

S.C.M.P.

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# Answers overdue from Education Dept

LAST month a mother wrote (S.C.M. Post, September 6) about a problem in a well-known Robinson Road school which her son attended. The school asked her son to repeat but instead of reserving a place for him, placed him on the waiting list. In spite of repeated returns and calls to the school, the family was never told if the child was given a place.

After discussing the problem with the mother, the Education Action Group found that her son was fortunate enough to find a place in another school. The mother was still concerned, however, about the many other children in the Robinson Road school who were in the same position, since, at a late date, it would be most difficult or, in most cases, impossible to find a reasonably good school.

EAG pleaded (S.C.M. Post, September 15) that since the autumn term was well under way, it was urgent that the Education Department and the school in question answered the following:

1. Were all the children who were asked to repeat at the school given a place?

2. If not, did the Education Department check with the families concerned to make sure the children found places in other schools? If they are not in other schools, will the Education Department take action to ensure that the Robinson Road school gives them a place?

3. Will the Education Department take action to ensure that this practice is not repeated in the future in the Robinson Road school as well as other schools?

In the same letter EAG stated that in July, through a letter to the Education Department and the press, EAG called on the department to:

- INVESTIGATE the reasons for the present high failure rate in schools.

- ENSURE that remedial education is taught

thoroughly to future teachers in colleges of education guaranteeing that all children in need of remedial help will receive it.

- FOLLOWING teacher training, to provide and require follow-up courses in subject remedial teaching for all teachers.

Since EAG received no acknowledgment or comment from the Education Department on our proposals, we asked ED to also answer if it has plans to implement any of the above. If so, when?

At this point, the term is even further under way and yet we have still seen no answers from the ED. Could we have answers to the questions concerning the Robinson Road school as well as the question on our proposals?

The EAG is determined that Hongkong must end this practice whereby many children behind in school are rejected and labelled as failures.

EDUCATION ACTION GROUP