

2026

P4 Parent Engagement

Thursday, 17th September 2026



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2026

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P4 Subject-Based Banding (SBB)



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P4 Subject-Based Banding (SBB) - MOE

- Every child is unique, and has different aptitudes, capabilities and talents. Our schools believe in providing a balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child so that we can prepare him for life.
- **Standard subjects** – in Primary schools, the focus is on the mastery of core content and skills.
- **Foundation subjects** – pitched at a lower level than Standard Subjects to build up their understanding in subjects they need more help with.



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Subject Combinations offered

1	Higher Mother Tongue Language , English Language, Mathematics, Mother Tongue Language and Science [4S 1H]
2	English Language, Mathematics, Mother Tongue Language and Science [4S]
3	English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Science and Foundation Mathematics [3S1 F(FMA)]
4	Foundation English Language, Foundation Mathematics, Foundation Mother Tongue Language and Foundation Science [4F]

Offering of Higher Mother Tongue (HMTL) at P5/P6 level

- Students who showed strong proficiency and interest in Mother Tongue Language (MTL) will be offered HMT at P5.
- The offering of HMTL at P6 is a school-based decision based on the students' P5 overall results.
- Students who obtained Distinction/Merit/Pass in **HCL** and a PSLE Score of 14 or better (i.e. PSLE Score ≤ 14) at PSLE will be eligible for **posting advantage** to SAP schools.



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SBB and Secondary School Admission

- ❖ Progression to secondary school depends on your child's PSLE AL score.
- ❖ Different expectations of Standard and Foundation subjects will be taken into consideration when your child's PSLE AL score is calculated.
- ❖ Offering subjects at the foundation level is not a disadvantage to your child. Your child will be able to focus on building up strong fundamentals in those subjects.
- ❖ If he/she excels in the subject, he/she will have the opportunity to pursue higher level options at the secondary school.



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Subject-based Banding (SBB)

You can refer to the website for more details.

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/primary/curriculum/subject-based-banding>

Catering to Your Child's Abilities

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Every child is unique, and has different aptitudes, capabilities and talents. Our schools believe in providing a balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child so that we can prepare him for life.

Subject-based Banding (SBB) was introduced as a refinement to the streaming process to help each child realise his potential, based on his strengths and needs.

WHAT IS SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB)?

Subject-based Banding (SBB) provides greater flexibility for your child by offering him the option of a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his strengths. For example, if he excels in English and Mother Tongue but needs more support in Mathematics and Science, he may choose to take the first two subjects at the standard level and the others at the foundation level.

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.

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB) 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. If he excels in his subjects, he will 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 ARE SOME CHOICES AVAILABLE?

If your child (for P4 exam)	Your child may be recommended to take
Passes all 4 subjects and performs very well in Mother Tongue Language	4 standard subjects + Higher Mother Tongue Language
Passes all 4 subjects	4 standard subjects
Passes 3 subjects	4 standard subjects
Passes 2 subjects or less	4 standard subjects; or 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject; or 2 standard subjects + 2 other foundation subjects; or 1 standard subject + 3 other foundation subjects; or 4 foundation subjects

HOW DOES SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB) WORK?

@ PRIMARY 4

Student sits for school-based examinations.

School recommends a subject combination based on the student's results.

Parents fill up an option form indicating the preferred combination.

@ PRIMARY 5

Student takes subject combination chosen by parents.

English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Language are available at standard and foundation levels.

Higher Mother Tongue Language is also available.

School assesses student's ability to cope with the current subject combination at the end of the year. Adjustments to the number of standard and foundation subjects can be made, if necessary.

@ PRIMARY 6

Student takes subject combination decided by his school and sits for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) at the end of Primary 6.

WE ARE
ALWAYS
HERE
TO HELP

Schools will help recommend subject combinations, based on your child's needs and abilities.

If you have any enquiries on SBB or Subject-based Banding (SBB), you should approach your child's school for help.

www.moe.gov.sg/education/primary/subject-based-banding (primary)

www.hazim.com/moe/gov.sg

contact@moe.gov.sg

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Ministry of Education
Singapore

The information in this leaflet is correct as of 1 January 2015.

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SINGAPORE

[PSLE Scoring System](#)

[Score Calculator](#)

[Posting to Secondary School](#)

[Full Subject-Based Banding](#)

[Resources](#) ▾

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/psle-fsbb/psle/main>

PSLE Scoring System

The PSLE scoring system will help your child focus on their learning instead of how they compare to others.



The PSLE is a useful checkpoint to gauge your child's understanding of key concepts and academic



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PSLE Scores using Achievement Levels

Students will be scored by Achievement Levels based on their individual performance in the PSLE subject, regardless of how their peers have done. Each Achievement Level will reflect how well students have done relative to learning objectives of the curriculum.

Your child's PSLE Score will be the sum of the Achievement Levels of their four PSLE subjects (English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue). PSLE Scores can range from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best possible total score.



Achievement Levels (ALs) for Standard Subjects

Achievement Levels (ALs) are the scoring bands used for in the PSLE Scoring system.

Each PSLE subject will be scored using 8 ALs. Students who perform similarly will be placed in the same AL for each subject.

AL	Percentage Score Range (%)
1	≥ 90
2	85 - 89
3	80 - 84
4	75 - 79
5	65 - 74
6	45 - 64
7	20 - 44
8	< 20



Foundation Subjects

Under the new AL system, if your child is taking Foundation level subjects, your child will be graded AL A to AL C.

For the purpose of S1 posting, Foundation level AL A to AL C will be mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively, to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.

Grades for Foundation	Foundation Percentage Score Range (%)	Equivalent Standard Level AL
A	75 - 100	6
B	30 - 74	7
C	< 30	8



Questions Regarding SBB



A. Understanding SBB

Subject-Based Banding (SBB) provides students with greater flexibility to learn each subject at a level that is appropriate for their strengths, learning needs and readiness.

A student may take different subjects at different levels. For example, a student may take 3 Standard Subjects (English, Mother Tongue & Science) and 1 Foundation Subject (Maths).

The key purpose is to allow students to **learn at an appropriate pace, build confidence and continue to be appropriately challenged.**



B. How does the school determine the subject level?

Students' academic performance is an important consideration, but the decision is **not based on one test or one examination result alone**.

The school considers the child's performance and learning progress in the subject, as well as their readiness to cope with the demands of the next level.

Parents will be provided with recommendations on the subject levels or combinations that are considered appropriate for their child.



C. Subject combinations and class arrangements

Students can take the combinations of subject levels offered by the school.

The timetable will be structured so that students receive the appropriate amount of curriculum time for each subject. Taking a subject at a different level does not mean that the child will have less opportunity to develop in the other subjects.

Students may learn a particular subject with students from their own or other classes. This does not necessarily mean that students will be separated from their form class for the entire day.



D. Foundation subjects and movement between levels

If a student is struggling significantly with a subject, the school may review whether a different subject level would better meet the student's learning needs.

Such decisions would be made **carefully**, taking into account the child's overall readiness and progress.



E. Higher Chinese

Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL) is an **additional subject** for students who demonstrate the aptitude and readiness to take it.

An offer to take Higher Chinese is not, by itself, an obligation to take the subject.

Parents should consider the child's interest, aptitude, workload and readiness when making the decision. The school can provide advice based on the child's learning profile.

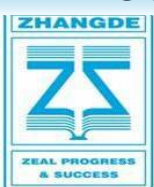


F. PSLE, Foundation subjects and secondary school

For PSLE, Foundation-level subjects are graded using the **Foundation Achievement Level (AL) system**, while Standard-level subjects use the Standard AL system.

Foundation subject results are converted to equivalent ALs for the purpose of calculating the PSLE Score. This means that taking a Foundation subject does not automatically prevent a student from progressing to secondary school.

Secondary school posting is based primarily on the student's **PSLE Score and the school's admission criteria**, rather than simply whether the student took a Foundation or Standard subject.



G. Can parents reject the school's recommendation?

Parents are strongly encouraged to follow the school's recommendation.

If parents have concerns or would like to better understand why a particular subject level has been recommended, we encourage them to speak with the child's subject teachers or Form Teachers.

The decision should ultimately focus on what is **most appropriate for the child's learning needs, readiness and longer-term development**, rather than simply choosing the highest available level.



H. "What happens if my child fails Chinese?"

One result does not determine a child's entire pathway.

If a child is struggling in Chinese, the school will look at the child's overall performance and learning progress and consider what level and support would be most appropriate.

Parents should also speak with the child's Chinese teacher to understand the specific areas of difficulty and what can be done to support improvement.



Thank you!



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