Riverside Secondary School 2025 Direct School Admission Information

(For admission to Secondary One in 2026)

A. INTRODUCTION

The Direct School Admission Exercise (DSA) allows students to seek admission to Riverside Secondary School based on a range of achievements and talents.

Students who have excellent leadership skills or specific academic talents, may apply for DSA under the following talent areas:
- Leadership and Character
- Tamil Language

Students who are talented in one of the five Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) may apply for DSA under the Performing Arts, Media or STEM:

- Choir
- Concert Band
- Digital Media Club
- STEM (Robotics Club or Environmental Science Club)

Selection is based on the following:

Talent in one of the areas stipulated by the school, as evidenced by past achievements in the area of talent and a talent assessment, for shortlisted applicants. The talent assessments are:

- CCA – audition and interview
- Specific academic talent – written assessment and interview
- Leadership – interview

B. SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

DSA Main Category	DSA Talent Area	Selection Criteria	Selection Process
Leadership and Uniformed Groups	**Leadership and Character**	• Applicant must hold leadership roles, for e.g., prefects and CCA leaders, in his/her primary school, and has led school projects. The school will refer to: • School reports - Academic ability and conduct indicated in school reports and other specific teacher reports. • Any other student leadership-related records of participation and level of representation.	• Interview: in-person ➤ Assessment of attitude and aptitude
Language and Humanities	**Tamil Language**	• Applicant must be able to demonstrate strong interest and talent beyond the abilities of students in the same age group and have a history of consistent high academic achievements in **Higher** Tamil Language. The school will refer to: • School reports - Academic ability and conduct indicated in school reports and other specific teacher reports. • Accomplishment - Evidence in the form of awards or experiences in relevant contexts (e.g. competitions at national level) or any equivalent demonstration of talent.	• Interview: in-person ➤ On-site written assessment ➤ Assessment of attitude and aptitude
Performing Arts	**Choir**	• Applicant must be able to demonstrate strong interest and talent in music beyond the abilities of students in the same age group. The school will refer to: • School reports - Academic ability and conduct indicated in school reports and other specific teacher reports. • Qualification(s) in music, e.g., relevant certificates (if any). • Accomplishment - Evidence in the form of awards, performances, competitions (e.g. SYF) or experiences in relevant contexts.	• Audition and interview: in-person ➤ On-site performance assessment ➤ Demonstration of aptitude and potential ➤ Assessment of attitude and suitability
	Concert Band		

Visual Arts, Design and Media	**Media**	• Applicant must be able to demonstrate strong interest and talent in the areas of photography, videography, and media production beyond the abilities of students in the same age group. The school will refer to: • School reports - Academic ability and conduct indicated in school reports and other specific teacher reports. • Qualification(s) in photography, videography and media production, e.g., relevant certificates (if any). • Accomplishment - Evidence in the form of awards or experiences in relevant contexts (e.g. competitions, school/public showcases).	• Audition and interview: in-person ➢ On-site assessment ➢ Demonstration of aptitude and potential ➢ Assessment of attitude and suitability
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	**STEM**	• Applicant must be able to demonstrate strong interest and talent in an area of STEM (e.g. robotics/programming, Math and Science), beyond the abilities of students in the same age group. The school will refer to: • School reports - Academic ability and conduct indicated in school reports and other specific teacher reports. • Qualification(s) in robotics/programming (Lego EV3, Mindstorms, Spike Prime), e.g., relevant certificates (if any). • Accomplishment - Evidence in the form of awards or experiences in relevant contexts such as STEM competitions or projects in school/external events (if any).	• Audition and interview: in-person ➢ On-site assessment ➢ Demonstration of aptitude and potential ➢ Assessment of attitude and suitability

Please note that meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/given an offer.

Applicants who do not have prior experience may also apply. The school will assess applicants based on the selection criteria, which may include assessing the potential of the applicants.

You will receive notification from the school by 18 Jul 2025, if your child has been shortlisted to undergo Direct School Admission (DSA) selection. All applicants will receive their application outcomes between 25 Aug and 4 Sep 2025.

C. APPLICATION PROCESS

Stage	Process

Application
 	
**(7 May 2025, 11am -
3 Jun 2025, 3pm)**
	• Application period is from **7 May 2025, 11am - 3 Jun 2025, 3pm.**
	
	• Apply through the online DSA-Sec Portal.
	
	• Eligibility
	  i. **Applicants from MOE mainstream primary schools**: Parent may log in directly to DSA-Sec Portal. Only one parent's Singpass is required. Parents/ guardians who are unable to apply online can approach their child's primary school for assistance.
	
	  ii. **Other applicants <u>not</u> studying in MOE mainstream primary schools**: Students need to apply for a Registration Number (RGxxxxxxx) to access the DSA-Sec Portal. Please refer to MOE website at: <u>https://go.gov.sg/nmsdsa-sec-application</u>.
	
	• All shortlisted International Students who are <u>**not**</u> taking PSLE are required to take and fulfil the requirements of the Admissions Exercise for International Students test to be successful in DSA.
	
	• **Choices.** Students can indicate up to three choices (maximum of two choices for the same school under two different talent areas).
	
	• Shortlisted applicants will be notified via email on the details of their audition and interview by **18 Jul 2025**. Applicants who are not shortlisted will also be informed via email that they are unsuccessful in their application.

Auditions / Interviews **(23 Jul - 7 Aug 2025)**	• Interview panel would be looking out for: - For Performing Arts / Media, candidates are expected to demonstrate their chosen arts ability / potential during the audition. Candidates are also expected to share their Performing Arts / Media experiences during the interview. - For Tamil Language, each shortlisted candidate will submit a written work. Candidates are also expected to demonstrate their competencies in the Tamil Language through an interview discussion component. - For Leadership and Character, the focus of the interview is to ascertain candidates' motivation and leadership dispositions as well as to look out for social-emotional competencies.

	• Interview panel would also be looking for evidence of positive attitude and commitment through conversations with the candidate. • Applicants who do not attend auditions / interviews **without** informing the school prior, will forfeit their places and be disqualified.
Result Notification **(25 Aug - 4 Sep 2025)**	Candidates will be notified via **email** if they have been: • given a Confirmed Offer <u>or</u> • put on the Waiting List <u>or</u> • if the school is unable to offer them a place

D. IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. Parents and students are encouraged to choose schools wisely based on the student's aptitudes and strengths, bearing in mind the schools' academic and non-academic requirements, and the programmes available to develop the area of talent.

2. Students who are successfully admitted to the school via DSA are expected to honour their commitment to the school, and participate in the activities related to the talent they are selected for from year 1-4.

3. If he/she is admitted based on a CCA, **no change** of CCA is allowed unless there are medical reasons certified by a doctor.

E. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

1. For further information or clarification, please contact:

S/N	Name	Contact
1	Mdm Rekha d/o Veliappan	rekha_veliappan@schools.gov.sg
2	Miss Cheoh Pin	cheoh_pin@schools.gov.sg

2. Application for DSA-Sec can be submitted through the online DSA-Sec Portal. The application is free-of-charge and will be open from **7 May 2025, 11am to 3 Jun 2025, 3pm**. For more details, please refer to MOE website - www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec.

DSA Timeline:

Event	Date
DSA Application	7 May 2025, 11am - 3 Jun 2025, 3pm
Shortlisting Applicants will be notified via email.	By 18 Jul 2025
Selection Auditions / interviews for short-listed applicants.	23 Jul 2025 - 7 Aug 2025
Selection Outcome Audition / interview results will be notified to applicants via email.	25 Aug - 4 Sep 2025
School Preference Submission	End Oct 2025
DSA Allocation Outcome	End Nov 2025

*The school reserves the right <u>NOT</u> to release the reasons for non-selection of applicants and/or the results of the auditions, trials, written tests and interviews.