

# **SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB)**

## For Primary Schools

~ Catering to Your Child's Abilities ~

# OUTLINE

1. Subject-based Banding (Primary)

2. PSLE Scoring System

3. S1 Posting

# 1. Subject-based Banding (Primary)

# What is Subject-based Banding (Primary)?

- **Subject-based banding (at P5 & P6) was introduced as a refinement to the streaming process to help each child realise his potential, based on his strengths and needs**
- **It provides greater flexibility for your child by offering him the option of a combination of **standard** and **foundation** subjects, depending on his strengths.**

# Why Introduce Subject-based Banding?

- To recognise that every child is unique, and has different abilities, aptitudes, capabilities and talents.
- To provide a balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child so that we can prepare him for life.
- To allow your child to focus on and stretch his potential in the subjects that he is strong in while building up the fundamentals in the subjects that he needs more support in.

# How does Subject-based Banding Work?

**At end of P4**

**School recommends a subject combination based on P4 examination results. Parents select preferred combination.**



**At P5, student takes subject combination chosen by parents.**

# How does Subject-based Banding Work?

## Possible Subject Combinations

4 standard subjects

3 standard subjects +  
1 other foundation subject

2 standard subjects +  
2 other foundation subjects

1 standard subject +  
3 other foundation subjects

4 foundation subjects

# How does Subject-based Banding Work?

| If your child at the end of P4   | Your child will be recommended to take              |
|--|---|
| Passes all <b>4 subjects</b> and performs very well in Mother Tongue Languages | 4 standard subjects + Higher Mother Tongue Language |
| Passes <b>3 or 4 subjects</b>  | 4 standard subjects or a combination of subjects    |



# Eligibility for Higher Mother Tongue (HMT)

| Mother Tongue                | English, Mathematics, Science    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Band 1<br>(85 marks & above) | At least Band 2 (Above 70 marks) |

- School identifies students and advises parents on whether their child is eligible.
- Students are expected to take HMT for a complete year before they can request to drop the subject.

# Considerations for taking Higher Mother Tongue

|                           | Higher Chinese Language  | Higher Malay Language             | Higher Tamil Language             |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Learning Resources</b> | 1 textbook HCL only for students taking HCL & CL   | 2 separate textbooks for HML & ML | 2 separate textbooks for HTL & TL |
| <b>Lessons</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour</li> <li>• Once a week</li> <li>• Outside curriculum hours</li> </ul>                  |                                   |                                   |
| <b>Examination</b>        | 2 examinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 for CL / ML / TL</li> <li>• 1 for HCL / HML / HTL (for P5 and P6)</li> </ul> |                                   |                                   |

# Subject-based Banding At End of P5

## End of P5

Student takes a subject combination **determined by the school**

Students who do very well

Upgrade or continue with the same subject combination

Students who do not meet expectations

Switch some subjects to foundation level

All other students

Continue with the same subject combination

Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) At End of P6

## Parents are advised to make informed decisions based on:

- Child's past academic performance.
- Child's overall aptitude and interest for the various subjects.
- How the subjects offered would prepare the child for secondary school education.

# PSLE Scoring System

# Sharing About PSLE Matters



**How does the PSLE Scoring &  
S1 Posting work?**

**How are students posted to  
secondary schools?**

# WHAT IS THE INTENT OF THE PSLE?



**A useful checkpoint at the end of primary school**

**A fair way to determine secondary school posting**



Over the years, we have been changing the education system to help our students discover and develop their strengths, interests, abilities and talents while moving away from an over-emphasis on academic results. Our PSLE Scoring system reduces the over-emphasis on academic results by:

1

**Reducing fine differentiation of students' examination results at a young age.**

2

**Recognising a student's level of achievement, regardless of how his/her peers have done.**

3

**Encouraging families to choose secondary schools holistically based on students' strengths, interests and learning needs.**

# WHAT ARE ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS (AL)?

## WHY ARE THE BANDS UNEVEN?

- Students with similar scores in each subject are grouped into scoring bands measured in 8 ALs.
- AL bands and mark ranges are set based on the learning objectives of the curriculum, and mirror the way we learn.

When we learn something new, after some initial practice, we often find ourselves improving significantly.

As we get better, the improvements become small steps, and finally, as we reach a high level, we inch just a little further, even after much learning and practice.

The ALs were designed to reflect this reality of learning. They help educators, students, and parents know how ready students are to access the curriculum at the next level.

| AL | RAW MARK RANGE |
|----|----------------|
| 1  | ≥ 90           |
| 2  | 85 – 89        |
| 3  | 80 – 84        |
| 4  | 75 – 79        |
| 5  | 65 – 74        |
| 6  | 45 – 64        |
| 7  | 20 – 44        |
| 8  | < 20           |




# GRADING OF FOUNDATION SUBJECT GRADES

- Foundation subject grades are graded in scoring bands from **AL A to C**.
- To derive a student's overall PSLE Score for S1 Posting, AL A to AL C for Foundation level subjects are **mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively**.
- This mapping is based on the learning and assessment load of the subjects, and informs students of how ready they are for the curriculum in secondary school.

| FOUNDATION LEVEL<br>AL | FOUNDATION RAW<br>MARK RANGE | EQUIVALENT<br>STANDARD<br>LEVEL AL |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A                      | 75 – 100                     | 6                                  |
| B                      | 30 – 74                      | 7                                  |
| C                      | < 30                         | 8                                  |

# HOW DOES THE PSLE SCORING SYSTEM WORK?

- The overall PSLE Score is made up of 4 subject Achievement Levels (ALs).
- The PSLE Score can range from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best.



**Elena** PSLE Score **14**

| PSLE Subject           | AL Score |
|------------------------|----------|
| English                | 2        |
| Math                   | 2        |
| Foundation Science     | AL A = 6 |
| Mother Tongue Language | 4        |

# 3. S1 Posting

# FULL SBB: S1 POSTING

## Three Posting Groups to ensure schools are accessible to diverse learners

From the 2024 S1 cohort, MOE will facilitate the admission of P6 students into S1 through 3 Posting Groups: **Posting Group 1, 2 and 3.**

Objective: Ensures that schools continue to admit a **diverse profile of students** and students have **access to a wide range of schools.**

**Unlike the academic streams of Express, N(A) and N(T), Posting Groups will only be used for the purposes of facilitating entry into secondary school and to guide the subject levels students offer at the start of S1.**

- Posting Groups assigned based on PSLE Scores, mapped from existing PSLE Score ranges for Express, N(A) and N(T) streams.
- PSLE Scores provide a good gauge of the subject levels that students can offer at the beginning of S1.

| PSLE Score                                 | Posting Group | Subject level for most subjects |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 – 20                                     | 3             | G3                              |
| 21 and 22                                  | 2 or 3        | G2 or G3                        |
| 23 and 24                                  | 2             | G2                              |
| 25   | 1 or 2        | G1 or G2                        |
| 26 – 30<br><i>(with AL 7 in EL and MA)</i> | 1             | G1                              |

# Choosing Suitable Secondary Schools

Factors to Consider

Preparing for S1 Posting Exercise



# IMPORTANT FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING SECONDARY SCHOOLS

## 01 SCHOOL CULTURE



What is the school's culture and ethos?

## 02

### LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



How do I feel about the school based on what I saw at the Open House?

## 03

### PROGRAMMES



Does the school have programmes I would enjoy?

## 04 CCAs



Are there CCAs that interest me and can nurture my strengths, abilities and talents?

## 05 SUBJECTS

What subjects are offered in the school?



## 06

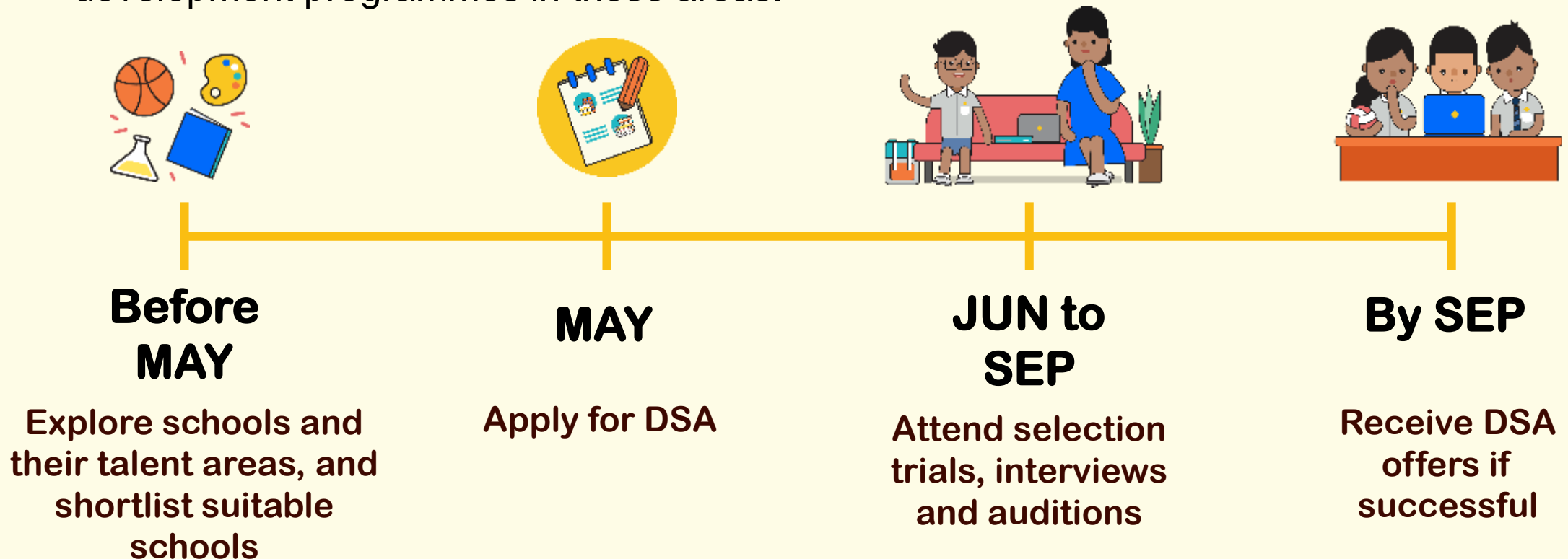
### LOCATION



How long will it take for me to travel to school and back home?

# ENTERING SCHOOLS THROUGH DSA-SEC

- There is no change to the application and selection process with the shift to Full SBB.
- If your child has specific talents and strengths beyond the PSLE (e.g. areas such as sports, performing arts and leadership), consider the **Direct School Admission-Secondary (DSA-Sec)** as an alternative admission pathway to access secondary schools that have talent development programmes in these areas.



# THANK YOU!

