



*Government of Bermuda*

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

**Consultation Due to Low Enrolment of the P1 Class  
at Elliot Primary School for the 2019/20 School Year**

I write to advise of the low enrolment of the P1 class at Elliot Primary School for the 2019/20 school year.

Unfortunately, enrolment is lower at some primary schools, including Elliot Primary School, which only received four registration forms from eligible applicants. Each year, the Minister of Education determines the maximum enrolment for primary schools based on school registration. While he has not yet made a decision on the maximum enrolment for Elliot Primary School, it is his provisional view that Elliot Primary School should not have a P1 class due to low enrolment in September 2019.

It is the Minister's provisional view that a regular sized primary school class would provide a more suitable education, and that having a class of only 4 students would not be an effective use of human, facility or financial resources. However, being in a class of more than 4 children would allow for an enhanced educational experience, and your child would also have greater opportunities to form relationships that would enrich their interpersonal skills, and help them to learn how to be a member of a team. These are all skills which are acquired from their entire school experience.

**Offer of Enrolment at Another Primary School**

Therefore, the Department of Education would like to offer your child an enrolment place at another school. However, it is your choice whether or not to accept the offer to have your child enrolled at another primary school.

If you are interested in the offer of enrolment at another school, the Department of Education will arrange for you to visit other primary schools of preference and answer any questions you may have. Additionally, in order to assist your child's transition into primary school, if you accept the offer to enroll your child at a different primary school, the Department will purchase new school uniforms for your child.

The Department of Education would like to give you **one (1) week** to accept or decline this offer. Therefore, a decision is requested from you by Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### Parent Consultation

If you choose not to accept this offer, the Minister will consult with you before he makes a decision on whether or not Elliot Primary School should have a P1 class for the 2019/20 school year. This consultation process will consist of the following steps:

- i. The Minister will write a letter to you indicating that he has not made up his mind about whether or not Elliot Primary School should have a P1 class, but that he proposes that the school not have a P1 class for the 2019/20 school year;
- ii. In that same letter, the Minister will provide the reasons why he proposes that Elliot Primary School not have a P1 class for the 2019/20 school year;
- iii. The Minister will ask you to give your views on his proposal that Elliot Primary School not have a P1 class for the 2019/20 school year, and give you two weeks to respond in writing. You may request additional time to give your views, if needed.
- iv. The Minister will then consider the views that you provided to him on the proposal and will make a decision as to whether or not Elliot Primary School should have a P1 class for the 2019/20 school year. If you wish, you can be informed of the decision in person, but it will also be provided to you in writing.

If you should have any questions, please contact Ms. Terry Cox, Assistant Director for Educational Standards and Accountability at [tcx@gov.bm](mailto:tcx@gov.bm) or 278-3300.

Thank you for considering this offer and correspondence. I know that entering primary school is a wonderful and sensitive time for children and parents, and I wish you well as you deliberate the offer.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Valerie Robinson-James  
Permanent Secretary

cc: Mrs. Kalmar Richards, Commissioner of Education