

FAQs for Primary 6 Principal's Briefing 2021

Holistic Curriculum

1. Will school consider supplementary classes for the Primary 6 students?

No, there will not be any supplementary classes for the Primary 6 students. There is sufficient curriculum time for school to complete the curriculum. Teachers will instead conduct small group coaching or consultation sessions for students with learning gaps to help them bridge these gaps. Should there be unforeseen circumstances that disrupt the curriculum time; the school will then consider conducting supplementary classes for these missed lessons. We hope to keep the after-school hours for our students to pursue their interest in other areas.

2. There is a big disparity between the teaching syllabus and the examination syllabus. As a result, parents are sending children for tuition classes. Will the school consider reducing class size so individual student gets more attention?

No, there are no plans for Ministry Of Education (MOE) to reduce class size. Teachers use a variety of means (e.g. daily assignments, homework, interactions with students, various quiz and responses in class and SLS) to gather information about each student's learning progress. Tracking students' learning progress through such means provide teachers with information to be used formatively to tailor subsequent lessons to address and close students' learning gaps. For students with learning gaps, teachers conduct small group coaching or consultation sessions for these students to help them close these gaps.

You may read more on small class sizes at <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/moe-cautious-issue-smaller-class-sizes-ong-ye-kung>.

3. Are there any plans to remove Common Last Topic (CLT) with the COVID-19 pandemic still sweeping across the world?

There is no news from MOE on the removal of CLT. All topics will be tested in this year's school-based and national examinations.

4. Currently, the coaching sessions are limited to a few very weak students in class. How does the school cater to the other students who are weak in the subject?

Our teachers will continue to work closely with our students and their parents, through classroom interactions, observations, formative/summative assessment, providing timely feedback during curriculum hours and/or lesson time and PTM sessions. Should the group of students who has been selected to attend the coaching session this term make improvement or show a better understanding in the areas/ concepts that the subject teachers have identified them to be weak in; the teachers will provide the necessary support to another group of students who may require help in other areas. Each child's learning pace/style is different and as teachers, we will continue to differentiate instructions during lessons to help every student perform to his/her fullest potential.

5. Without any supplementary classes, will the school be able to get the Primary 6 students completely ready for PSLE without rushing through the syllabus?

Yes, there is sufficient curriculum time for school to complete the curriculum. Teachers will cover the syllabus according to their students' learning pace in order to prepare them for PSLE.

6. What is the difference between IB, SAP, autonomous and specialised secondary schools? What are their entry cut off points and what are the requirements for enrolment?

Autonomous schools follow the national syllabus, but offer a wider range of programmes that enhance your child's learning experience and develop their talents. Special Assistance Plan (SAP) schools are committed to nurturing bilingual and bicultural students who are immersed in the Chinese language and culture. Independent schools have the flexibility to set their own fees and develop their academic and non-academic programmes. Specialised Independent schools offer specialised education catering to students who have talent and strong interests in Mathematics and Science, the Arts, Sports, and applied learning. The Integrated Programme (IP) provides a six-year Secondary and Junior College (JC) education for academically strong students who can benefit from a broader learning experience. International Baccalaureate (IB) offers a continuum of international education through four challenging, high quality educational programmes to students aged 3 to 19.

MOE will provide the indicative AL cut-off points for individual secondary schools in the first half of this year.

Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) / Assessment Matters

1. How will the new PSLE scoring system affect students who are exempted from Mother Tongue Language?

Under the new PSLE scoring system, students exempted from MTL, due to extenuating circumstances, will be assigned an MTL score so they have a PSLE score comprising four subjects, for the purpose of S1 Posting. Their assigned MTL score will:

- i. take reference from peers with similar scores for English, Mathematics, and Science*

- ii. *maintain parity of treatment with students who take Foundation MTL (who will score between AL 6 to 8).*

Hence, students will receive an assigned MTL score between AL 6 to 8 in PSLE.

2. How will school support the Primary 6 students in coping with the PSLE, both academically and mentally?

The different subject departments will work closely with the teachers to support students in their academic learning. The student development team will also work closely with the teachers and the school counsellor to support students and look into their emotional needs e.g. sharing of study tips, managing stress and goals and time management.

3. How does affiliation affect the admission of students to secondary school based on new PSLE scoring system?

For affiliated schools, there will be two sets of cut-off points - one for affiliated students and the other, for non-affiliated students. There will be no change in terms of how the affiliation priority works under the new scoring system. This means that the affiliated student from the primary school must be able to meet that minimum requirement and must also choose the affiliated secondary school as his or her first choice.

Whether or not an affiliated student gets admitted also depends on the number of vacancies and applications that year. If the demand by these eligible affiliated students is lower than 80% of places for that course, all of them will get a place in the course in the school. If the demand is higher than 80%, posting-in of affiliated students will stop at 80% and the remaining students will be considered together with non-affiliated students for posting into the school based on their PSLE Scores. Affiliated students who are not posted to their first choice will be considered for their

next choice school. For your information, Nan Chiau Primary School is not affiliated with Nan Chiau High School.

4. When will the cut-off point for individual secondary schools be released?

MOE will provide the indicative AL cut-off points for individual secondary schools in the first half of this year.

Direct School Admission (DSA):

1. Is it possible for a student to receive confirmed offers from more than one DSA-Sec school?

Yes, it is possible for a student to receive confirmed offers from more than one DSA-Sec school. MOE will consolidate all the offers the student has received from the various schools in the School Preference Form, which will be sent to the student.

2. How will the DSA exercise be like this year with the COVID-19 situation? Will it be similar to last year where all interviews and selection for DSA were conducted via electronic modes (e-modes)?

In 2020, to ensure the safety and well-being of the students and school personnel, due to the COVID-19 situation, schools conducted all interviews and selection for DSA via electronic modes (e-modes). The e-modes were conducted in the applicants' primary schools during the selection period. For example, they may be asked to attend e-interviews or e-auditions or complete timed assignments. Different secondary schools have different selection criteria and processes. You may visit the secondary schools' websites to learn more about their selection criteria and processes for this year. Schools generally update the information by 1 April.

3. Will schools consider a student's external activities and achievements when selecting students through DSA?

Parents may provide information on non-school based activities and achievements, which are related to your child's chosen talent areas in the DSA portal during the application process. This section is non-compulsory, with a limit of 10 entries and no supporting documents are needed.

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?

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. 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. What are the qualities that a secondary school look out for in selecting students through DSA?

Different schools have different selection processes. Parents are encouraged to approach the DSA-Sec school that they are interested in for more information on their criteria and selection processes.

Others:

1. I believe the reason why many parents are unwilling to drop their child off at Gate C is due to the congestion. It takes quite a while to exit the carpark. Is there anything the school can do to resolve this issue? Will it be possible for parents to drive in to drop off and pick up the students at all times?

The school has considered this arrangement but for the safety of the children and logistics planning, this is not a viable option. An alternative option is to park at the multi-storey car park opposite the school and walk with your child to school.

2. When will the Primary 6 students stop attending BiCEP lessons to allow them time to prepare for PSLE?

The Primary 6 students will stop attending BiCEP lessons from Week 5 onwards in Term 2. Lessons will resume after PSLE.

3. Why is NCPS not affiliated with NCHS when both are obviously “affiliated”?

Nan Chiau Primary and Nan Chiau High share the same history when it began in 1947 and functioned as a full school with the primary and secondary sections sharing the same premise.

When the school relocated to Sengkang New Town in December 2000, Nan Chiau Primary and Nan Chiau High operated as two separate schools in different locations. Both schools are not affiliated. Nan Chiau High is a Special Assistance Plan (SAP) school committed to nurturing bilingual and bicultural students who are immersed in the Chinese language and culture. Nan Chiau Primary offers three mother tongue languages, Chinese, Malay and Tamil languages.