

Primary 5 and 6 Parent Engagement 2023 - Frequent Asked Questions

DSA and PSLE Matters

Q:

What is DSA, how does it work and will support be given to my child should he/she be selected to go for an interview/ trial?

A:

Direct School Admission for secondary schools (DSA-Sec) allows students to apply to some schools before taking the PSLE. Students apply based on their talent in sports, CCAs and specific academic areas.

If your child is admitted to a secondary school through DSA-Sec, they are not allowed to:

- Submit school choices during the Secondary 1 (S1) posting process.
- Transfer to another school. They must commit to their chosen school for the duration of the programme.

Primary 6 students can apply for DSA-Sec based on a wide-range of talents, including:

- Sports and games
- Visual, literary and performing arts
- Debate and public speaking
- Science, mathematics and engineering
- Languages and humanities
- Uniformed groups
- Leadership (for example, prefects)

Application for DSA is to be done by parents via the DSA-Sec portal (<https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa/application>)

The secondary schools which your child have applied to via DSA will contact you directly should your child be selected to go for an interview or trial. Your child can approach their respective CCA teachers or FTs about the interview/ trial. The school can then support in preparing your child for the interview/trial where possible or necessary.

For timeline and other information on DSA, please visit <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa>.

Q:

With the new PSLE scoring system, how can my child use Higher Mother Tongue Language (Chinese) for admission into Special Assistance Plan (SAP) Schools?

A:

Students who obtain a Distinction / Merit / Pass in Higher Chinese Language and a PSLE Score of 14 or better are eligible for posting advantage to Special Assistance Plan (SAP) schools. Students are prioritized according to their performance in Higher Chinese Language. If multiple

students with the same PSLE Score apply for places in the same SAP school, those with better Higher Chinese Language grades [in the order of Distinction (D), Merit (M) and Pass (P)] will be allocated a place ahead of other students. This applies before the tie-breakers for S1 Posting.

For instance, students with the lowest AL scores will be posted first. The student with higher AL scores will only be posted after all the students with lower AL scores are posted. In the case of tie-breakers where students have the same AL scores, students with a better grade (e.g.: Distinction/Merit) in Higher Chinese Language will be given priority for admission to SAP schools via the Secondary 1 Posting.

Supporting Learning

Q:

With the removal of mid-year examinations for Primary 5 and 6, what can I do and what are the various steps taken by the school to help my child prepare for the national exams?

A:

One of the key changes in Primary 5 and Primary 6 is the removal of mid-year examinations. This is in line with MOE's initiative to reduce emphasis on examinations. With the removal of mid-year examinations, Teachers can now use the time to better pace and deepen student's learning.

To monitor our students' learning, school will continue to support and report students' learning through Weighted Assessments. Weight Assessments serve as formative assessments to provide updates and information on your child's progress and learning. It should NOT be used as a gauge to compare your child's performance against their peers. Parents should focus on improvement and progress rather than scores/ marks. Weighted Assessments will be conducted in class during curriculum time.

In addition to Weighted Assessments, daily homework assigned by teachers serve as important exercises to develop your child's concentration and tenacity to complete their work. Parents can support by ensuring your child completes their daily work and submit them on time. Parents can also routinised such activities to build rigour and help your child be more time-sensitive when working on the work assigned by your child's teachers.

Q:

Will there be any remedial or supplementary classes for students to prepare them for the PSLE?

A:

Currently, remedial classes are arranged for selected students after school. If your child is deemed to require extra support through after-school remediation, parents will be informed via PG by the subject teachers. Parents are to note that the school's remediation class is not a one-size fits all programme and not all students require the additional support. The

remediation programme is catered to the profile of the students who are attending it and therefore is only open to students based on needs.

The school also conducts supplementary classes for P6 students to prepare them for the coming PSLE. Parents are to note the dates of these classes:

- 22nd – 23rd June 2023
- 7th – 8th September 2023

Q:

Besides Koobits and SLS, are there other recommended websites that my child can visit to encourage self-directed learning?

A:

English

➤ An application that is supported National Library Board (NLB) for students to borrow digital/ audio books and boost the love of reading and the language.

<https://libbyapp.com>

Mathematics

➤ The main platform subscribed to by the school to boost skills and confidence in Mathematics. All students in Rivervale Primary School can access this website.

<https://www.koobits.com/>

Science

➤ A website created by science teachers of Rivervale Primary School that pools together learning resources created both in-house and from external sources.

<https://rivervalescience.wixsite.com/2020>

Mother Tongue

➤ Online platforms/applications to boost reading, comprehension, and oral skills in Mother Tongue Languages (Chinese, Malay, Tamil).

- Chinese (subscribed by school):
<https://www.zbschools.sg>
<https://www.ezhishi.net>
- Malay (applications):
 - Pintar Peribahasa
 - Cerita Rakyat Nusantara
- Tamil (subscribed by school for P6 only):
<https://pazhahutamil.com/login/index.php>

Student Well-Being

Q:

Given P5 and 6 are critical years, how can we help to manage the stress faced by our children and at the same time, motivate them to do their best?

Parents at home can constantly check in with your children and have frequent conversations about how they feel so that they are able to communicate their emotions when the need arises. Parents should ensure that conversations do not only revolve around homework or grades but also about your children's interests, problems or challenges, and their emotions. Parents can also explain how you deal with your problems and encourage them to find ways that work for them.

Parents can refer to the following MOE resources on supporting your child's mental well-being:

- <https://www.schoolbag.edu.sg/story/signs-that-your-child-may-be-too-stressed>
- <https://www.schoolbag.edu.sg/story/5-questions-to-ask-your-kids-over-dinner>
- <https://www.schoolbag.edu.sg/story/5-practical-tips-on-setting-realistic-parenting-expectations>
- <https://www.schoolbag.edu.sg/story/helicopter-parenting>
- <https://www.schoolbag.edu.sg/story/recognising-and-talking-about-stress>

To develop students' innate motivation to learn, the school adopts the Growth Mindset. Growth Mindset focuses on the importance of embracing challenges, persisting in the face of obstacles and learning from mistakes. It is the belief that with practise, perseverance and effort, our students have limitless potential to learn and grow. By changing the way our students think, we can change the way they learn.

Parent at home can also help to cultivate a Growth Mindset by focusing on the process. For example, parents can praise their children for all the effort and studying they did if they do well in a test. If your child did not do well, you can also motivate them by encouraging them to use this opportunity to learn from their mistakes and let them know how they can try again and improve next time. Students feel motivated if they believe that EVERYONE CAN LEARN as long as they put in the time and effort and that they are not limited by their own ability or background.

For more on Growth Mindset:

TED TALK: The Power of Believing that You Can Improve – Carol Dweck

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0mgOOSpLU>

Three Ways Parents Can Instill a Growth Mindset

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrdKuDGQEoQ>

Q:

What is the school's stand on bullying and what are the consequences if one is found to be bullying another student?

A:

The school does not condone any form of bullying or hurtful behaviour towards an individual. The school has a strict discipline policy to manage such behaviour including verbal warnings, counseling of the relevant parties, and/or conference with parents of relevant parties depending on severity and number of offences.

To repair and rebuild relationships caused to others as a result of an individual's actions, the school Disciplinary Committee adopts Restorative Practice (RP) as a whole school approach to build behaviour that is supportive and respectful. This approach helps individuals to be accountable for their behaviour and resolve disagreements to strengthen relationships.

Please refer to the 2023 school handbook (Pg. 12 – 14) on the school's discipline policies.