

Every child is unique, and has different aptitudes, capabilities and talents. Our schools believe in providing a balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child so that we can prepare him for life.

Subject-based Banding (Pri) was introduced as a refinement to the streaming process to help each child realise his potential, based on his strengths and needs.

WHAT IS SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRI)?

Subject-based Banding (Pri) provides greater flexibility for your child by offering him the option of a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his strengths. For example, if he excels in English and Mother Tongue but needs more support in Mathematics and Science, he may choose to take the first two subjects at the standard level and the others at the foundation level.

Such a choice will allow your child to focus on and stretch his potential in the subjects that he is strong in while building up the fundamentals in the subjects that he needs more support in.

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRI) AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION: HOW ARE THEY RELATED?

Progression to secondary level depends on your child's PSLE score. The different expectations of standard and foundation subjects will be taken into account when your child's PSLE score is calculated. If he excels in his subjects, he will have the opportunity to pursue higher-level options at secondary school.

Offering subjects at the foundation level is not a disadvantage to your child. It enables him to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepares him for progression to secondary school.



HOW DOES SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRI) WORK?

@ PRIMARY 4

Student sits for school-based examinations

School recommends a subject combination based on the student's results.

Parents fill up an option form indicating the preferred combination.

@ PRIMARY 5

Student takes subject combination chosen by parents

English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Language are available at standard and foundation levels.

Higher Mother Tongue Language is also available.

School assesses student's ability to cope with the current subject combination at the end of the year. Adjustments to the number of standard and foundation subjects can be made, if necessary.

@ PRIMARY 6

Student takes subject combination decided by his school and sits for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) at the end of Primary 6.

P4 SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT

- **Exam format and marking scheme follow guidelines given by Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board (SEAB)**
- **Grading System:**
 - **Band 1 85 marks & above**
 - **Band 2 70 – 84 marks**
 - **Band 3 50 – 69 marks**
 - **Band 4 below 49 marks**

SCHOOL'S RECOMMENDATION AT THE END OF P4

Pupils who

- **score below 23 marks in a subject**

AND

- **are generally weak in 2 or more subjects**

will be recommended to take

Foundation subject(s)

SCHOOL'S RECOMMENDATION AT THE END OF P4

Pupils who score

- **Band 1 in Mother Tongue Language**
AND
- **Band 1 in English, Mathematics and at least Band 2 in Science**

will be recommended to take

Higher Mother Tongue

SCHOOL'S RECOMMENDATION AT THE END OF P4

- Parental option to take Higher MT in P5 at the end of P4
- To continue to do Higher MT in P6, pupils will need to meet school's criteria i.e. they must obtain at least B in MT and pass in Higher MT at P5

FOUNDATION **VS** STANDARD SUBJECTS

- Different syllabus e.g. Foundation Mother Tongue focuses on oral components
- Different examination paper

Higher Mother Tongue (MT) **vs** Standard MT

- Two extra examination papers (over and above the Standard MT papers – Composition & Language Use)

Comparison of Number of Periods

	Standard	Foundation	Higher MTL
English	13	P5 – 15 <i>(2 outside curriculum time)</i>	
		P6 - 15	
Mother Tongue	8	8	10 <i>(2 outside curriculum time)</i>
Maths	10	P5 – 12 <i>(2 outside curriculum time)</i>	
		P6 - 12	
Science	5	5	

Note: Girls exempted from MTL will still need to attend 3 periods of Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) lessons conducted in English.

PARENTAL OPTION - KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Foundation Subjects (FS) are less demanding.

- Only opt for FS if your child faces difficulties in 2 or more subjects.
- Pupils are not encouraged to offer Foundation English as literacy is a basic skill and is needed for them to cope with all other subjects.
- Pupils should only offer Foundation Maths if they are very weak in 2 or more subjects as it is critical to build a strong foundation in numeracy at primary school to enhance their long-term options.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS NORMALLY OFFERED

- **4S (majority)**
- **4S + Higher Mother Tongue**
- **3S + 1F (Mother Tongue)**
- **2S + 2F (combination of Maths / Science / MT)**
- **4F (English/ Maths / Science / MT)**

S = Standard

F = Foundation

OPTING FOR SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

- **Parental Option Forms will be given to all pupils together with their report books in Term 4.**
- **Do return option forms promptly so that we can start working on class allocation.**