# Placement Briefing Session School Social Work Service

**SETTING COORDINATOR: IRENE LAW** 

22 NOV 2025



# School Settings

Primary Schools / Secondary Schools

 Others: Kindergartens / Schools for Social Development



# Objectives of School Social Work Service



- To help students with the personal, family, interpersonal or schooling problem
  - -- remedial

- To help students develop personal potential and achieve healthy personal growth
  - -- developmental and educational



# School as Secondary Setting

- Working inside a setting where other professionals are majority
- The number of social workers is low
- Important professional role in the school
- Collaborating with different parties and professionals

# Service targets

Students (mainly)

Parents/
family
members

teachers

School system

# Natures of Work and learning opportunities

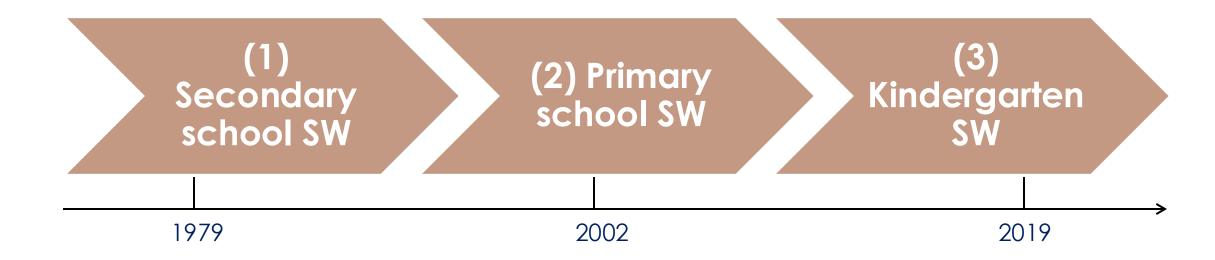
Casework

Groupwork, program, project

Enquiries / consultation

Coordination of community resources

# The development of school social work service



### School Social Work Service

#### Secondary School

- School Social Worker
- Funded by Social Welfare Department
- Employed by NGOs

#### Primary School

- School Social Worker
- Funded by Education Bureau
- Employed by schools directly or NGO via annual bidding

Kindergarten (Pre-primary Institute)

- School Social Worker
- Funded by Social Welfare Department
- Employed by NGOs

# Service operation in secondary school

As at 1 September 2025, 33 NGOs operate stationing school social work service for 459 secondary day schools in Hong Kong.

#### Two modes of service operation:

- (1) Independent mode: Independent school social work unit
  - Serve schools in different areas
  - focus on the school social work service provision
- (2) Attachment mode: Centre team (Integrated Children and Youth Centre)(ICYSC)
  - -serve 2-3 secondary schools in a designated area
  - -Allocate designated staff to station at school as school social worker
  - -near the location of the ICYSC
  - -Closely work with the centre and more resources can be shared and mobilized

# Secondary School: Types of cases

- Related to schooling (unmotivated to study, study stress, study method, career planning etc.)
- School adjustment
- Peer relationship
- Behavioral problems
- Developmental adjustment
- Emotional/ mental health
- Sex-related issues
- Family related problems



### Types of groups & programs

### Social and emotional development:

Emotional management, social skills groups, stress reduction, school adjustment, etc.

### Career development :

Career planning workshops, self-understanding etc.

### Community engagement and personal development:

Volunteer services, leadership training, fun fair, exhibitions, visits, outing or day camps etc.



# Primary schools: Major types of cases

- Learning problem(Special Educational Needs)
- Behavioral problem
- Emotional problem
- Relationship problem
- Family related problem



# Types of groups & programs

- Social skills groups
- Emotional management groups
- Problem solving groups
- Parents workshops / talks
- Volunteer services
- Fun fair / exhibitions
- Visits / day camps /outings



Services

provided:

### Kindergarten:

- Provide counseling and referral to related services for children and families
- Parenting education groups and talks
- Thematic activities to consolidate family relationship
- Professional consultations for teaching staff and parents
- Crisis management for case in need

Schools for Social Development (群育學校)



### Schools for Social Development (SSD)

- Under the category of "Special Schools"
- A total of 8 SSDs in Hong Kong
- Providing intensive support for students from P.1 to F.6 with moderate to severe emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Providing both long-term and short-term adaptation programmes for students
- Catering for the learning diversity of students with interdisciplinary collaboration (EP, ST, and social worker)

Services
provided by
school social
workers

#### Case

 Provide students with counselling that focuses on their emotional, family and social problems

### Group

- Adaptation group for P.6 students
- Educational and growth group targeting social skills, emotional management, self-efficacy, empathy etc.

### Programme

- Volunteer services e.g. visiting elderly centres, elderly people living alone etc.
- Life planning programme e.g. life simulation game
- School visits at mainstream secondary schools
- Others 19



Q1: Do you enjoy getting along with children and young people?

Q2: Do you mind being rejected by others?

Q3: Are you an **energetic**, **active or outgoing** person?

Q4: Can you work independently and flexibly?

Q5: Are you willing to approach the teachers and parents actively?

Q6: Do you feel comfortable to comply with school cultures or rules?

Q7: Are you willing to introduce yourself in front of many people?

# Placement Requirement

Concurrent placement only

Daytime stationing at school, no evening stationing

 Need to arrange earlier proceeding of the sexual conviction record check(SCRC) before the placement commencement

### Proper dress code and personal appearance

 Dress Code: properly dress, smart casual, comply with school's usual practice and culture

Tattoo: Need to be covered, if any

 Hairstyle: Appropriate styles, dye hair with darker color, avoid highlight

# Placement Requirement

Choices of Placement	Stationing days
Primary School Services	Usually on <b>Tue and Wed</b> Day Time
Secondary School Services	Usually on <b>Tue and Wed</b> Day Time
Other School Services  (i.e. Kindergarten / Schools for Social Development)	Kindergarten: One stationing day might be on another weekday other than Tue or Wed, depending on the agency arrangement  Schools for Social Development: Usually on Tue and Wed Day Time

### Some placement requirements by schools

- Schools only give one placement offer
- Schools request 1 male and 1 female students
- Schools offer places to 1 MSW and 1 BSW students
- Schools offer places to solely MSW or BSW students

Agency purchase mode for placement supervision

# Placement Arrangement

- The placement arrangement will depend on the available places provided by the agencies and the schools.
- As the service in kindergarten is newly established, the no.
  of available places is very limited.

 There will be a few places for non-Cantonese speaking students. The arrangement depends on the available places provided by the schools.



# References

- Lau, Y. K. (2020). A Critical Review of School Social Work in Hong Kong. In Gao, J., Baikady, R., Govindappa, L. & Cheng, S.L.(Eds.) *Social Welfare in India and China: A comparative perspective* (p.101-117). Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Task Group on Multi-Disciplinary Guidelines on School Social Work Service. (2000). *Guideline on multi-disciplinary collaboration in school social work service*. Hong Kong: Social Welfare Department.
- Social Welfare Department. (2024). *School social work*. Retrieved from https://www.swd.gov.hk/tc/pubsvc/young/cat\_young/schoolsoci/index.html
- Social Welfare Department. (2024). *Social work Service for Pre-primary Institutions*. Retrieved from https://www.swd.gov.hk/tc/pubsvc/family/cat\_childcareservice/ppi/index.html
- Education Bureau(2023). *Student Guidance Services*. Retrieved from https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/teacher/student-guidance-discipline-services/projects-services/sgs/index.html







THANKS!