



**BRIEFING FOR PARENTS 2026**  
**PRIMARY 5 & 6**  
**16 Jan 2026**

# Outline

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DSA

PSLE Scoring and S1 Posting

Navigating the Upper Primary Years

# THESE ARE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES PARENTS CAN REFER TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE DIFFERENT EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND OUTCOMES IMPACTING YOUR CHILD'S LEVEL.

Level	Topic	Resources
P1 - 6	Edusave Merit Bursary	The different awards students can receive based on their character, leadership, learning disposition, conduct and academic performance. <a href="#"><u>Edusave awards and scholarships MOE</u></a>
P3	Gifted Education Programme (GEP)	How intellectually gifted students can realise their potential. <a href="#"><u>Gifted Education Programme MOE</u></a>
P4 - 6	Subject-based banding (SBB)	SBB gives students the opportunity to take a combination of standard and foundation subjects based on their strengths at P5 and 6. <a href="#"><u>Subject-based banding for primary school MOE</u></a>
P5 - 6	Direct School Admission (DSA)	P6 students can apply before taking the PSLE for certain secondary schools based on their talent in sports, CCAs and specific academic areas. <a href="#"><u>Direct School Admission for secondary school MOE</u></a>
P5 - 6	Primary School Leaving Exam (PSLE)	All you need to know about the PSLE scoring system and the posting to Secondary School. <a href="#"><u>New PSLE Scoring System MOE</u></a>

# PSLE 2026

PSLE

2026

JAN

Start with  
your goals

Set goals with your  
child, get him / her  
off to a good  
start.



JAN

School will share with  
students on how to  
cope with PSLE stress  
so your child doesn't  
burn out!

FEB

Official exam  
timetable  
Is out!



MARCH

How to DSA?

Find out more about  
Direct School  
Admission - including  
whether it is right for  
your child, and how to  
apply for it.

APRIL 4

PSLE Prep Forum 2026 by  
SPH

Your chance to ask an MOE  
expert how PSLE papers  
are set and marked, and a  
Maths expert on how to  
handle tricky Maths  
questions.



Keep them  
motivated

Make learning and  
studying  
enjoyable, so your  
kids give it their  
best.

MAY



JUN  
School holidays!

Don't forget to take  
a break to prevent  
burnout!



JULY

A final sprint before  
the exam



Don't be afraid of the  
preliminary exams -  
they're here to help you  
identify area you need  
to focus on before  
PSLE!

Essential exam  
strategies

JULY

Our teachers share  
important examination skills  
like time management and  
revision techniques to help  
your child take on the exam  
with confidence.

AUG / SEPT

Oral Examinations  
& Listening



Remind your child to stay  
calm and do his or her  
best.

OCT

PSLE season

You've done all you  
can. Now, your child  
can head into the  
examination  
hall and do achieve  
his / her personal  
best!

OCT

Pro tips for choosing a  
secondary school



Principals from invited  
secondary schools will  
give insights on how to  
choose the right school  
for your child

NOV

Results announcement



Nov

Time to choose a  
secondary school

There is lots to consider,  
so planning ahead will  
give you ample time to  
make an informed  
decision.





# Direct School Admission for Secondary Schools (DSA-Sec)

Commit-  
ment

Talent

Passion

# Is DSA-Sec right for my child?

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If your child has specific **talents** which a school offers  
the DSA-Sec in

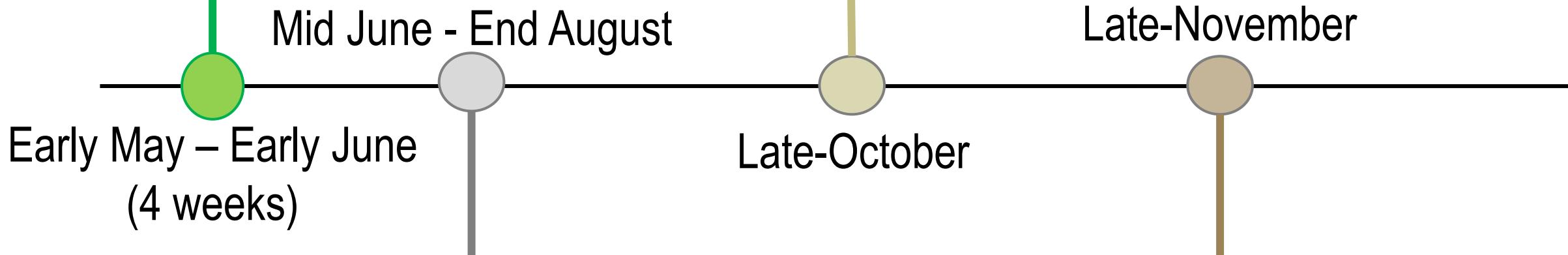
And is **passionate** about and **committed** to  
developing his/her strengths and interests

DSA-Sec can support his/her development in that  
talent area.

# What is the timeline for DSA-Sec?

Apply for DSA-Sec through  
**DSA-Sec Application Portal**.

Rank your offers, if you receive offers  
from multiple schools

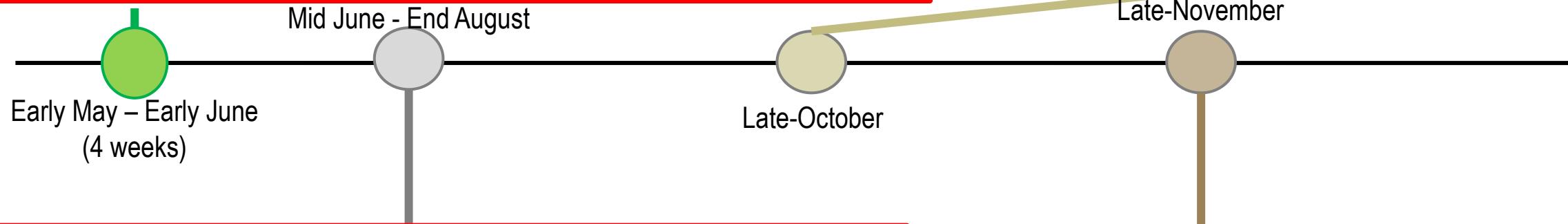


Shortlisting and selection by secondary schools. Each secondary school has different selection criteria for its categories and programmes. Schools will inform you of the selection outcome **by Aug.**

You will know whether you have been allocated to a school through the DSA-Sec, at the same time you receive your PSLE results.

# What can you do to prepare for DSA-Sec?

- Visit Open Houses
- View school websites for the available DSA areas
- Check AL cut off points of the previous year - allows you to gauge if your child is able to cope / able to enter a Posting Group the school offers



What you should do to prepare for the trials / interviews:

- View the DSA section of school websites
- Find out what the trials / interviews entail
- Take note of important dates / timelines
- Prepare yourself – some categories may need portfolios

Rank your offers, if you receive offers from multiple schools

- If successful, you may still need to access the S1 portal to choose additional options that may be available, eg 3<sup>rd</sup> language option

# Examples of Possible Choice Combinations

	Talent(s)	School(s)	
EXAMPLE 1	Choir	School A	Your child can apply to <u>up to three different schools</u> , with no restrictions on the talent areas.
	Choir	School B	
	Choir	School C	
EXAMPLE 2	Talent(s)	School(s)	If your child chooses two areas in one school, he/she can apply to <b>two different schools only</b> ,
	Choir	School A	
	String Orchestra	School A	
EXAMPLE 3 (Not allowed)	Talent(s)	School(s)	Your child cannot use all three choices on one school. He/she can leave the third choice blank or choose another school.
	Choir	School A	
	String Orchestra	School A	
	Mathematics	School A	

**Note.** Students can apply separately to School of the Arts and Singapore Sports School, on top of the DSA-Sec choices made through the DSA-Sec Portal.

# What are schools looking for?

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- Schools have updated their selection practices, which are based on a common set of student-centric principles, with more emphasis on looking for sound fundamentals and potential in particular talent areas.
- The DSA-Sec selection process remains objective and talent-specific.

# **PSLE Scoring and S1 Posting**

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**What is a  
“Cut-Off  
Point?**

Points of the  
last student who  
gained entry to  
the school

**What does  
Posting Group  
(PG) Mean?**

Used for posting  
students into secondary  
school and to guide the  
initial subject levels that  
they can offer at the  
start of Sec 1

**What does  
G1,2,3 mean?**

General level of the  
subject  
G3: most demanding  
G1: least demanding

# PSLE SCORING & PLACEMENT

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AL*	RAW MARK RANGE
1	<b>≥ 90</b>
2	<b>85 – 89</b>
3	<b>80 – 84</b>
4	<b>75 – 79</b>
5	<b>65 – 74</b>
6	<b>45 – 64</b>
7	<b>20 – 44</b>
8	<b>&lt; 20</b>

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range	Equivalent Standard Subject AL	Standard Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100	6	45-64
B	30 – 74	7	20-44
C	< 30	8	<20

\* Achievement Level

# The PSLE Score

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- The PSLE Score is obtained by adding the ALs of four subjects.
- The PSLE Score ranges from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best possible score.
- The PSLE Score serves as a gauge to guide students in making secondary school choices.



ENGLISH	AL3
MOTHER TONGUE	AL2
MATHEMATICS	AL1
SCIENCE	AL2
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PSLE SCORE: 8	

# The PSLE Score

- Students are posted to secondary school through three Posting Groups - Posting Groups 1, 2 and 3.
- Posting Groups are only used for the purpose of posting students into secondary school and to guide the initial subject levels that they can offer at the start of Secondary 1 (S1).



PSLE Score	Posting Groups	Indicative level for <b>most</b> subjects at start of S1
4 - 20	3	G3
21 and 22	2 or 3	G2 or G3
23 and 24	2	G2
25	1 or 2	G1 or G2
26 - 30 (with AL7 in English and Maths)	1	G1

# How S1 Posting Works

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# Choice of Order of Schools will matter more

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- Students will continue to be posted to a secondary school based on academic merit i.e. overall PSLE score.
- If two or more students with the same PSLE Score vie for the last remaining place in a school, tie-breakers will be used in the following order:
  1. CITIZENSHIP
  2. CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS
  3. COMPUTERISED BALLOTING

# Tie-breakers in the new S1 Posting System

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

Jane	SCHOOL CHOICES:
Singapore Citizen	1) Sch A 2) Sch ... 3) Sch ... 4) Sch ...
16 pts	

Bryan	SCHOOL CHOICES:
Singapore Citizen	1) Sch B 2) Sch ... 3) Sch ... 4) Sch ...
20 pts	

Mary	SCHOOL CHOICES:
Singapore Citizen	1) Sch A 2) Sch B 3) Sch C 4) Sch ...
20 pts	

Alan	SCHOOL CHOICES:
Permanent Resident	1) Sch A 2) Sch B 3) Sch D 4) Sch ...
20 pts	

Rina	SCHOOL CHOICES:
Permanent Resident	1) Sch A 2) Sch B 3) Sch D 4) Sch E
20 pts	

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**.

# ELIGIBILITY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE (HMTL)

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- From 2026, students who do well in the subject in the PSLE will be able to take higher mother tongue languages (HMTLs) in Secondary 1, regardless of their overall PSLE score.
- Students must get either:
  - PSLE MTL Score of AL1/AL2
  - Or
  - HMTL score of Distinction/Merit.

# USE OF HCL FOR ADMISSION INTO SAP SCHOOLS

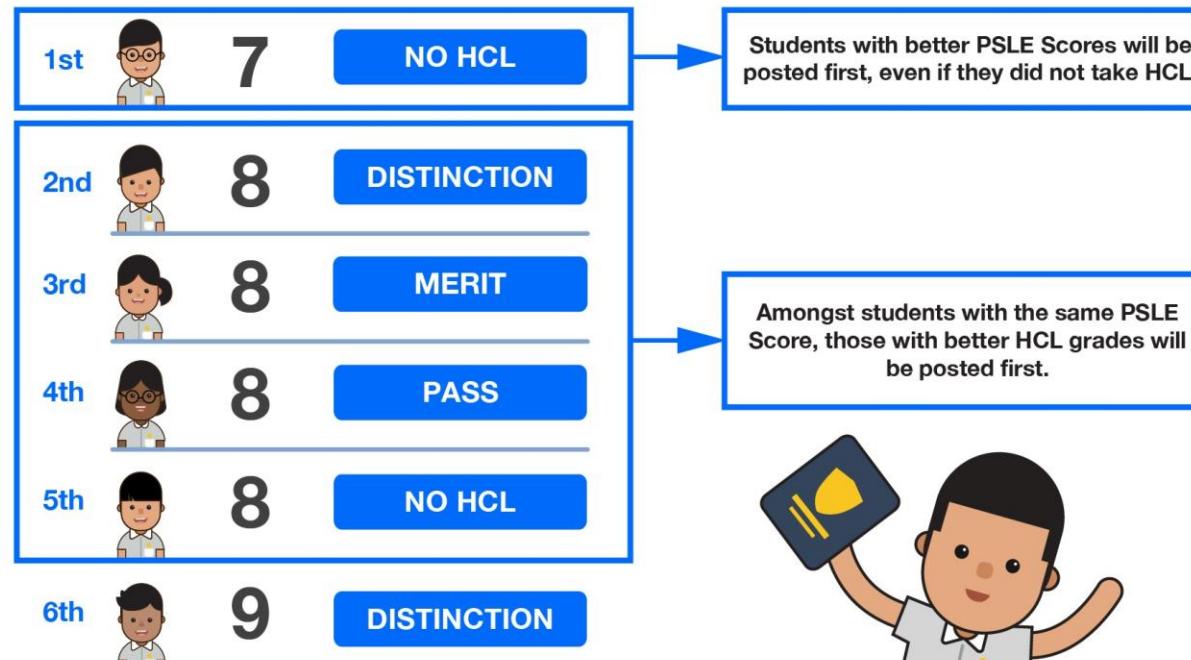
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- Eligible for posting advantage to SAP schools if student:
  - Obtained Distinction/Merit/Pass in HCL  
And
  - A PSLE Score of 14 or better.
- Students with better PSLE scores will be posted first, even if they did not take HCL.
- If there are multiple students with the same PSLE Score applying 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.

## Using HCL for Admission into SAP Schools

Students who obtained a Distinction/Merit/Pass for HCL at the PSLE and an overall PSLE Score of 14 or better will receive a posting advantage when applying to SAP schools.

Students will be considered for admission to SAP schools in the following order:



# Scoring for MTL-Exempt and Students Studying an Asian Language/ Foreign Language (AsL/FL) in lieu of a MTL

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# Scoring for MTL-exempt and AsL/FL Students

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- PSLE result slip will only reflect the three subjects they have taken.
- For the purposes of Secondary 1 posting, these students will need an assigned MTL score so that they have a PSLE score comprising four subjects
  - Determined through reference to MTL scores of other students who have achieved similar scores in English, Mathematics, and Science, including those taking Foundation MTL (who will score between AL 6 to 8).
  - Hence, students will receive an assigned MTL score between AL 6 and 8 in PSLE.

# Indicative Achievement level (AL)

## Cut-Off Point (COP) ranges For Different School Types

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# Indicative Achievement level (AL) Cut-Off Point (COP) ranges For Different School TTypes

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- AL COP for a school may vary from year to year, depending on students' PSLE results and their school choices for that year's S1 Posting Exercise.
- Information on individual secondary schools' indicative AL COPs will likely be released in the second half the year. These AL COPs will be derived from the PSLE Scores and choice patterns of the previous year's S1 Posting Exercise.
- The actual cut-off points may differ, depending on how students exercise their choices that year.

# Choosing a Suitable Secondary School

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# DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD

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- Consider your child's learning style, strengths and interests when making school choices in order to find a school that would help the child learn and thrive best.
- Discuss the options with the child, with the following considerations:
  - **Values:** What is the school's culture and ethos?
  - **Learning environment:** Is the school's learning environment right for the child?
  - **Distinctive programmes and CCAs:** Can the school support and develop the child's interests?
  - **Location:** Is it too far from home? How will the child get to school?

# RESOURCES

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- MOE SchoolFinder tool - More information on secondary schools can be found here, on school websites.
- Open Houses - Secondary schools also hold open houses where you and your child can learn more about the school's programmes, and speak with teachers and students.
- Indicative cut-off points ranges for different school types
  - The indicative AL COPs ranges for school types can be used as reference point.
  - MOE will be providing indicative AL COPs for secondary schools in the second half of each year, based on the data from the previous year's S1 posting exercise.
  - The actual cut-off points may differ, depending on how students exercise their choices that year.

# Navigating the Upper Primary Years

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- Structure and Support
- Continue to monitor your child's work and progress
- Explore and get excited about post-primary education
  - Ownership of choices
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle
  - Balance between work, play and sleep
- Have frequent conversations

# Contact

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