

Briefing for P4 Parents on **Subject-Based Banding (SBB)**

6 February 2017



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What is Subject-Based Banding?



Subject-Based Banding

- Replaced merged and EM3 stream in Primary 5 and 6
- Further refines the way ability-driven education is delivered in primary schools
- More flexibility for pupils to develop their strengths and abilities in the subjects they are particularly good at



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Primary 5 &
6 Curriculum



Primary 5 & 6 Curriculum

- Core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue* in either standard or foundation level
- Common subjects (not classified by standard or foundation): Social Studies, Character and Citizenship Education (CCE), Art & Craft, Physical Education (PE), Health Education, Form Teacher Guidance Period (FTGP)

*Unless exempted or granted permission to take an alternative language by MOE



Comparison of Standard & Foundation Subjects

- Number of periods:

Subject	Periods/Week	
	Standard	Foundation*
English	12	14
Mathematics	10	12
Science	5	5
Mother Tongue	9	5

*With effect from 2014



Comparison of Standard & Foundation Subjects

- Curriculum:
 - Foundation subject is pitched at a lower level compared to the same subject at standard level, i.e. it may cover fewer topics than standard subject or the concepts covered is not as in-depth
 - ❖ P5-6 standard Math syllabus is an extension of the concepts learnt in P1-4 syllabus
 - P5-6 foundation Math syllabus re-visits the important concepts and skills taught in P1-4 and introduces only a portion of the new concepts taught at standard level



Comparison of Standard & Foundation Subjects

Pupils taking 4 standard subjects have the same number of periods as pupils taking 4 foundation subjects.

4 Standard Subjects	Periods / Week
EL (S)	12
Math (S)	10
SC (S)	5
MTL (S)	9
TOTAL	36

4 Foundation Subjects	Periods / Week
EL (F)	14
Math (F)	12
SC (F)	5
MTL (F)	5
TOTAL	36

Same

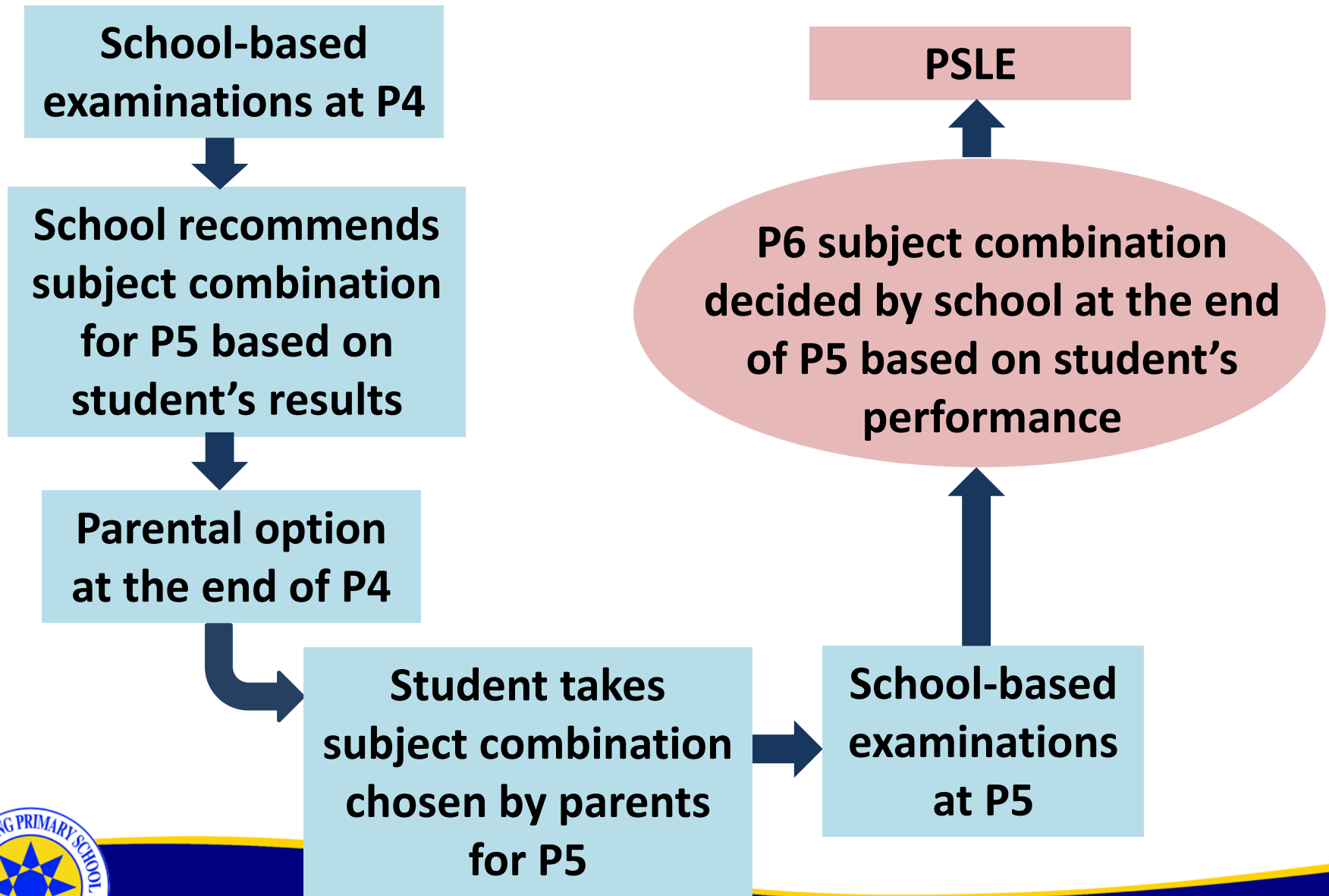


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Process Flow
for SBB



Process Flow

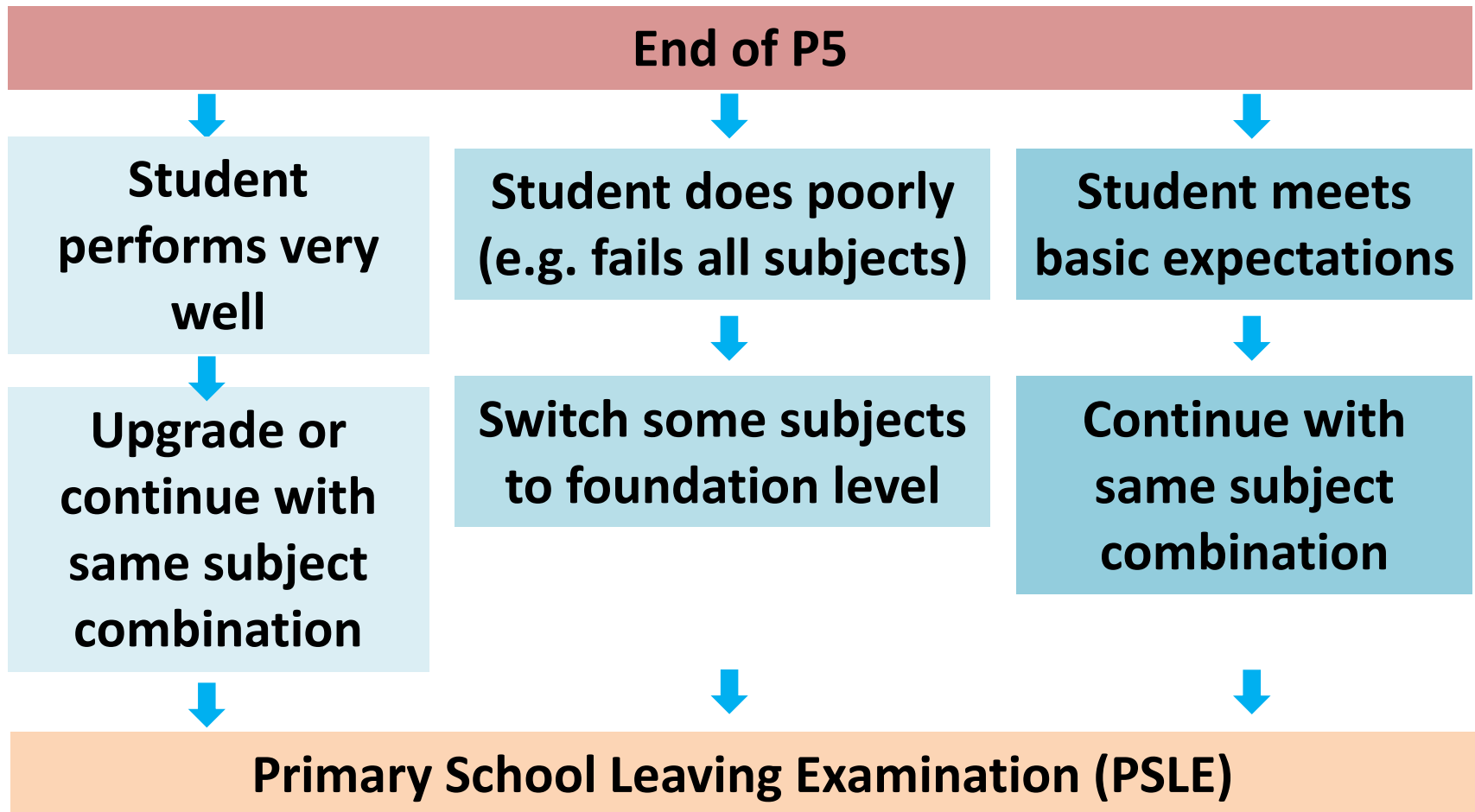


School's Consideration and Recommendation (at P4)

Pupil's P4 results	Recommended P5 subject combination
Obtains Band 1 in all 4 subjects (EL, MA, SC & MTL)	→ 4 standard subjects + Higher MTL
Passes all 4 subjects	→ 4 standard subjects
Passes 3 subjects	→ 4 standard subjects
Passes 2 subjects or less	<p>→ 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject; OR*</p> <p>→ 2 standard subjects + 2 other foundation subjects; OR*</p> <p>→ 1 standard subject + 3 other foundation subjects; OR*</p> <p>→ 4 foundation subjects</p> <p>(Recommendation takes into consideration the performance of each subject)</p> <p><i>*Depending on the actual performance in each subject</i></p>



School's Consideration and Recommendation (at P5)



Guidelines for “Upgrade”

- Options for student who performs very well* in foundation subjects at the end of P5:
 - Re-take P5 with upgrade of 3 or 4 foundation subjects to standard level; or
 - Proceed to P6 with upgrade of 1 or 2 foundation subject(s) to standard level

*Pupil scores an overall grade of at least Grade 1 or 85% at foundation level.

[The foundation syllabus covers fewer topics & depth compared to the standard syllabus.]



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**Subject
Combination
at P5**



Choices of Subject Combination

- 4 standard subjects + HMTL
- 4 standard subjects
- 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject
- 2 standard subjects + 2 other foundation subjects
- 1 standard subject + 3 other foundation subjects
- 4 foundation subjects



Subject Combinations Offered in P5

- The subject combinations we offer for P5 this year are:
 - 4 Standard subjects + HMT
 - 4 Standard subjects
 - 3 Standard subjects (EL, SC & MTL) + 1 Foundation subject (Mathematics)
 - 2 Standard subjects (EL and MTL) + 2 Foundation subjects (F SC and F MA)
 - 4 Foundation subjects



Subject Combinations Offered

- School may not be able to offer all possible subject combinations
- Considerations:
 - Number of students selecting that particular subject combination
 - Availability of teachers and facilities
- Students taking different subject combinations may be placed in the same class



Students in some subject combinations may have to attend classes after school.

Example 1:

4 Standard Subjects	Periods / Week
EL (S)	12
Math (S)	10
SC (S)	5
MTL (S)	9
TOTAL	36

Combination	Periods / Week
EL (S)	12
Math (F)	12
SC (F)	5
MTL (S)	9
TOTAL	38

Not the same

Teacher will conduct 2 periods of Foundation Math for students affected after school.



Students in some subject combinations have to stay in class while other students are having (standard/foundation) lessons.

Example 2:

4 Foundation Subjects	Periods / Week
EL (F)	14
Math (F)	12
SC (F)	5
MTL (F)	5
TOTAL	36

Combination	Periods / Week
EL (S)	12
Math (F)	12
SC (F)	5
MTL (F)	5
TOTAL	34

Not the same

Students will attend standard English with another class and stay in their own class for 2 periods while their classmates have EL(F) lessons.



Content



Considerations
when exercising
option



PSLE Scoring

- The PSLE score takes into account the
 - content and demand of each subject; and
 - number of subjects taken
- *Scores in foundation subjects will carry **lower weighting** compared to standard subjects*
(i.e. 100 marks in Foundation Math is NOT equal to 100 marks in Standard Math. So a pupil scoring 100 in Foundation Math is likely to obtain an aggregate score lower than a pupil scoring 100 in Standard Math.)
- HMT is not included in the calculation of PSLE aggregate scores
- Posting to secondary schools is based solely on PSLE aggregate scores



General Information on HMTL

- Students who choose to do HMTL will sit for two separate papers, one MTL and the other HMTL paper during school examinations.
- HMTL has no bearing on the PSLE aggregate score. The MTL marks will be computed in the T-score and the HMTL marks will be graded as 'Distinction', 'Merit' or 'Pass' or 'Ungraded'.



General information on HMTL

- A student with HMTL at PSLE does not automatically qualify for HMTL at Secondary 1. The option to do HMTL at Secondary 1 is given only to pupils who meet the criteria based on their PSLE results.

Criteria for Secondary 1 HMTL:

Top 10% of PSLE cohort

Top 11% - 30% band in the PSLE with grade A* in MTL or at least a Merit in HMTL.

- A student who does not do HMTL at PSLE can still do the HMTL at Secondary 1 if she meets the criteria for Secondary 1 HMTL.



Expectations of HMTL

- Higher requirement of self discipline and independent learning
- Greater commitment
 - Extra HMTL lessons are conducted in the afternoon.



Dropping of HMTL

- Dropping of HMTL will only be allowed after P5 SA1 or SA2, subject to approval. Parents will need to write to the school formally for the option to be considered.



Important Considerations

- Can my child cope with HMT?
- How will HMT help my child achieve his/her aspirations?
- What are my child's strengths?
- How will the subject combination advantage / disadvantage my child?



Content



Q & A



Let's Help Our Children Realise Their Potential Together

**Appreciate if you could hand
the survey form to your child's
teacher before you leave.**

Thank You

