

Question on Discovery College
(Paper IDC 79/2013)

Written reply from ESF Educational Services Limited

“ On behalf of Discovery College’s principal, Mr Mark Beach, please find below our formal response to the questions raised by Ms Amy Yung on Discovery College.

1. During the 2012/13 school year, 50 DC students were immediate family members of a staff member of either ESF Educational Services Limited (ESL) or English Schools Foundation (ESF). DC had 1121 students in the 2012/13 school year, therefore, the 50 students represented only a small percentage (4%) of the total student population.
2. Eligible staff members of ESL receive 100% discount on tuition fees for up to two children. Eligible staff members of ESF receive 80% discount for up to three children.
3. For 2012-13, the school had 39 scholarship students of which one recipient was the child of a DC teacher. For 2013-14, there are 60 scholarship students and 2 are children of DC teachers. The scholarship committee comprises both staff and parent members including the principal, the development and communications manager, a school council parent representative, and the head of secondary. In the past, where a committee member’s family member had made application to the scholarship programme, that same committee member were replaced by another school council parent representative in the assessment process in order to avoid conflict of interest. Guidelines on DC’s scholarship programme including the application procedures and assessment process are detailed on our website under this link:
www.discovery.edu.hk/cms/index.php/en/scholarship/scholarships .
4. We have made every effort to give our stakeholders a clearer picture of our financial projections as early as April 2011 when the impending introduction of non-refundable building levy was announced. The decision for a new gymnasium/wellness centre for senior students was a school-based decision. The need for this facility was identified during construction in 2006/07, and the extra space thus created will help cater for both senior student wellness programmes as well as extra PE classes due to additional primary roll. The DC school council and ESL directors agreed that the completion of the wellness centre was a priority as the school heads into Year 13 in 2013/14. Budget has already been set aside for its construction in 2012/13 and has little or no impact on longer term financial plans. ”