

# CATERING TO YOUR CHILD'S ABILITIES

## SUBJECT-BASED BANDING FOR GREENDALE PRI SCH

*Briefing to P4 Parents on 22 July 2021*



# OVERVIEW

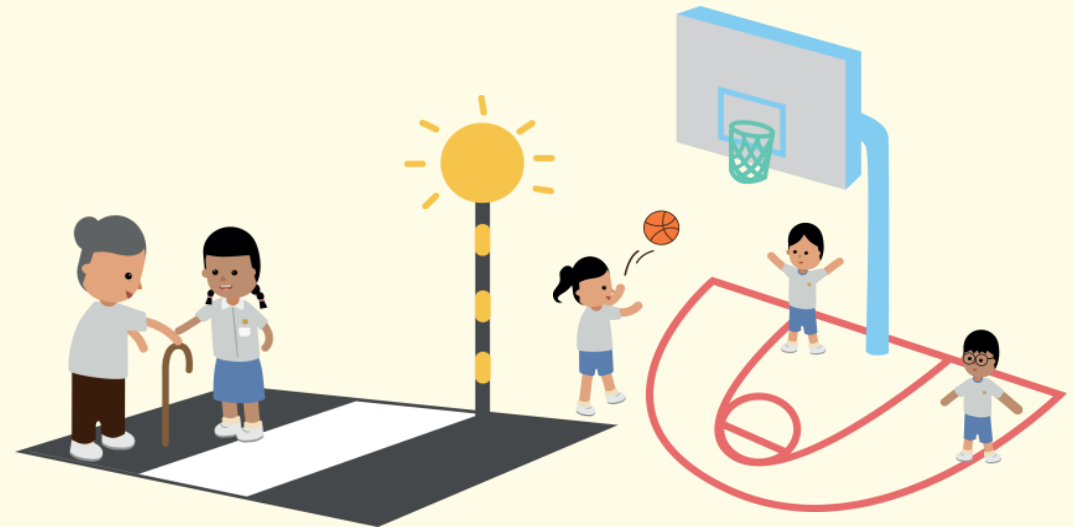
## FIRST SECTION: MRS JASMINE TAN (VICE-PRINCIPAL)

- **Subject-Based Banding (SBB)**
  - Intent – Why SBB?
  - What it means for your child?
  - How does SBB work?
  - What happens in P5 and P6?



## SECOND SECTION: MR TERENCE TAN (VICE-PRINCIPAL)

- **How PSLE Scoring Works**
  - Understanding the PSLE Score Ranges
- **How S1 Posting Works**
- **Use of HCL for admission into SAP Schools**
- **Direct School Admission (DSA)**



# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING

## **What is SBB (Pri)?**

- Subject-based Banding provides greater flexibility for your child by offering him the option of a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his strengths.
- Such a choice will 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.

## **Why introduce SBB (Pri)?**

- To recognise the different abilities of students and give them greater flexibility to concentrate on the subjects they are good at.
- To encourage more interaction among students with different strengths.

# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING

## **Subject-based Banding and Secondary School admission: How are they related?**

- Progression to secondary level depends on your child's PSLE score. The different expectations of standard and foundation subjects will be taken into account when your child's PSLE score is calculated.
- With Subject-based Banding, some students with clear strengths in some areas are able to offer at least one subject at the standard level. If they excel in these subjects, they will then have the opportunity to pursue higher-level options at secondary school.
- Offering subjects at the foundation level is not a disadvantage to your child. It enables him to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepares him for progression to secondary school.

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Provides greater flexibility for your child by offering him the option of a **combination of standard and foundation subjects**, depending on his strengths.
- Allows him 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 SBB WORK?

## At P4

### **Your child sits for school-based examinations at P4**

School recommends a subject combination based on the student's results. Parents fill up an option form (given after the P4 final year exams) indicating preferred combination.



## At P5

### **Your child takes subject combination chosen by parents**

English, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Language are available at standard and foundation levels. Mother Tongue is also available at the higher level.



## At the end of P5

**Takes standard subjects and has difficulty coping**

School may allow him to take 1 or more subjects at foundation level in P6

**All other children**

School will allow them to continue the same subject combination in P6



**Greendale Primary School**

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50 Edgedwood

Our Ref: 2020/11  
11 November 2020

**RECOMMENDATION AT PRIMARY 5, 2021**

Your child has completed four years of primary education. Based on his/her academic records and our assessment of his/her performance, we recommend that he/she take the following subject combination in Primary 5 next year:

<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Standard subjects (English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue) and Higher Mother Tongue
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Standard subjects only (English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Standard subjects (English, Math and Science) and Foundation Mother Tongue
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Standard subjects (English and Mother Tongue) and 2 Foundation subjects (Math and Science)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Foundation subjects (English, Math and Science) and Standard Mother Tongue
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Foundation subjects (English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue)

2. However, if you wish, you may choose an alternative subject combination for your child.

3. Please indicate your option by completing Part 2 of this letter, and return it to your child's form teacher by 13 Nov 2020 (Friday). Should you need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form teacher by telephone at 68861413.

Mrs. Ng Soh Hua  
Principal

**PART 2:**

**PARENT'S OPTION ON PUPIL'S SUBJECT COMBINATION AT PRIMARY 5 (2021)**

I have taken note of your recommendation in Part 1. The subject combination I have opted for my child at Primary 5 in 2021 is indicated by a tick (✓).

<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Standard subjects (English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue) and Higher Mother Tongue
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Standard subjects only (English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Standard subjects (English, Math and Science) and Foundation Mother Tongue
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Standard subjects (English and Mother Tongue) and 2 Foundation subjects (Math and Science)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Foundation subjects (English, Math and Science) and Standard Mother Tongue
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Foundation subjects (English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue)

I understand that this option is only given once at the end of Primary 4. Any subsequent change of subject combination will be determined by the school based solely on my child's performance at the end of Primary 5.

Signature

Date

Parents' Option Form

# SUBJECT COMBINATION OFFERED

No.	Subject Combination	Abbreviation
1.	4 Standard subjects + 1 Higher Mother Tongue Language	4S 1HMT
2.	4 Standard subjects	4S
3.	3 Standard subjects + 1 Foundation Mother Tongue Language	3S 1FMT
4.	2 Standard subjects + 1 Foundation Maths + 1 Foundation Science	2S 1FMA 1FSC
5.	3 Foundation subjects + 1 Standard Mother Tongue Language	3F 1SMT
6.	4 Foundation subjects	4F



# POINTS TO NOTE

## Foundation Subjects

- Puts focus on mastery of core content and skills
- Pitched at a LOWER level as compared to standard subjects

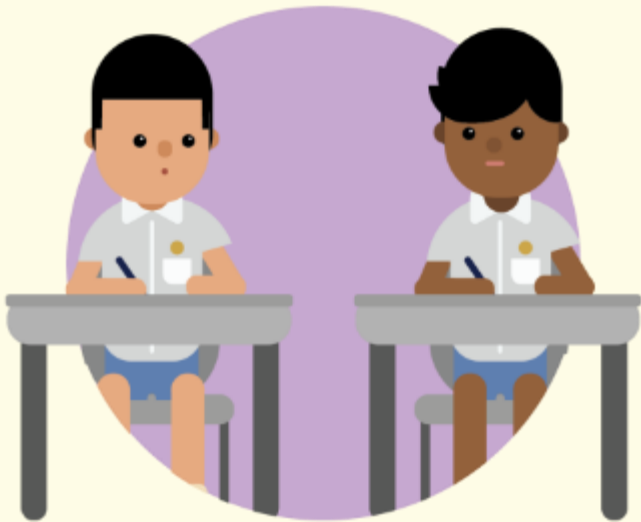
## Higher Mother Tongue Language

- Current MT syllabuses have 2 objectives:
  - develop students' linguistic skills
  - transmit traditional culture and values through the study of MTL
- The HMTL aim to achieve similar objectives, but at HIGHER levels of linguistic proficiency and cultural knowledge



# THE PSLE CHANGES ARE PART OF A BIGGER STORY

Over the years, we have been fine-tuning the education system to help our students discover and develop their strengths and interests, while moving away from an over-emphasis on academic results. Our PSLE Scoring changes aim to reduce an **over-emphasis on academic results** by:



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



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



Offering students and parents a wider range of secondary schools to explore

# HOW PSLE SCORING WORKS



# FROM T-SCORE TO SCORING BANDS

Unlike the T-score system, the students' AL for each subject will reflect their level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.

SUBJECT	GRADE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	A
MOTHER TONGUE	A
MATHEMATICS	A*
SCIENCE	A*
T-SCORE AGGREGATE	244
SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE ELIGIBLE FOR	EXPRESS

ENGLISH	AL 3
MOTHER TONGUE	AL 2
MATHEMATICS	AL 1
SCIENCE	AL 2
<hr/>	
<b>PSLE SCORE: 8</b>	



# FROM T-SCORE TO SCORING BANDS

## (a) Reduces fine differentiation of students' examination results

- Students with similar scores in each subject will be grouped into wide scoring bands measured in 8 Achievement Levels (ALs).

## (b) Reflects a student's individual level of achievement

- Unlike under the T-score system, students' ALs for each subject will reflect their level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.

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


# FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECT GRADES WILL ALSO BE LESS FINELY DIFFERENTIATED

- Foundation subject grades will also be graded in scoring bands from **AL A to C**.
- For the purpose of S1 Posting, AL A to AL C for Foundation level subjects will be **mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively**, to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.
- Similar to the PSLE T-score system, this mapping is based on the learning and assessment load of the subjects, and informs students of their readiness to access the curriculum at the secondary level.

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

# 4 SUBJECT ALs WILL BE ADDED TO FORM THE OVERALL PSLE SCORE

- The PSLE Score replaces the T-score Aggregate.
- The PSLE Score can range from 4 – 32, with 4 being the best.
- Students will be placed in secondary school courses based on their PSLE Score – Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical).



ENGLISH LANGUAGE	AL 3
MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE	AL 2
MATHEMATICS	AL 1
SCIENCE	AL 2
<b>PSLE SCORE: 8</b>	

PLACEMENT OUTCOME	PSLE SCORE
EXPRESS	4 – 20
EXPRESS / N(A) OPTION	21 – 22
N(A)	23 – 24
N(A) / N(T) OPTION	25
N(T)	26 – 30, with AL 7 or better in both EL and MA

*\*No requirement of scoring AL 7 or better in EL and/or MA*

*As announced in COS 2019, the Express, N(A) and N(T) courses will be phased out by 2024.*

# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SECONDARY)

## [SBB (SEC)] ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- SBB (Sec) provides students posted to the N(A) and (NT) courses with **greater flexibility** to take various subjects at a more demanding level based on their subject-specific strengths and aptitudes.
- Under the new PSLE Scoring System, the SBB (Sec) eligibility criteria is as follows:

FOR STUDENTS OFFERED THE N(A) OR N(T) COURSE	
PSLE SUBJECT GRADE	OPTION TO TAKE SUBJECT AT
AL 5 or better in a Standard level subject	Express level
AL 6 or better in a Standard level subject <u>OR</u> AL A in a Foundation level subject	N(A) level

- As students progress in secondary school, they will continue to have more opportunities to take subjects at more demanding levels based on their performance in school.



# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SECONDARY) [SBB (SEC)] ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

English

Mother Tongue

Math

Science



**Bryan**

ENGLISH	AL6
MOTHER TONGUE	AL6
MATHEMATICS	AL5
SCIENCE	AL6

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**PSLE SCORE: 23**

Offered N(A) course

# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SECONDARY) [SBB (SEC)] ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

N(A)  
English

N(A)  
Mother Tongue

Express  
Math

N(A)  
Science

With SBB



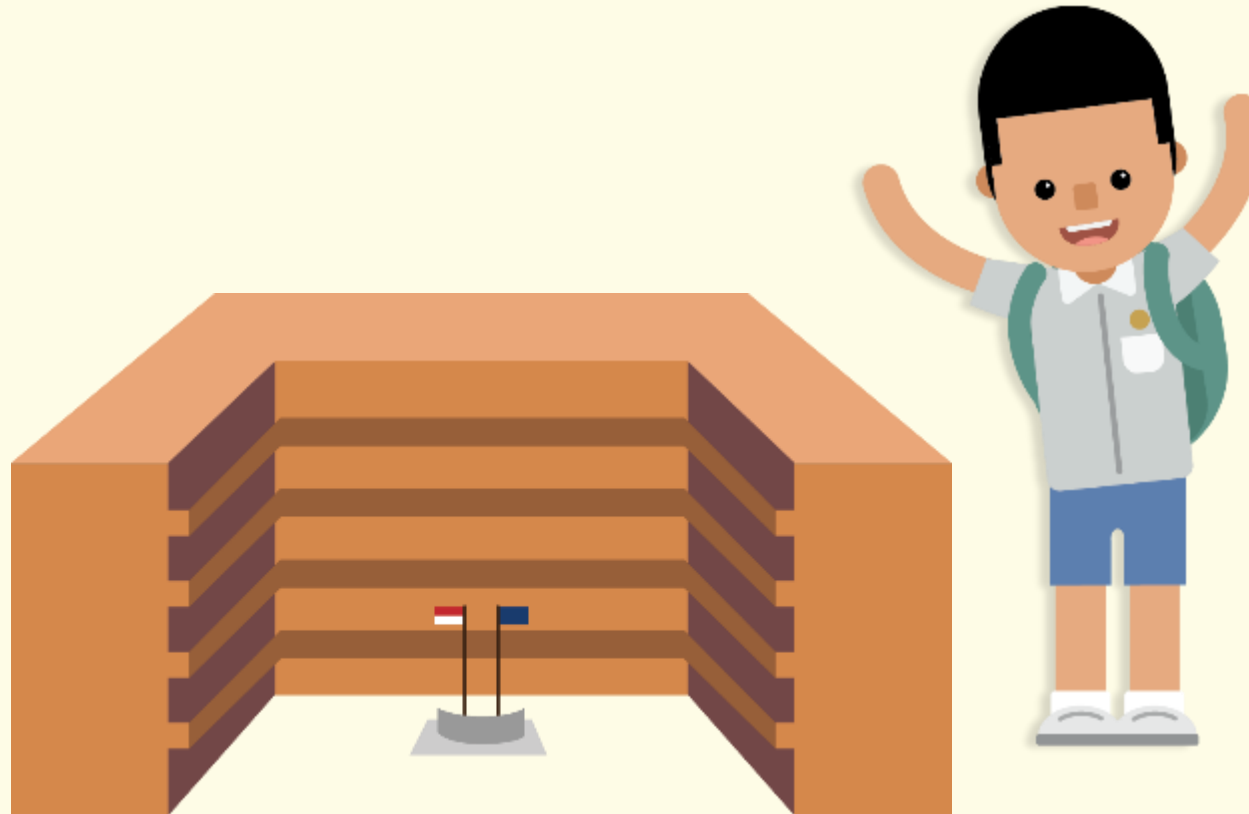
**Bryan**

ENGLISH	AL6
MOTHER TONGUE	AL6
MATHEMATICS	AL5
SCIENCE	AL6

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**PSLE SCORE: 23**  
Offered N(A) course

# HOW S1 POSTING WORKS



# CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS WILL MATTER MORE

- Students continue to have **six choices** in selecting their secondary schools.
- Students will be posted to a secondary school based on academic merit, i.e. PSLE Score, and their school choice rank order.
- If two students with the same PSLE Score vie for the last remaining place in a school, the following tie-breakers will be used in the following order:
  1. CITIZENSHIP
  2. CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS **NEW!**
  3. COMPUTERISED BALLOTING
- The new tie-breaker based on school choice order recognises the different considerations that families have in making school choices.








# Tie-breakers

## in the new S1 Posting System

Here's a simplified example.

5 students are vying for the last places in the schools of their choice.

<b>Jane</b> Singapore Citizen 16 pts	<b>SCHOOL CHOICES:</b> 1) Sch A 2) Sch ... 3) Sch ... 4) Sch ...	
<b>Bryan</b> Singapore Citizen 20 pts	<b>SCHOOL CHOICES:</b> 1) Sch B 2) Sch ... 3) Sch ... 4) Sch ...	
<b>Mary</b> Singapore Citizen 20 pts	<b>SCHOOL CHOICES:</b> 1) Sch A 2) Sch B 3) Sch C 4) Sch ...	
<b>Alan</b> Permanent Resident 20 pts	<b>SCHOOL CHOICES:</b> 1) Sch A 2) Sch B 3) Sch D 4) Sch ...	
<b>Rina</b> Permanent Resident 20 pts	<b>SCHOOL CHOICES:</b> 1) Sch A 2) Sch B 3) Sch D 4) Sch E	



**Students with better scores will be posted first**



**Tie-breaker #1: Citizenship**



**Tie-breaker #2: Choice order of schools**



**Tie-breaker #3: Computerised balloting**

Jane has a better PSLE score. She will be posted first, to **School A**.



Bryan, Mary, Alan and Rina have the same score.

As Jane has taken the last available place in School A, Bryan, Mary, Alan and Rina will vie for the last available place in their next choice, **School B**.

Bryan and Mary are Singapore Citizens. They will have priority to enter **School B**.



Alan and Rina will be tie-broken out as they are Permanent Residents. They will be considered for their next choice, **School D**.

Because Bryan ranked School B higher than Mary, he will be posted to **School B**.



Since Bryan has taken the last place in School B, Mary will be posted to **School C**.



Alan and Rina have both ranked School D as their third choice. They will go through computerised balloting to vie for the last remaining place in **School D**.

Through computerised balloting, Alan is posted to **School D**.



Since Alan has taken the last place in School D, Rina will be posted to her fourth choice, **School E**.









# USE OF HIGHER CHINESE LANGUAGE (HCL) FOR ADMISSION INTO SAP SCHOOLS



# HCL POSTING ADVANTAGE FOR ENTRY TO SAP SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE\*

- Students' HCL results will be denoted as 'D' (Distinction), 'M' (Merit) or 'P' (Pass).
- Students will be ranked taking into account their performance in HCL.
- This posting advantage applies before the tie-breakers for S1 Posting.

1st		7	NO HCL
2nd		8	DISTINCTION
3rd		8	MERIT
4th		8	PASS
5th		8	NO HCL
6th		9	DISTINCTION

\*For more information on the posting advantage to SAP schools, please visit the [PSLE-Full Subject Based Banding \(PSLE-FSBB\) Microsite](#)

# EXAMPLE OF AN SAP SCHOOL'S INDICATIVE PSLE SCORE RANGE

- While students need not take HCL to enter SAP schools, students who pass HCL receive a posting advantage for admission. To reflect this, the indicative PSLE Score ranges of SAP schools include the HCL grades of the first and last student admitted in the previous year via S1 Posting.

## Example

XX Secondary School

Indicative PSLE Score range of 2020

Express	5 (D) – 12 (P)
Normal (Academic)	
Normal (Technical)	

Indicative PSLE Score and HCL grade of the first student posted into the school in the Express course

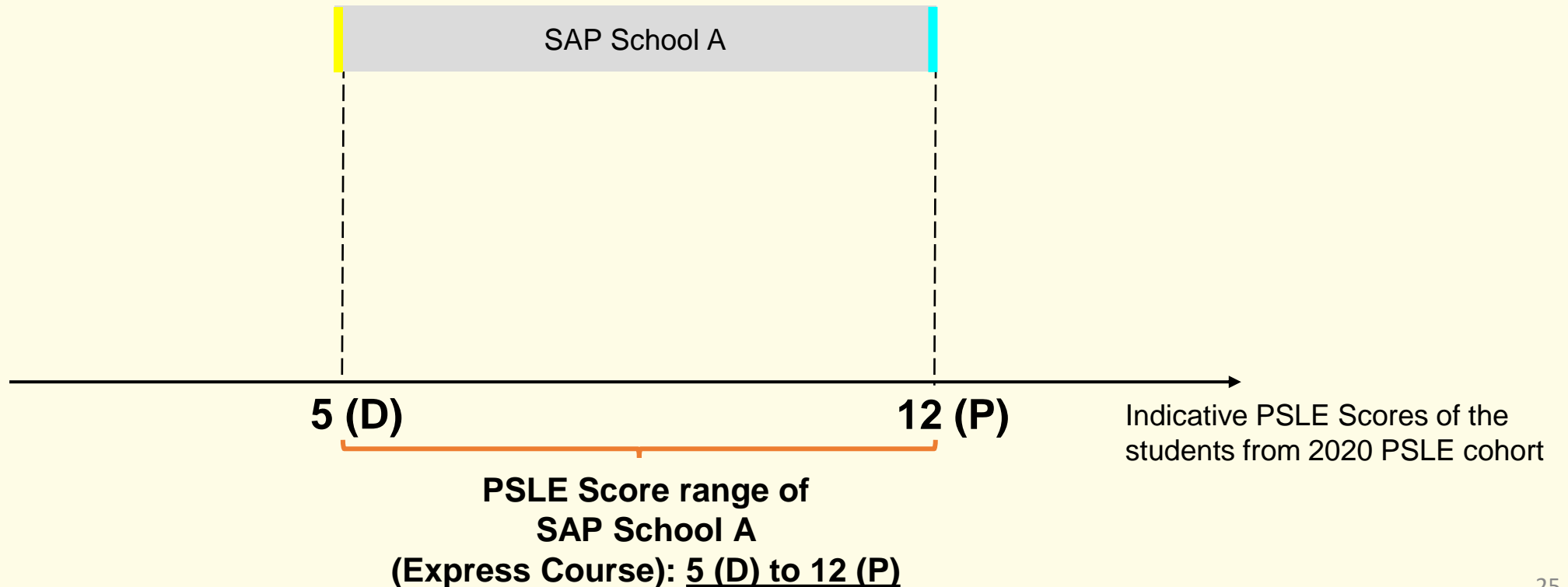
Students who scored better than the school's COP, whether they take HCL, in this particular posting exercise would have been admitted to the school

Indicative PSLE Score and HCL grade of the last student posted into the school in the Express course [i.e. the school's Cut-Off Point (COP)]



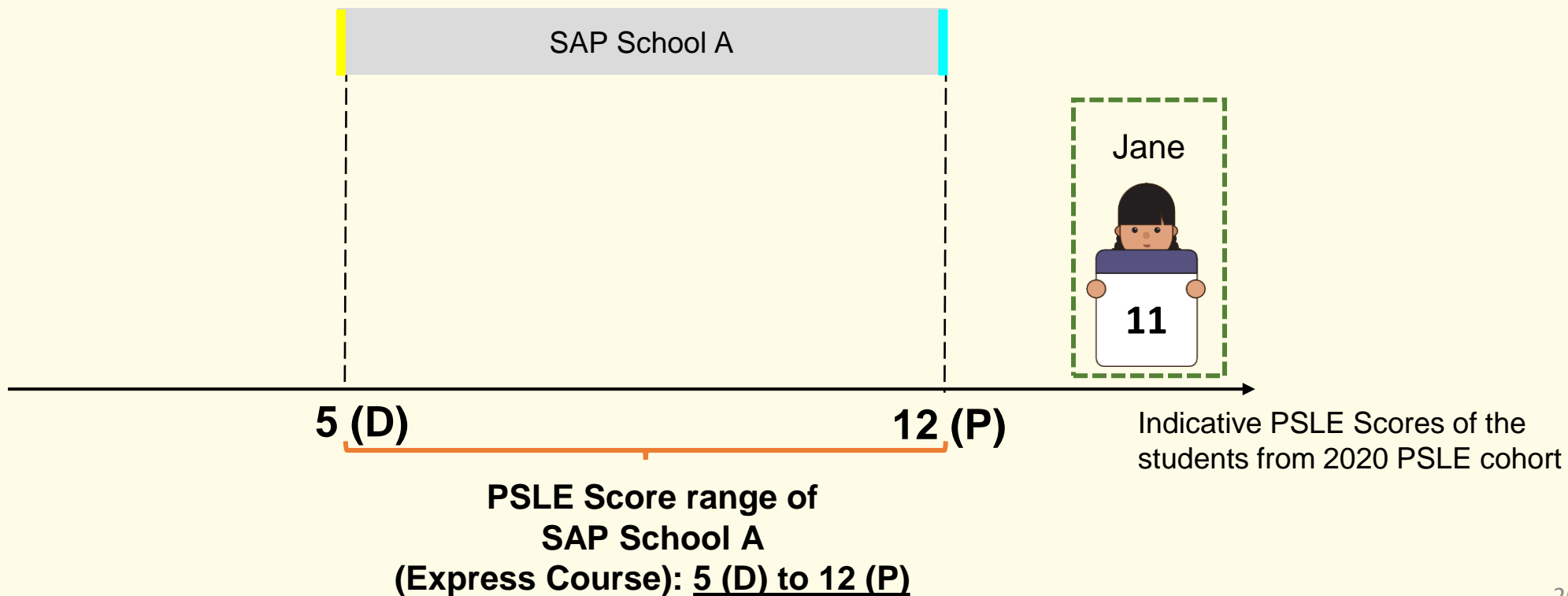
# EXAMPLE OF S1 POSTING FOR SAP SCHOOL

In the 2020 S1 Posting Exercise, a child who had applied for an SAP school, and did not take Higher Chinese Language (HCL) in Primary School **would have been admitted if he/she attained a PSLE Score better than the AL COP.**



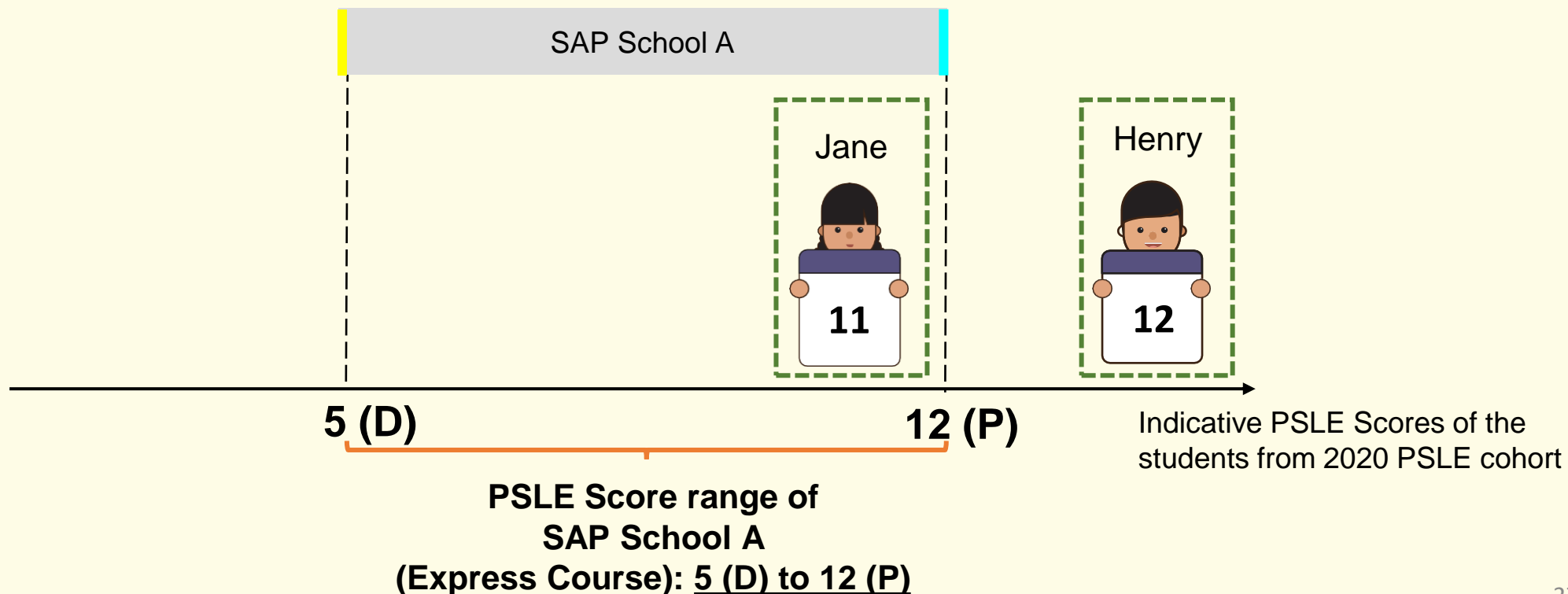
# EXAMPLE OF S1 POSTING FOR SAP SCHOOL

For example, Jane, who did not take HCL at PSLE 2020, would have been admitted to the school as she had a PSLE Score of 11.



# EXAMPLE OF S1 POSTING FOR SAP SCHOOL

Henry, who had a PSLE Score of 12, would not have been admitted to the school in the 2020 S1 Posting Exercise as his score was higher than the COP for the school.

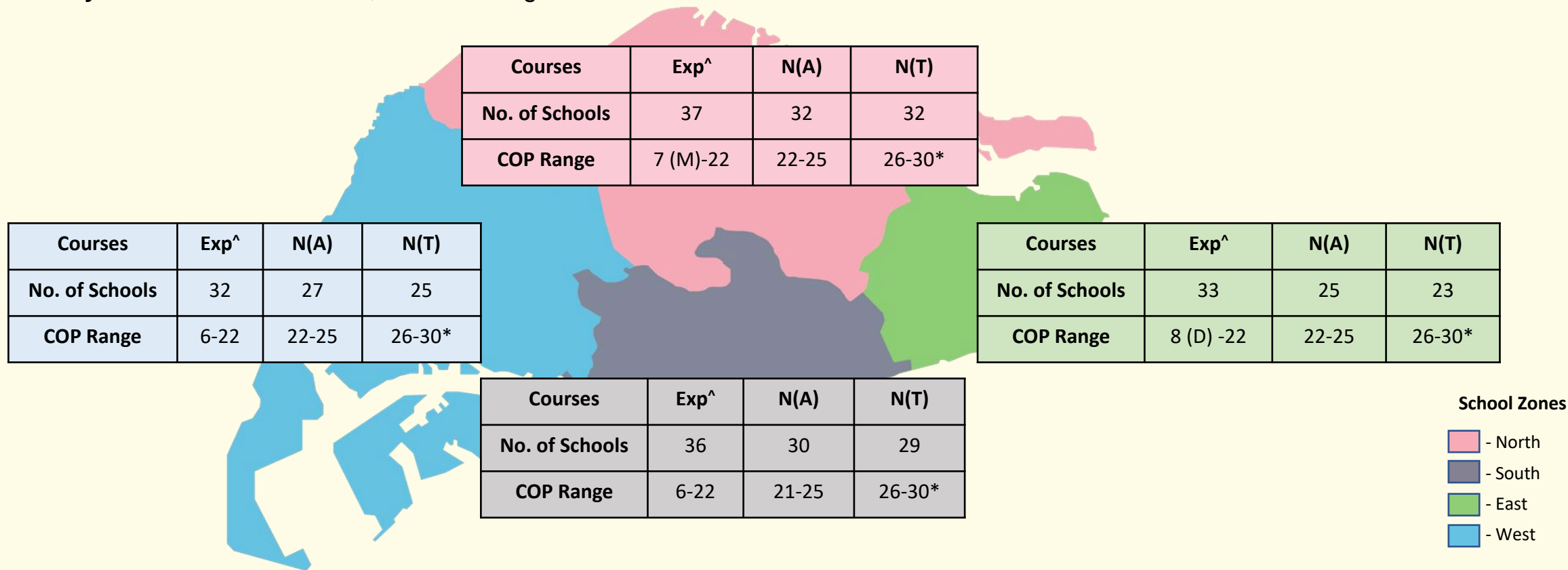


# WHAT THE INDICATIVE PSLE SCORE RANGES SHOW

- **With a blunter scoring system, there are fewer possible PSLE Scores. Schools would also be less differentiated by COPs, which will mean that students would have a wider range of secondary schools to choose from. Students therefore do not have to chase the last mark.**
  - There is a good spread of schools with COPs across different PSLE Scores
  - Indicative COPs range from 6 – 30, with no school having a COP of 4
- **Schools' indicative PSLE Score ranges have remained largely stable in recent years.**
  - The ranges may vary from year to year depending on the cohort's PSLE results and their school choices for that year's S1 Posting Exercise
  - Fluctuations of +/-1 AL for AL COPs are typical

# GOOD SPREAD OF SCHOOLS WITH A RANGE OF CUT-OFF POINTS (COPs)

- The COP refers to the PSLE Score of the **last student** admitted to a particular school in the 2020 S1 Posting Exercise.
- The COP range indicates the **lowest** and **highest** COP of the respective courses based on the schools in each school zone.
- As COPs **vary from school to school**, the COP ranges would differ across zones.<sup>#</sup>



<sup>#</sup> This does not take into account affiliated COPs.

<sup>^</sup>Schools offering both IP and O-Level track are counted as 1 school while the COP range includes COP of IP-track.

\*This indicates that the last student posted to the school had a PSLE Score better than 30. The school's COP is 30 because the school still had N(T) vacancies after the S1 Posting Exercise. Hence, students with PSLE Score of 30 and had met the eligibility criteria for progression to S1 would have been able to obtain a place in the school if they had chosen the school during the S1 Posting Exercise.

# INFORMATION ON DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION (DSA)

## 1. What is DSA?

- DSA aims to promote holistic education and provides P6 students an opportunity to seek admission to a secondary school based on a diverse range of talents and achievements.
- Each participating school offers distinctive programmes and sets its own selection process and criteria to admit students with talents that can be further developed by these programmes.

## 2. Should my child apply for DSA?

- Your child may consider DSA if they are able to identify a school that offers a talent development programme in their area of strength. Finding a good fit will help your child enjoy learning at an appropriate pace, and enable him/her to benefit from the school's overall programmes.
- Your child will not participate in the S1 Posting if he/she is successfully allocated to a school through DSA.

## 3. How can my child apply for DSA?

- For P6 students, apply online via the DSA Portal from May to early June. Either parent may log in using SingPass to submit an application. You can indicate up to 3 choices during the application. For each choice, you will need to choose a secondary school and a talent area from that school.
- For SOTA and Singapore Sports School, you should apply directly to the school based on the school's application timeline.

# INFORMATION ON DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION (DSA)

## 4. Do I need to submit any hardcopy documents during application?

- There is no need to submit hardcopy testimonials and documents via the Portal. Your child's primary school information will be shared with the sec schools that you have applied to.

## 5. When will I be informed of the outcome of my application?

- You will be informed of the application outcome by the individual schools by September.
- Your child will still need to attain a PSLE score that qualify them for a course (i.e. Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical) offered by the school. If your child has not been given a place in the DSA school, they can still apply for a school through the S1 Posting using their PSLE Score.

## 3. How will DSA schools conduct their selection this year?

- The selection process and timeline differ across schools, and across different DSA-Sec categories. Please refer to the school's website on the selection process.
- Information on important dates and the 2021 DSA can be found on [www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec](http://www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec). You will be able to download a copy of the DSA Portal user guide and application template from the website.

# FIND OUT MORE ON THE PSLE-FSBB MICROSITE!



<https://go.gov.sg/pslefsbb>





# PSLE SCORE CALCULATOR ON PSLE-FSBB MICROSITE

Use the PSLE Score Calculator below to find out.

English Language

Select Score

Mathematics

Select Score

Science

Select Score

Mother Tongue Language

Select Score

☐ My child is / I am exempted from taking Mother Tongue Language, or is taking an Asian Language / Foreign Language in-lieu of a Mother Tongue Language

☐ My child is / I am taking Higher Mother Tongue Language

Calculate



Use the PSLE Score Calculator below to find out.

## PSLE Score

Subject	AL
English Language	4
Mathematics	3
Science	6
Mother Tongue Language	6
PSLE Score*	19

\* The PSLE Score is generated based on the AL scores of individual subjects keyed into the calculator.

## Course Placement

Your child is / You are eligible for the Express course.

Link to PSLE-FSBB Microsite



<https://go.gov.sg/pslefsbb>

# OTHER RESOURCES

1

## SchoolFinder Tool



<https://go.gov.sg/secschoolfinder>

2

## Secondary School Education Booklet



<https://go.gov.sg/secsch-booklet>

3

## Open House Dates



<https://go.gov.sg/openhouse-2021>  
(Ready from May 2021)

4

## ECG Parent Guide



<https://go.gov.sg/ecg-parentguide>

# RESOURCES

## TOP QUESTIONS ON THE NEW PSLE SCORING SYSTEM



### Part 1

<https://go.gov.sg/psle-explainer-1>



### Part 2

<https://go.gov.sg/psle-explainer-2>



# OUR JOURNEY FORWARD

- MOE will continue to ensure our students, parents, and schools have the support they need during this transition.
- Any questions, please either give us a call @68861413 or email: [greendale\\_ps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:greendale_ps@moe.edu.sg)



# THANK YOU

