

# **Home-Based Learning, Student-Initiated Learning & Personalised Digital Learning Programme**

**HOUGANG  
SECONDARY SCHOOL**



**Vice-Principal, Mrs Audrey Ee**

# Background to HBL

- Over the past few years, the global pandemic and other major disruptions have highlighted how important it is for students to be **self-directed** in **planning for their own learning** and **adapting to different modes of learning**.
- One of the ways we will help our students achieve this is to introduce **HBL days as part of Blended Learning** (BL) efforts in secondary schools and JCs/MI.
- This allows for a **seamless blending and continuity of learning**.

# HBL and Student Outcomes



Self-directed and  
independent learners



Passionate and intrinsically  
motivated learners

# Learning Experiences

- Adapt to varied learning experiences.



Learn content that is within and outside of the curriculum

Be given opportunities to plan their own learning for the day

Use a range of resources for learning, e.g. print and digital materials

- Learn to look for resources, troubleshoot and problem-solve.

# List of HBL Days in 2026

SN	Date (Day)	Remarks
1	2 Feb (Mon)	Sec 4 & 5 only
2	19 Feb (Thu)	Sec 1 PDLP Onboarding (Tentative)
3	2 Mar (Mon)	
4	30 Mar (Mon)	
5	9 Apr (Thu)	
6	22 Apr (Wed)	
7	7 May (Thu)	
8	18 May (Mon)	
9	1 Jul (Wed)	S1 to S3 only
10 -12	14 Jul (Tue) 15 Jul (Wed) 16 Jul (Thu)	Sec 4 National Exam (Oral)
13	27 Jul (Mon)	S1 to S3 only

- For 2026, HBL days will be held **once a fortnight** and **rotated** across **Mon, Wed and Thur.**
- For Sec 1, it will commence from **Term 1 Week 7 (19 Feb).**

# Things to Note for HBL Days

- HBL will be in the form of **asynchronous learning (i.e. not 'live'/real time lessons)** where students will learn at their own pace and time by accessing and completing lessons prepared in advance by their Subject Teachers.
- Students can follow the school's timetable for the day, including the recess period which will serve as a break for the students.
- There will be **no morning attendance taking**, and students are encouraged to complete their assignments **before 5 pm.**

# Things to Note for HBL Days

- Students **do not have to come to school** on HBL days. Those who need a more conducive environment to learn are requested to inform their Character Coaches (CCs). Arrangements can be made for these students to return to school on HBL Days, on a **case-by-case basis**.
- **Monitoring** of student engagement:
  - Through quizzes/exit passes, submission of assignments via online platforms
  - Consolidated feedback from Subject Teachers to CCs, IP HODs and Year Heads/ Asst Year Heads where necessary.

# HBL Schedules for Reference

- Centralised HBL schedule for reference (on school website):

1H	T1W7	20 Feb 2025	Thursday	ETC (mins)
Time	Lesson	Teacher	Instruction	
0800h	G3 EL LIT	Ms Tan YW	Complete Act 2 Scene 1 and 2 WS. Hard copy given in class on 30/7, soft copy on Google Classroom.	45
0800h	G3 EL LIT	Ms Cruz	Complete Act 1 Scene 3 and Act 2 Scenes 1 & 2 worksheets (Answers on Google Classroom). Revise for Literature WA3 (on Week 8 Mon)	45
0900h	SNACK BREAK			45
0910h	G3 SCI	Ms Rachel Yona	Refer to Google Classroom for instructions	

# HBL Schedules for Reference

The image shows a screenshot of the Hougang Secondary School website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: ABOUT US, DEPARTMENTS, KEY PROGRAMMES, CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, and QUICK LINKS. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar is a large banner featuring a person wearing a VR headset and holding a controller, set against a blue digital grid background. To the right of the banner, the letters "Re" and "In" are partially visible. The QUICK LINKS menu is open, displaying various links such as "HBL and SIL" (which is circled in red), "Education and Career Guidance (ECG) and Counselling Services", "Admin", "Appeal For Transfer Into HS", "Assessment", "Direct School Admission", "Extended Curriculum Time", "HS ICT Helpdesk Form", "For Parents", "For Students", "For Staff", and "PLD Initiative". In the bottom right corner of the image, the text "Via Sch Website" is enclosed in a red box.

**Via Sch Website**

HOUGANG  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

ABOUT US ▾ DEPARTMENTS ▾ KEY PROGRAMMES ▾ CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ▾ QUICK LINKS ▾

Q

**HBL and SIL**

Education and Career Guidance (ECG) and Counselling Services

Admin

Appeal For Transfer Into HS

Assessment

Direct School Admission

Extended Curriculum Time

HS ICT Helpdesk Form

For Parents

For Students

For Staff

PLD Initiative

OUR FACEBOOK

OUR INSTAGRAM

OUR LATEST UPDATES

Announcements

# HBL Schedules for Reference

On HBL days, an hour is set aside for your child/ward for Student-Initiated Learning (SIL).

Students are to use this time to explore an area of interest by initiating learning activities on their own. For example, students can try out hands-on activities on topics that they are passionate about, such as tinkering, baking or playing a musical instrument.

1. **General Instructions.** Assignments are based on the timetable for HBL Wednesday. While there is no morning attendance-taking, students are encouraged to start the day early and complete their assigned tasks before 5 pm. Please refer to the links below for the schedule and subject-specific instructions. The instructions (I), Estimated Time on Computer (ECT) and Homework (HW) (where applicable) will be indicated clearly in the schedule.

- [Sec 1 Schedule ↗](#)
- [Sec 2 Schedule ↗](#)
- [Sec 3 Schedule ↗](#)
- [Sec 4/5 Schedule ↗](#)

**Click on  
“Sec 1 Schedule”**

2. **Support for HBL.** Students may use Student ICON, SLS, MS Teams and other web applications for HBL. A computing device and internet connection may be required.

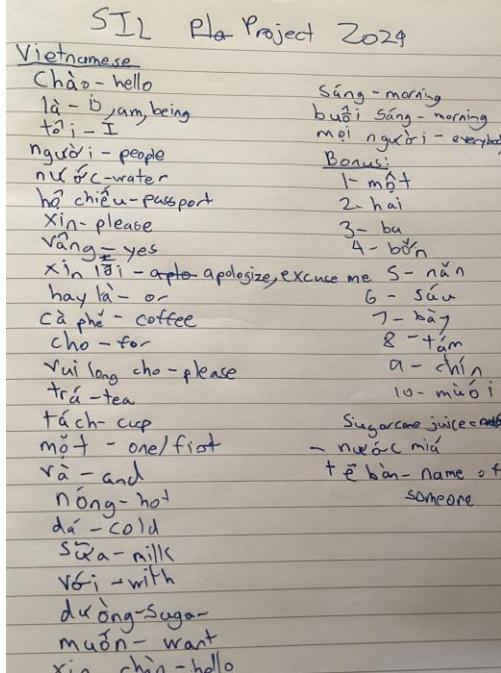
# Support from Parents for HBL

- ❑ Encourage your child to **maintain healthy sleep hours** in preparation for HBL.
- ❑ Check-in with your child/ward through **conversations** on how they are coping with the new responsibilities and expectations.
- ❑ Guide your child to **establish routines at home**, inclusive of short breaks to refresh the mind.
- ❑ **Share G.R.E.A.T. stories** of your child with their CCs or subject teachers so that we can reinforce and affirm your child's growth.

# What is Student-Initiated Learning (SIL)?

- On Home-Based Learning (HBL) days, students will spend **at least one hour** working on their **Student-Initiated Learning (SIL) project**.
- This structured time allows students to **explore an area of personal interest** by independently initiating and managing their own learning activities. These activities may be related to the school curriculum or extend beyond it.
- Through SIL, we hope to nurture students to become **lifelong learners** who are **self-directed, passionate, and intrinsically motivated**.
- Students are required to **document their SIL experience in an e-portfolio**. This e-portfolio will be used to support applications for **Aptitude-Based Admissions (DSA-JC)**, **Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) to Polytechnic**, or **ITE** in their **Secondary Four or 5<sup>th</sup> Year**.
- All SIL experiences must be **completed and uploaded to the e-portfolio by Term 3 Week 8 (Tuesday, 18 August 2026)**. Students will be guided to do this during their **CCE lessons**.

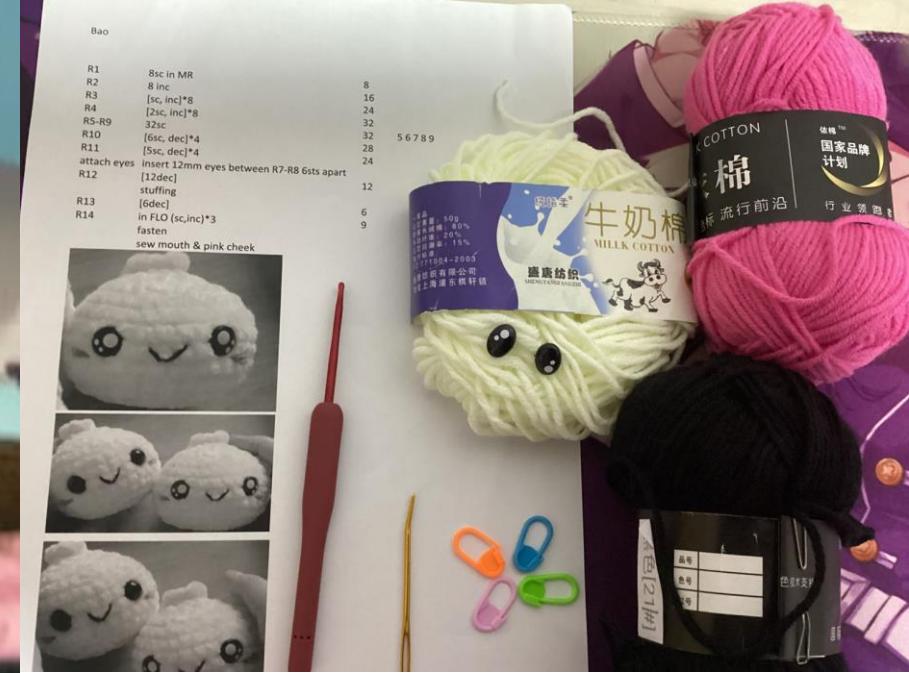
# Sec 1 SIL Projects in 2025 for consideration



Learning Vietnamese  
Wei Kai, 1A



Guitar  
Jewel Kate Geronimo De Guzman, 1E



Crochet  
Zoey Chua, 1A



Fashion Design Drawing (Video)  
Elisha Nabilah, 1N



Baking a Cake  
Ryan James Poscablo Meneses, 1U



Cooking Burger and Fries  
Wee Chor Jun Brandon, 1G



Drawing  
Teo Qiao Tian, 1G



Digital Art  
Joie Tan Yi Xuan, 1S



Puppy Training and Grooming  
Jaylen Kwek, 1H

# ECG-Focused Student-Initiated Learning using e-Portfolio



## SEC 1 SIL EXPLORATIONS



Part 1

### Interest Exploration

#### SEE – "What drew my attention?"

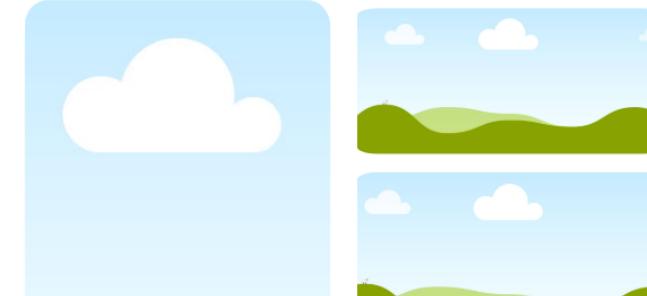
What sparked your personal interest or curiosity for choosing this SIL topic or project?

#### EXPLORE – "What did I discover?"

How did doing this project deepen your understanding or passion in this area? What did you learn through investigating, trying, or experimenting?

#### CONNECT – "What does this mean for me now?"

What new perspectives or insights did you gain? How does this project connect to your life, future interests, or personal growth?



## SEC 1 SIL EXPLORATIONS



Part 2

### During the Journey..

#### 1. THINK – Identifying the Challenge

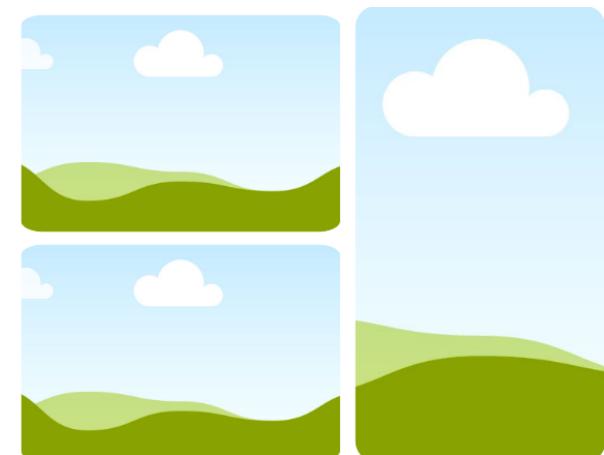
What problem did I notice? What possible ways could I solve it?

#### 2. TEST – Trying Out Solutions

What steps or approaches did I try? What worked or didn't work?

#### 3. IMPROVE – Refining the Idea

What new or creative improvement did I come up with for my project?



Write captions for your process and work. Credit your sources.

# Overview of the student's e-portfolio



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERSONAL

I play music

My Certificates

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

CCA

VIA

ECG

Others

EXPLORATION

SIL Journey Page

Exploring ECG Pathways

Students can include their **SIL experiences from Secondary 1 to 4/5** in their e-portfolio to document their interests, skills developed, and learning growth. Together with other key student experiences and achievements, the e-portfolio serves as a meaningful record of their secondary school journey, highlighting their passions, strengths, and readiness for future pathways.

# SIL within HBL Day

- SIL will take place during HBL Day. Each HBL Day will comprise both curriculum coverage and SIL:

	Curriculum Coverage	Student-Initiated Learning
Duration	5 hours	At least 1 hour
Location	HBL activities for curriculum coverage are to be designed for completion at home	At home #

*# For safety concerns, Secondary 1 students are strongly encouraged to carry out their SIL activities at home. Should there be a need for them to leave home for their SIL activities, parents' permission must be sought and informed beforehand. Please note that any expenses incurred will not be covered by the school.*

# Partnering Parents in Supporting Students' SIL Experiences



- Parents are requested to ensure that your child's SIL project is **safe, simple and stress free**.
- Parents are encouraged to engage your child in conversations to **explore his/her strengths and interests**, and to support him/her in planning SIL activities where necessary.
- At the same time, please help your child take ownership of his/her learning by encouraging him/her to set personal goals and action plans for SIL.
- You are also strongly encouraged to establish clear ground rules together to create a conducive home environment that supports your child's SIL experience during HBL.

For SIL resources, please refer to the **HS SIL One-Stop Portal:** <https://sites.google.com/view/hssil/home>

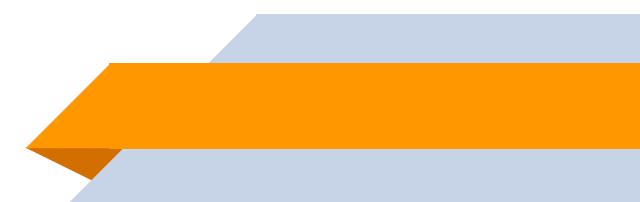
The portal is also accessible via the school website under the “For Parents” section.)

# Queries

- For matters relating to **HBL or HBL assignments**, you may contact the respective subject teachers.
- For **queries on SIL**, please contact your child's Character Coaches.



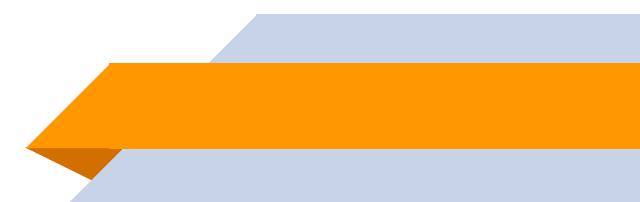
# **Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP)**



- 1. Students' Personal Learning Device**
- 2. Funding Support for SC and Non-SC Students**
- 3. Supporting Students in the Responsible Use of PLDs**
- 4. What's Next?**



# **1. Students' Personal Learning Device (PLD)**



# PLD Enhanced Device Bundle

## What it includes

- Apple iPad 11-inch, 128 GB storage, 6 GB Memory
- Apple Pencil (USB-C) with integrated cap
- Logitech Ruggedized Combo 4 (Case and Keyboard)
- Insurance\*\* and Warranty
- **4-year warranty** and **4-year insurance** (only when purchased through the MOE bulk tender exercise through the school)
  - includes 2 repairs or 1 replacement claim

*\*\* See next slide*

# 4-Year carry-in Warranty

## What it includes

- **Device Repair at Apple Service Centre<sup>▲</sup> or Apple Authorised Service Provider**
- **Unlimited incidents of accidental damage protection**
  - subject to a service fee of S\$68 for iPad (2 times a year)



**Apple Marina Bay Sands**  
2 Bayfront Avenue, B2-06  
Singapore, 018972

Open until 10:00 pm



**Apple Orchard Road**  
270 Orchard Road  
Singapore, 238857

Open until 10:00 pm



**Apple Jewel Changi Airport**  
78 Airport Boulevard  
#02-234  
Singapore, 819666

Open until 10:00 pm



**QCD Technology @ Westgate**  
3 Gateway Drive, #01-42  
Singapore 608532  
(Next to taxi stand)

<sup>▲</sup>Make appointment: (Please include “MOE PLD” in “Add a comment” in the online form at <https://getsupport.apple.com>

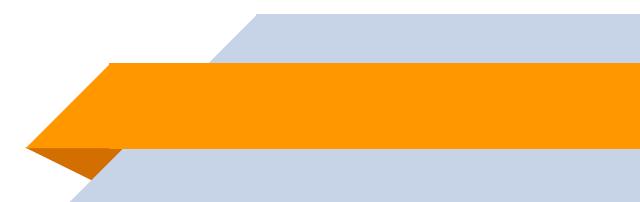
# Insurance Coverage

The **4-year insurance\* coverage** includes:

Insurance Coverage	Claimable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire</li><li>• Lightning</li><li>• Power Surges</li><li>• Accidental e.g water spillage, drop etc</li><li>• Theft <u>due to forcible entry</u></li><li>• Robbery</li></ul> <p>* Accidental loss <b><u>will not be</u></b> covered by insurance. Accessories are not covered under insurance.</p>	2 repairs or 1 replacement (4-year insurance)



## **2. Funding Support for SC and Non-SC Students**



# Information on Subsidy

Students eligible for subsidy	Income criteria	How to Apply for Subsidy
Students under MOE FAS	<p>Gross Household Income (“GHI”) is \$4,000 or less, or</p> <p>Per Capita Income (“PCI”)* is \$1000 or less</p>	<p><b>No action required.</b></p> <p>Automatically subsidised for the PLD.</p>
Students <u>under</u> School-based FAS or Independent Schools Bursary (ISB)	<p><math>\\$4,000 &lt; \text{Gross Household Income (GHI)} \leq \\$5,500</math>, or</p> <p><math>\\$1,000 &lt; \text{Per Capita Income (PCI)} \leq \\$1,375</math></p>	<p><b>No action required.</b></p> <p>Automatically subsidised for the PLD.</p>
Students who are currently <u>not</u> under the MOE FAS / School-based FAS / ISB	<p><math>\\$4,000 &lt; \text{Gross Household Income (GHI)} \leq \\$5,500</math>, or</p> <p><math>\\$1,000 &lt; \text{Per Capita Income (PCI)} \leq \\$1,375</math></p>	<p>Approach the school’s General Office to <u>apply for a subsidy</u>.</p>

# Illustration (Singapore Citizens)

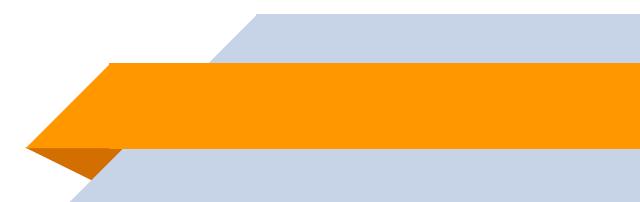
Categories	Device Bundle Cost	Student Subsidy	Available Edusave Balance <i>(After setting aside for 2nd-tier misc fees + level enrichment progs)</i>	<u>Additional Subsidy after deducting from Edusave</u>	Cash Out-of-Pocket
<b>Not Eligible for Subsidy</b>	\$829.30	\$0.00	\$829.30	Nil	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$600.00	Nil	\$229.30
<b>On MOE FAS</b>	\$829.30	\$350.00 <i>(Subsidy peg at 50% of device cost or \$350 whichever is lower + additional subsidy)</i>	\$300.00	179.30	\$0.00
<b>Non-MOE FAS</b>	\$829.30	\$200.00 <i>(Subsidy peg at 30% of device cost or \$200 whichever is lower + additional subsidy)</i>	\$300.00	279.30	\$50.00

# Illustration (Non-Singapore Citizens)

Categories	Device Bundle Cost	Student Subsidy (*Application required)	Cash Out-of-Pocket
Cat A (GHI > \$5500 or PCI > \$1375)		No subsidy	\$829.30
Cat B (\$4000 < GHI ≤ \$5500 or \$1000 < PCI ≤ \$1375)	\$829. 30	\$150.00* (Apply for subsidy pegged at 20% of device cost or \$150, whichever is lower)	\$679.30
Cat C (GHI ≤ \$4000 or PCI ≤ \$1000)		\$200.00* (Apply for subsidy pegged at 30% of device cost or \$200, whichever is lower)	\$629.30



### **3. Supporting Students in the Responsible Use of PLDs**



# How will your child/ward use the PLD?

In general, Hougeans leverage the PLD to:

- **Learn and Revise** school related work e.g. through Google Classroom, Student Learning Space, Padlet etc.
- **Design and create** artifacts and products using EdTech tools e.g. OneNote, freeform, Canva etc.
- **Acquire knowledge or conduct research** through Libby, AI platforms etc.

**Teachers** will use the PLD to **communicate with students** outside of lessons through platforms such as Google Classroom and SLS.

# Supporting Students in the Responsible Use of the PLDs

Support Structure	What it is
Device Management Application (DMA)	1 parent's personal email address will be provisioned with the DMA parent's account for viewing of your child's PLD info [Option A only]
Acceptable Use Policy for EdTech Resources	See Student Handbook page 14 to 18
Educating Students on Cyber Wellness	Greater emphasis on the importance of digital literacy and cyber-wellness
Student Leaders as iCT Advocates	Training and guiding the Student Leaders as peer advocates for <b>the responsible use of PLDs</b> . These student leaders will strive to <b>role model</b> and <b>positively influence</b> their peers
Partnering Parents/Guardians to support students' use of technology for learning	Engagement Workshops for Parents on partnering and guiding their child on the use of PLD
Provision of Lockers	Safekeeping of PLDs if students are not using

# Parents'/Guardians' Role in the Responsible Use of the PLDs

We would like to partner parents/guardians so that students are well supported in their use of technology for learning. Materials will be sent through Parent Gateway to aid you in guiding your child.

For a start, parents/guardians can help in the following ways:

- Model good digital habits for your child/ward e.g., not using devices during family meals.
- Know your child/ward well and have conversations with your child/ward about safe and responsible use of technology.
- Discuss and come up with ground rules for internet/device usage that both your child/ward and you can agree on.
- Encourage your child/ward to use productivity tools on his/her PLD, to organise information and simplify tasks for efficiency.

# After-School DMA Parent Options

After-School DMA Parent Options provide parents with the flexibility in managing their child's/ward's use of PLD after school hours. The following tables outline the different levels of restrictions, controls, and monitoring for each DMA option after school hours.

Initially, all PLDs will be configured with the default DMA option. The school advises parents to monitor their child's usage before submitting a request to change the DMA option.

Default	Option A	Option B
<p><b>Default Setting</b> <b>(Note: This will apply if no alternative options are chosen)</b></p> <p>For parents/guardians who want their child's/ward's use of the PLD to be restricted only to teaching and learning, and prefer to leave it to the school to decide on DMA settings after school hours.</p>	<p>DMA settings can be modified by Parents/Guardians after school hours</p> <p>For parents/guardians who prefer to take charge of the level of restrictions for their child's/ward's use of the PLD after school hours regulated by the DMA.</p>	<p>DMA will be inactive after school hours<sup>1</sup></p> <p>For parents/guardians who do not want their child's/ward's use of the PLD after school hours to be regulated by the DMA at all.</p>

<sup>1</sup> No data will be collected after school hours when the DMA is inactive.

- Having default school settings continue after school hours is the best option for parents/guardians who prefer not to, or do not feel ready to manage their child's/ward's device use on their own.
- Parents/guardians can request to change their choice of DMA settings, which is the existing practice.

# After-School DMA Parent Options

While the default Only DMA Option A provides for a DMA parent account. This account allows Parents/Guardians to

- include additional web content filtering using the Jamf Parent app,
- modify the amount of screen time for their child/ward by setting the PLD sleep hours,
- determine the duration of use of specified applications.

**Parents/Guardians will not be able to track their child's/ward's web browsing history, regardless of the DMA option chosen.**

It is also not recommended to install other parental controls (e.g. Apple's Family Sharing/Screen Time) as this could result in conflicting settings between school and parent controls.

It may result in unexpected issues where some controls such as screen time restrictions may not work as intended.

	<b>Default Setting (This will apply if no Alternative Options are chosen)</b>	<b>Alternative Setting: Option A (DMA settings can be modified from the Default settings in place)</b>	<b>Alternative Setting: Option B (DMA will be inactive only after school hours)</b>
<b>Monitor students' cyber activities</b>	Parents/Guardians will not be able to track their child's/ward's web browsing history due to Apple's Privacy Policy.		
<b>Provision of Jamf Parent account</b>	x	✓	x

# Technical Support for Students' PLDs

**Technical support** will be provided to students through :

- School-based Support
  - ✓ Trouble-shooting of device issues
  - ✓ Solve connectivity issues
  - ✓ Collection of devices to be sent for repairs (loan device to be provided by the school during downtime)  
HS Online form: <https://www.hougangsec.moe.edu.sg/quick-links/hs-ict-helpdesk-form>  
Or visit the ICT team at level 3, SRC
- Distributor's Direct Support (at designated service centres)
  - ✓ Repair/Replacement of devices (hardware issues)

# Projected Timeline

Projected Timeline	Event	Remarks and Links
31 Dec 2025	Submission of application forms  Other applications	<p><i>required:</i>            Intent to Purchase PLD and Use of Edusave (go to: <a href="https://go.gov.sg/edusaveformsgso">https://go.gov.sg/edusaveformsgso</a>) – for parents without SingPass, please obtain hardcopy from general office</p> <p><i>where applicable:</i>            Application for Subsidy (See Annex G)            Application for Home Access Programme (subsidised fibre broadband, go to: <a href="http://www.digitalaccess.gov.sg">www.digitalaccess.gov.sg</a>)</p>
Jan 2026 <b>We are here.</b>	Confirmation of Order  Briefing to Parents (PMP)	Parents who had confirmed the purchase and submitted the required information will be informed. Parents choosing to use their own iPad will need to arrange to have their iPad assessed by the school for suitability.
Feb 2026	Billing and Payment	via AXS, Giro, or Cash payment to school after receiving the bill (If you are using Giro, <u>please ensure that there are sufficient funds</u> in the account for the deduction)
Mar 2026	DMA/Cyber Wellness Workshop for Parents	Optional workshop for parents who opted for Option A under DMA settings
Feb - Mar 2026	Deployment and onboarding of PLD and DMA	Date to be advised.

# Contact Details

Queries regarding PLD Initiative	Queries regarding Funding Support
<b>Mr Javen Gwee</b> HOD/ICT & Data Management <a href="mailto:javen_gwee_chen_meng@moe.edu.sg">javen_gwee_chen_meng@moe.edu.sg</a>	<b>Mr Ben Oh</b> Admin Manager <a href="mailto:oh_kwok_wan@schools.gov.sg">oh_kwok_wan@schools.gov.sg</a>
<b>Mr Charles Wong</b> SH/ICT & Data Management <a href="mailto:wong_wai_kit_charles@moe.edu.sg">wong_wai_kit_charles@moe.edu.sg</a>	
<b>General Office Tel No.</b>	
6385 1990	

Thank  
You

