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Anxious parents lobby Governor

Six parents yesterday petitioned the Governor over an eight-year delay in building a school at Razor Hill.

The group, representing parents of 150 pre-school English-speaking children, went to Government House to forward a petition letter to Sir Edward Youde.

A spokeswoman, Mrs Linda Harris, said the school had been in the planning stage since 1977 and was due to be completed in 1979.

Although they were recently told that the completion date for the school will be September, they are still worried as construction work has not yet started.

Mrs Harris said about 400 children presently studying at Boundary School, Yau Yat Chuen, come from the Clearwater Bay area, adding that it takes them about 1½ hours to make the round trip between home and school.

A Government spokesman said the proposed construction of an English Schools' Foundation school at Razor Hill is still under discussion with the ESF.

"The project had been complicated by geotechnical problems and an inadequate water supply at the site as well as a proposed change in the number of classrooms and a proposal to build an ESF primary school in Shatin," he said.

He added that the Government will give a reply to the parents later.

The SCM Post learnt that the Government is working out a new financial arrangement with the ESF as the present arrangement is different from that involving aided schools in the public sector.

Sources said that at present the Government has to pay 65 per cent of the building cost for the construction of an ESF school — regardless of how much the cost is.

But for aided schools the Government is responsible for 80 per cent "of a tendered price acceptable to the Government."