

Ying Wa spots gone in minutes

Local | Sophie Hui May 9, 2017



Eager parents snatched up all 4,800 places at six briefing sessions on Primary One admission at Ying Wa Primary School yesterday - in just 17 minutes.

The traditional direct-subsidy boy's school in Sham Shui Po is recruiting 160 Primary One students for the academic year starting in September next year.

The school said it received about 4,700 applications last year and the number this year is expected to be similar.

Six briefing sessions on admission will be held for parents on July 14 and 15 in the school hall - three two-hour sessions each day.

Parents can submit applications afterwards and those who cannot attend the briefing can submit the application between July 18 and 22. The deadline is July 22 at 5pm.

Ying Wa Primary School headmistress Maria Lam Woon-sum said the briefing will not be on interview techniques but suggestions on parenting.

"We will introduce the school's guidelines and parenting techniques in the briefing sessions," said Lam, pictured.

"Family is the first school for students and parents are the first teachers of their children. Parents will find the briefing sessions very useful as we will share tips on parenting, especially for boys."

She said parenting for boys and girls is different: "Boys are usually more energetic and we suggest letting them play to release their energy before they do homework."

Applicants will need to go through three rounds of interview - the first two rounds by schoolteachers and the headmistress, respectively, while both parents and students will be interviewed by the headmistress in the final round.

Only 10 percent of applicants entered the second round and half of these candidates reached the final round last year.

Lam said the students' background does not count and financial assistance will be provided for those from grassroots families through the school fee reduction program.

She said the student's character and "purity" are more important.

"Parents and students should not overact and the student should act like a normal four- or five-year-old. And as for parents, they should also act normal and don't act like being close to their children if they are not."

She also said a lengthy portfolio for the children is unnecessary as a two-page portfolio and the application form will do.

The school fee for Ying Wa Primary School is HK\$15,000 per year, although the school is planning to adjust that to HK\$18,000 for the 2017-18 academic year.