

FAQs for Primary 5 Principal's Briefing 2021

Holistic Curriculum

1. Will there be a drastic change in the curriculum?

The PSLE scoring and Sec 1 posting changes will not affect: 1) The curriculum 2) The subjects tested at the PSLE 3) The demand of the PSLE on students. However, MOE does review the curriculum regularly to ensure that our curriculum is relevant and up-to-date. This will continue as per current practice.

2. Do you allow the child to drop Higher Mother Tongue even though they score above 55%?

It will be on a case-by-case basis.

3. Is there any minimum requirement that my child must meet for his/her standard Mother Tongue in order to continue taking Higher Mother Tongue?

The child must meet a minimum score of 55% for HMT. The school will also consider how well the child is doing across the other subjects.

4. Can my child opt for Higher Mother Tongue in P6?

No, this is not possible as your child would have missed out on 1 year of curriculum.

5. How does the school determine the group of students who attend coaching lessons?

Each class' coaching session will be based on individual learning needs in terms of topics/skills.

6. Will there be any supplementary lessons for P5 and P6?

No. The planned syllabus are meant to be covered during curriculum time. Coaching sessions are the learning support provided to help students with poor performance keep up with his/her peers during curriculum time. Should there be unforeseen circumstances that disrupt the curriculum time; only then will we conduct supplementary classes for these missed lessons. We hope to keep the after-school hours for our students to pursue their interest in other areas.

PSLE / Assessment Matters

1. Why is there no mid-year examination for P5? How can parents gauge their child's progress throughout the year?

In 2018, MOE shared on the aim of adjusting the school-based assessment structures is to reduce the overemphasis on academic results and to nurture a stronger intrinsic motivation to learn in our students. The removal of mid-year exams will free up to about three weeks of curriculum time for each two-year block (that is, Primary 3 and Primary 4, Primary 5 and Primary 6, Sec 1 and 2, Sec 3 and 4). Schools can use this time to pace out teaching and learning and adopt varied pedagogies to deepen students' learning.

Schools will also continue to use non-weighted assessments to support students' learning, inform their learning progress and address learning gaps. Teachers will regularly gather information about students' understanding and content mastery through checkpoints such as reviewing students' homework, class work and review; and provide timely and specific feedback and address any learning gaps that they might have.

2. Will MOE provide back testing of the AL Cut-Off Points (COP) of Secondary Schools for the past 5 years instead of just for PSLE batch of 2020?

Following the 2020 S1 Posting Exercise, MOE will provide the indicative AL COPs for individual secondary schools in the first half of 2021, based on the PSLE results and school choices of the 2020 PSLE cohort, as this would be the most recent data available. Parents and students can use this information together with secondary schools' distinctive programmes, CCAs, ethos and culture to shortlist schools that would best fit the educational needs of the student.

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/psle-fsbb/posting-to-secondary-school/choosing-sec-schools.html>

3. How will taking Higher Mother Tongue Language help my child in his/her Secondary School posting?

If your child takes HCL in primary school, your child will receive an advantage only when applying to SAP schools. If multiple students with the same PSLE AL Score apply for places in the same SAP school, those with better HCL grades will be allocated a place ahead of other students. This applies before the tie-breakers for S1 posting.

More information is available at <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/psle-fsbb/psle/new-psle-scoring-system.html>

4. Will the Achievement Levels (ALs) be reflected in the report book starting at P5?

Yes. ALs 1 to 8 will be used for Primary 5 and 6 grading.

5. Why is there no Oral component in the entire year assessment for those taking Higher Chinese?

There is no Oral component in the exam format for Higher Chinese. Kindly refer to the Assessment Letter sent out via PG on 21 January.

6. What are the considerations between choosing a 4 year O level vs a 6 year IP programme for my child?

Choosing a secondary school for your child depends on their strengths, interests and abilities. Learn about the considerations when choosing a school <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/schools>, then use the MOE SchoolFinder to explore and shortlist suitable schools.

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/schoolfinder>

Direct School Admission (DSA):

1. How is the school helping my child to develop their strengths and talents through their CCA?

NCPS currently offers 20 CCAs that enables students to discover their interests in the various areas. For students who excel in their CCAs, there are multiple platforms available (NSG, SYF etc) that allows students to participate and compete which will then open up more opportunities for them to take part in DSA. However, due to the exceptional circumstances this year, in-person trials and auditions, and events like the NSG and SYF Arts Presentation cannot be used to assess students' talent, potential, passion and character. This means that besides using e-modes or input from the students' primary or secondary schools, the DSA schools will need to rely more heavily on students' track records in school and information provided in their application.

2. If my child's CCA in school is a sport but the application for DSA is through Academic / Performing Arts, what kind of track records / information from the school will be provided or will add value to the DSA application?

You can find out more information for DSA via the website to explore with your child to shortlist the suitable school for your child. Schools have different selection processes, criteria and schedules. Visit the schools' websites to learn more.

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa/explore/choose-dsa-sec-school>

3. If my child is successfully allocated to a secondary via DSA, but his/her PSLE AL score is lower than school's AL cut off point, can my child still get in?

Your child's PSLE score still matters. Students offered placement in a DSA-Sec school still need a PSLE score that qualifies them for the course offered by the school.

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa/explore/eligibility>

4. With the suspension of the National School Games (NSG and Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts due to the pandemic, what will schools be looking for in their DSA selection?

In-person assessments and placements in national events are only one of the many ways to assess students' competencies, dedication and training attitude. Each school has its own criteria and assessment, but all schools look at a range of skills and attributes when shortlisting students. This includes students who demonstrate potential and personal qualities like resilience, which can be assessed through e-modes or input from the students' primary schools. These are all existing DSA selection practices that schools will continue to utilise.

5. Is there Academic DSA that we can consider besides CCA ?

Yes, there are some schools that offer DSA programme in the academic area. You can explore the different secondary schools via this website: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa/explore/eligibility>

6. Can my child apply for DSA at P5?

Application for DSA will start at P6. For now, parents can engage in a conversation with their child regarding their strengths and talents. After which, look at various e-open houses by secondary schools to narrow down the secondary school choices that they would like to apply for DSA in P6.

Others:

1. Will there be any arrangements for the P5 students to listen to Secondary schools talk?

Our school invites different secondary schools to give a talk to our students. Due to the pandemic last year, we had these talks via Zoom. Through these talks, the students will be given more information that will enable them to make more informed decision on the secondary schools that they are interested in or would like to apply for.

2. When is the trials for Junior sports academy this year?

JSA nomination by schools and selection trials usually takes place in Feb/March. Currently, due to the large number of students the selection trial exercise will involve, there will be no JSA Selection for 2021. The school will inform parents and students once more information is made available.

*For queries on JSA, please contact Physical, Sports and Outdoor Education Branch:
Email: MOE_PSOE_Branch@moe.gov.sg Tel: +65 6468 4293*

3. What are the alternative plans in replacement of the overseas trip?

The school is arranging virtual and online activities to facilitate language and cultural exchange with students from the other 4 SHHK schools and overseas schools.

4. What are the other programmes offered by the school besides BiCEP?

We have differentiated learning programmes to cater to the diverse learning needs of students. E2K Math and Science are offered to selected students only.

5. How can my child enter Sports School?

*For more information on entry to Sports School, do go into the link below.
<https://www.sportsschool.edu.sg/admissions/admission-to-secondary>*

6. How was the school's PSLE result last year?

Nan Chiau Primary School (NCPS) aims to develop all students to their full potential in the Moral, Cognitive, Physical, Social, Aesthetic (德、智、体、群、美) and Leadership domains, with a strong anchor in the school values of 'Sincerity', 'Perseverance', 'Respect' and 'Responsibility'. The NCPS curriculum is holistic, providing all students the opportunity to learn in an engaging environment. The NCPS curriculum is driven with the school's vision of 'An Innovative School where Inspiring Educators nurture Passionate Learners of Integrity', which will equip all students with necessary skills and competencies that would prepare them for the 21st century.

7. What is the school's view and stance of the usage of PLD both in school and at home?

The school emphasizes on cyber wellness through school programmes. Teachers design lessons to meaningfully to engage students in and outside school for their learning. Hence the PLD is a useful tool for students' learning in school and at home.