



## **School Policy – Subject-Based Banding**

### **Background information**

In line with MOE's philosophy of ability-driven education, the Subject Based Banding (SBB) policy change has been implemented to allow schools greater flexibility to provide a more customised and differentiated learning experience for the primary level students. Under Subject Based Banding, P5 and P6 students can take a mix of Standard or Foundation subjects, depending on their overall ability as well as their aptitude in each subject. The intent for Subject-Based Banding is to achieve ability-driven education, allow students to offer subjects at the highest level that they can benefit from and provide students with strong foundation in literacy and numeracy for successful progression beyond primary schools.

### **What is the difference between a standard subject and the corresponding foundation subject?**

Foundation Subjects put focus on the mastery of core content and skills, and are pitched at a lower level as compared to the corresponding standard subject. Students sit for different PSLE papers for Standard Subjects and the corresponding Foundation Subjects.

### **Studying of Higher Mother Tongue Language**

The top 30% of the PSLE cohort who take up Higher Chinese at the PSLE will be given bonus points for admission to \*SAP (Special Assistance Plan) secondary schools according to the following table:

<b>Higher Chinese Grade</b>	<b>Bonus Point</b>
Distinction	3
Merit	2
Pass	1

\*SAP schools nurture students to be proficient in both English Language and Chinese Language, and to have a good understanding and appreciation of the Chinese Culture)

The studying of Higher Mother Tongue Language may also strengthen the child's preparation for Mother Tongue Language Paper. However, HMTL score does not count towards PSLE Aggregate score for secondary school placement.

The school considers the following factors when offering standard and foundation subjects to pupils:

- ✓ Student's overall performance in all subjects
- ✓ Student's aptitude, ability and motivation for each subject
- ✓ Equipping of students with a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy to prepare students for enhanced long term options in the future

<b>School's Subject Based Banding Policy P4 to P5 (Parental option allowed)</b>	
<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Action</b>
SA2 overall subject marks $\geq 20$ marks	Assign standard subject (EMS)
SA2 overall subject marks $\geq 25$ marks	Assign standard subject (MTL)
SA2 overall MT mark $\geq 80$ Overall Performance of MT for the past 3 years $\geq 85$ At least a Band 2 for all the other subjects	Assign HMT

<b>School's Subject Based Banding Policy P5 to P6 (Parental option NOT allowed)</b>	
<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Action</b>
SA2 overall subject marks $\geq 20$ marks	Continue with the standard subject (EMS) at P6
SA2 overall subject marks $\geq 25$ marks	Continue with standard subject MTL at P6
Overall MT score $\geq 80$ Overall HMT score $\geq 65$ (minimum for Merit grade) Overall EMS score $\geq 60$ (minimum for B grade)	Continue with HMT at P6