

Statement

To: Relevant Media and the General Public

Phonics Land Learning Centre Limited (hereinafter referred to as “**the Centre**”) hereby issues the following solemn clarification and statement in response to the media report published by Channel C on 19 December 2023, titled “Expensive Education Centre. ‘Overly Harsh’! Multiple Former Teachers Terminated Without Warning – Given Only 7 Days’ Payment in Lieu of Notice and Forced to Repay HK\$70,000 Training Fee – Former Teachers: It’s Like Working for Nothing!” (Origin: 貴價教育中心「超苛刻」! 多名前老師無預警下遭即時解僱 僅獲 7 日代通知金 兼要賠償 7 萬蚊 Training fee 前老師: 等於白做! 》 (hereinafter referred to as “**the Report**”).

Regarding the Allegation of “Unwarned Immediate Dismissal of Multiple Teachers”
(Origin: 無預警即時解僱多名老師)

The Report claims that the Centre terminated multiple teachers without warning is entirely false and misleading. The Centre strictly adheres to legal procedures and contractual terms in all employment matters. Teachers were explicitly informed of notice periods and termination conditions upon hiring. There has been no arbitrary or unreasonable dismissal.

Regarding the Claim of “Only 7 Days’ Payment in Lieu of Notice” (Origin: 僅獲 7 日代通知金)

The Report insinuates that the Centre’s stipulated notice period is unfair or unlawful. In fact, the employment contracts signed between the Centre and the staffs lawfully stipulated a 7-day notice period, mutually agreed upon both parties. The notice period is reasonable and in full compliance with relevant laws.

Regarding the Allegation of “Forced Repayment of HK\$70,000 Training Fee” (Origin: 兼要賠償 7 萬蚊 Training fee)

The Report’s assertion that the Centre imposes unreasonably high training fee is entirely untrue. The Centre only recovers training costs under limited and justifiable circumstances, strictly in accordance with contractual agreements and legal principles. Characterising this as a “scam” is baseless and constitutes severe defamation against the Centre.

Regarding the Statement “It’s Like Working for Nothing” (Origin: 等於白做)

This emotional and unfair remark unfairly disparages the Centre's lawful business operations by implying exploitation of employees without factual basis. Such claims lack factual basis and have caused significant reputation harm to the Centre.

The Centre hereby solemnly declares that the above allegations are not only factually incorrect but also malicious, thereby infringing upon the Centre's business reputation. Having sought legal advice, the Centre reserves the right to pursue all legal actions against the media and responsible parties involved.

The Centre urges relevant media and parties to respect facts, refrain from disseminating false information, and promptly correct the erroneous report to uphold journalistic integrity and protect the Centre's lawful rights and interests.