

# Subject-Based Banding

Briefing for Parents

25 Feb 2017





## Previous System (before 2008)

- \* Students who did not perform well in Primary 4 examinations
  - \* Streamed into EM3 classes in Primary 5 and 6
  - \* Took all subjects at the foundation level
  - \* Might take Mother Tongue (MT) at the standard level if they were strong in MT



# Why introduce Subject-Based Banding?

- \* To recognise the different abilities of students
- \* Provide more flexibility in subject combinations for students with strengths and abilities that vary across subjects
- \* Removal of Merged and EM3 streams in Primary 5 and 6



# What Subject-Based Banding means for your child

- \* Greater **flexibility** in subject combinations
- \* Your child has the choice to take a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his/her strengths



# How does Subject-Based Banding Work?

**[At P4]**

School recommends subject combination, based on P4 exam results. Parents indicate preferred combination.



**[At P5]**

Student takes subject combination chosen by parents



# How does Subject-Based Banding Work?

**[End of P5]**

<b>Student who takes 1 or more foundation subject(s) and does very well in them</b>	<b>Student who takes standard subjects and has difficulty coping</b>	<b>All other students</b>
School may allow him to upgrade 1 or 2 subjects to standard level if school believes he can cope; or continue the same subject combination in P6	School may allow him to take 1 or more subjects at foundation level in P6	School will allow them to continue the same subject combination in P6



**[At P6]**

Student takes subject combination decided by school



**[End of P6]**

Student sits for Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE)



# Subject-based Banding and Secondary School admission

- \* Progression to secondary level depends on PSLE Score.
  - \* The scoring system is not new
  - \* **Different expectations of standard and foundation subjects** will be taken into account when the PSLE score is calculated
- \* Offering weaker subjects at foundation level is not a disadvantage.
  - \* Your child will be able to focus on building up strong fundamentals in the weaker subjects



# **Subject-Based Banding in West Grove Primary School**





# SBB FAQs

- \* What are the different subject combinations?
- \* How does the school offer the various subject combinations?
- \* Can the school simply give my child all foundation subjects as it will be more helpful for her?
- \* What is the percentage mix between mid-year and end of year results?
- \* What will happen to students who score unfavourable results after given a preferred combination?
- \* Can we make changes after selecting preferred subjects?



# WGPS subject combinations?

If your child (for P4 Exam)	Your child may be recommended to take
Passes all 4 subjects and performs very well in MTL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 standard subjects + Higher Mother Tongue Language</li></ul>
Passes all 4 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 standard subjects</li></ul>
Passes 3 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 standard subjects</li></ul>
Passes 2 subjects or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 standard subjects;</li><li>• 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject;</li><li>• 2 standard subjects+ 2 other foundation subjects;</li><li>• 1 standard subject + 3 other foundation subjects; o</li><li>• 4 foundation subjects</li></ul>



# School Considerations for SBB

1. Performance at P4
2. Performance at P1-P3
3. Recommendations by form and subject teachers

## **Note :**

*SBB is not about giving pupils an Easy Option hence Standard subjects are offered to majority of pupils. Offering subjects at Standard level for certain weaker students at end of P4 is not a disadvantage*



# P4 Overall Results

**SA1 – 30 %**

**SA2 – 70%**



## At the end of P5

- \* Child's performance at end of P5
  - \* Change in subject combination
  - \* Offering of HMT
- \* The School's decision is **Final**



# Higher Mother Tongue

- \* Should my child take Higher MT, Standard MT or Foundation MT ?
- \* Do streaming/banding results include Mother Tongue?
- \* How does one get into banded class or offered Higher Mother Tongue?
- \* How will my decision affect my child at the end of the Primary School Education or in Secondary School?



# Key Determinants for offering HMT

## 1. School's Recommendation

Based on your child's:

- \* Potential and consistency in his/ her Mother Tongue Language
- \* Performance and ability to cope in other subjects, i.e. English, Mathematics and Science

## 2. Parents' Option



# Offering HMT at P6

- \* If the child does not meet HMT requirements at end of P5, he/she will need to drop HMT at P6
- \* The School's decision is **Final**





# PSLE Aggregate

Higher Mother Tongue is NOT included in the Computation of the PSLE Aggregate or T-Score.

## **Note :**

Pupils with 250 and above at PSLE can be offered Higher MT or 3<sup>rd</sup> language options at secondary school



# Getting into banded class

- \* Outstanding performance in English, Maths and Science (top 2 classes)
- \* Grouping for MT classes is done separately based on performance in the subject



# Support for our children

- \* **NO NEED FOR ANY SPECIAL PREPARATION**
- \* Set realistic expectations
- \* Provide a conducive study environment at home
- \* Pay attention to child's activities eg cyber activities
- \* Monitor work and Motivate child
- \* Work hand in hand with teachers



# DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION (DSA) TO SECONDARY ONE



# Introduction

- \* DSA-Sec Exercise was introduced in 2004 as part of MOE's move towards creating more flexibility and options.
- \* To encourage more schools to recognise academic and non-academic achievements
- \* Participating schools will decide on their own admission criteria.



## Through DSA, we've had West Grove students going to ...

- \* National JC : academic and leadership
- \* NUS High School : Math and Science
- \* River Valley High : Academic, various CCAs (wushu, badminton, Uniform Group)
- \* SOTA: dance, drama and music Academies
- \* S'pore Sports School : badminton, football
- \* School of Science and Technology: Math and Science



# Participating schools

- \* For schools offering an integrated programme (IP Schools) eg National junior College
- \* For independent schools (IS)
- \* For autonomous schools (AS)
- \* For schools with niche programmes approved by MOE (Niche Schools)
- \* Specialist schools not run by MOE



# Some Schools with Niche Programme

## \* School

- \* Jurongville Sec
- \* Jurong West Sec
  
- \* Nan Hua Secondary
- \* Methodist Girls' School
- \* Hong Kah Sec
- \* Pioneer Sec School

## Niche

- Football, Tchoukball
- Uniformed Groups,  
Hockey
- Performing Arts
- Music, Cross Country
- Football
- Rugby





## Schools offering Art Elective Program (AEP)

School	Type	Level
Bukit Panjang Govt. High School *Express Only	Autonomous	Secondary
CHIJ Secondary (Toa Payoh) *Express Only	Autonomous	Secondary
Hwa Chong Institution#	SAP, Independent	Secondary, Pre-U
National Junior College	Government	Secondary, Pre-U
Nanyang Girls' High School#	SAP, Independent	Secondary
Victoria School	Autonomous	Secondary



## Schools offering Music Elective Program (MEP)

School	Type	Level
ACS Independent	Independent	Secondary, Pre-U
Catholic High	SAP, Autonomous	Secondary
CHIJ St Nicholas Girls School	SAP, Autonomous	Secondary
Crescent Girls' School	Autonomous	Secondary
Dunman High School	SAP, Autonomous	Secondary , Pre-U
Methodist Girls' School (Secondary) #	Independent	Secondary
Raffles Girls' School (Secondary) #	Independent	Secondary
Raffles Institution #	Independent	Secondary, Pre-U
Tanjong Katong Girls' School	Autonomous	Secondary
Temasek Junior College	Government	Secondary, Pre-U



# Specialist Schools

- \* Singapore Sports School
- \* Singapore School of the Arts with different academies:
  - Performing arts viz music, dance & theatre and
  - The Visual arts
- \* NUS High School Of Science & Math
- \* School of Science and Technology



# Process for DSA

P6

- \* Application deadline for each DSA secondary school may differ
- \* Schools publish their selection criteria from May onwards
- \* Check individual schools' websites/ visit the schools/call the schools



# Stages of the DSA-Sec Exercise

P6

**Selection Stage**  
May –Aug

**Exercise School Preference Stage**  
Mid Oct

**Results Release Stage**  
Late-Nov



# Selection stage

P6

- \* Schools will run their own selection exercises and make offers to students who meet their admission criteria.
- \* By the end of this stage, each school would have informed all their applicants if the school:
  - \* would like to give them a confirmed offer.
  - \* have placed them on the waiting list.
  - \* is unable to offer them a place in the school.



# Pre-exercise school preference stage

P6

- \* Applicants who received a confirmed offer, or who are on a waiting list will be given a School Preference Form.
- \* The form will show a consolidated list of all the schools which have given the applicant confirmed offers or placed the applicant on their waiting list.



# Exercise School Preference Stage **P6** (after PSLE results)

- \* Students who have exercised their school preference for a confirmed offer or one on waiting list, and are accepted, will not be able to exercise their choice of schools during the S1 Posting Exercise.





# ADMISSION To Singapore Sports School

- \* Selection trials
- \* Open House



## Admission to schools offering AEP

- \* Express course
- \* apply for AEP at the school
- \* Pass an internal AEP selection test set by the school
  
- \* Primary 6 students interested in the AEP are advised to select Secondary schools offering the programme among the six choices of school during the Secondary One (S1) Posting Exercise each November. They are encouraged to select an AEP school as their first choice.



## Admission to schools offering MEP

- \* Express course
- \* apply for MEP at the school
  - \* Min Grade 3 Practical or Theory (ABRSM) or equivalent (with certs)
  - \* If no qualifications, need to pass an internal MEP written selection test set and practical audition on an instrument set by the school
- \* Primary 6 students interested in the MEP are advised to select Secondary schools offering the programme among the six choices of school during the Secondary One (S1) Posting Exercise each November. They are encouraged to select an MEP school as their first choice.



# Admission to SOTA

- \* Portfolio preparation **and** nomination to Junior Academy (P4 /5)
- \* Preparing testimonial (By HOD Aesthetics at P6)
- \* Talent Academy (Audition) (P6)

At Talent Academy, applicants must be able to showcase their talents eg if applying for Visual Arts - a portfolio of 8 art pieces consisting of 2-D & 3-D works



**Thank you**