

Seng Kang Primary School

P4 Subject-based Banding (SBB) Briefing on 30 May 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
My child does not take Mother Tongue in school. Will this disadvantage the child?	For students who are exempted from MTL, the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) scoring system will assign them a Mother Tongue score to ensure they have a total PSLE score comprising four subjects. This assigned score is derived based on the student's performance in other subjects. https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/psle-fsbb/psle/new-psle-scoring-system.html
Are students at a disadvantage if they choose to take a subject at the foundation level?	<p>The MOE's Subject-Based Banding (SBB) approach allows students to take subjects at levels that match their ability and readiness. Foundation level subjects are designed to help students build strong fundamentals and better prepare them for progression to secondary school.</p> <p>However, if a student can take a subject at the Standard level, it will allow the student to access a higher possible Achievement Levels (ALs) which in turn can result in a better overall PSLE score. Higher PSLE scores expand options for students to enter schools that may require lower entry scores.</p>
Can a child still opt for DSA if he/she takes a foundation subject?	Yes, students taking Foundation level subjects can still apply for Direct School Admission to secondary schools. The DSA-Sec allows Primary 6 students to seek admission based on talents in areas like sports, arts, leadership, and specific academic domains. Admission through DSA is based on the student's aptitude and potential in the chosen area, not solely on academic grades. However, it's important to note that students admitted via DSA must still meet the school's academic requirements for the relevant Posting Group.
Why is 2S2F with foundation subjects in English and Science not offered?	English Language is fundamental to learning across all subjects, and Science requires a certain level of language proficiency to grasp complex concepts. Therefore, schools may recommend students to take EL at the Standard level to ensure they can effectively access the curriculum in other subjects, including Science.

	In addition, in the long term, students should also acquire a strong command of the English Language to facilitate the movement to the secondary school and beyond.
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