenditure caused by the items or equipment purchased, including the maintenance costs.

**11. Q: Is there any quota for applications under the Programme?**

A: The Programme and the simplified procedures are designated for publicly-funded schools. The Programme allows the QEF to concentrate on and give priority to processing school applications, making it easier for schools to benefit, including launching school-based improvement works to enhance school-based curriculum and students' support measures. As the applications under the Programme is handled separately from the existing mechanism, there is no quota restriction on applications. Schools may submit one or more applications in the light of their own circumstances, development plan and student needs.

**12. Q: What types of projects will not be supported by the QEF?**

A: Under the Programme, the QEF will support applications with the objectives of launching school-based curriculum development and student support measures.

The QEF will not support applications which solely aim to carry out school improvement works and procure supplies without implementing school-based curriculum development and student support measures. For instance, projects relating to campus renovation will not be supported.