April 2016

Dear Parent

Information on 2016 Direct School Admission – Secondary (DSA-Sec) Exercise

The Direct School Admission – Secondary (DSA–Sec) Exercise is one of the two avenues for admission to Secondary One (S1), the other being the S1 Posting Exercise. The DSA-Sec Exercise is one route which allows our students to develop areas of their interest and talent better. The DSA selection process is stringent, with clear mutual commitment and obligations. In this respect, parents in discussion with their children are to consider carefully before participating in the DSA. A place in the DSA school will be reserved for the student as long as the student meets the stream eligibility of the school. The Ministry of Education (MOE) expects that the student will commit to the school and hold their part of the obligation. The act of honouring a commitment made is one important value we hope to impart to all our students. Parents and students are required to read the detailed information on the DSA scheme and requirements available on the MOE website.

What is DSA–Sec Exercise?

The DSA-Sec Exercise was introduced in 2004 to promote holistic education. It gives participating schools greater flexibility in student admissions, while holding on to the key principles of transparency and meritocracy. Under this exercise, your child’s talents and achievements, in both academic and non-academic areas, can be considered for S1 admission. Each participating school sets its own criteria for selection, based on the academic and/or non-academic areas that the school would like to emphasise.

How is the DSA–Sec Exercise conducted?

The DSA-Sec Exercise will be conducted in three stages between July and late November. The three stages are:

a. Selection Stage (tentatively from July to August)
b. Exercise School Preference Stage (tentatively in late October)
c. Results Release Stage (tentatively in late November)

Selection Stage

During the Selection Stage, participating DSA-Sec schools will conduct assessment sessions, which may include trials, interviews or tests.

DSA-Sec schools have their specific schedules for application and selection. You should check the detailed schedule from schools’ websites or contact the schools directly before the Selection Stage. Please consider carefully and discuss with your child on their strengths and interests. This will allow you to choose which school best caters to your child’s needs, before you commit your child to participate in tests or trials conducted by the school.

The DSA-Sec schools that you applied for your child, will inform you of your application outcome at the end of the Selection Stage - given a “Confirmed Offer” or placed on Waiting List or unsuccessful.

Exercise School Preference Stage

If your child has been given a “Confirmed Offer” and/or placed on the Waiting List of any school, you should receive a School Preference Form from your child’s primary school tentatively in late October. The School Preference Form will clearly list the schools that have given your child a Confirmed Offer and/or placed your child on the Waiting List.
During the Exercise School Preference Stage tentatively in late October, you may select up to three schools for your child in the order of preference from among the schools listed in the School Preference Form. You can do so online via the DSA-Sec Internet System or submit the form physically at your child’s primary school.

If you select a school which has given your child a Confirmed Offer, a place in the school will be guaranteed, provided your child’s PSLE results qualifies for an academic course (e.g. Express) offered by the school. If you select a school that has placed your child on its Waiting List, your child will be given a place in the school when vacancies arise due to other students giving up their confirmed places during the Exercise School Preference Stage and qualify for an academic course offered by the school (e.g. Express) based on the PSLE results. Past data showed that on average, 50% of those students who selected the school that has placed them on its Waiting List were successfully allocated a place in the school.

If you have accepted the offer from Singapore Sports School (SSP) for your child, you should NOT exercise any school preference during the DSA Exercise School Preference Stage. You should continue to take part in the S1 Posting Exercise. If you do exercise your school preference during the DSA Exercise School Preference Stage, your earlier SSP offer for your child will be void.

**Results Release Stage**

You will be informed of your child’s DSA-Sec school allocation results on the same day as the release of the PSLE results in late November. If your child is successful in the DSA-Sec application, the school that is allocated to your child will be indicated on the S1 Option Form.

As a place in the DSA-Sec school has already been reserved for you, your child will NOT be eligible to participate in the S1 Posting Exercise to opt for secondary schools. Your child is also NOT allowed to transfer to another school after the release of the PSLE results. They are expected to honour the commitment to the posted DSA school for the duration of the programme admitted to. Similarly, successful SSP DSA students are not allowed to transfer to another school, other than their posted secondary school provided to them under the S1 Posting Exercise.

If your child is unsuccessful in the DSA-Sec application, a S1 Option Form will be provided for your child to participate in the S1 Posting Exercise. You may opt for schools that did not offer your child a place under the DSA-Sec Exercise, since only a certain percentage of places in these schools were for the DSA-Sec Exercise.

**Where else can I find out more about DSA–Sec Exercise?**

The DSA-Sec selection criteria of each participating school are available in the respective school websites.

MOE will announce the commencement of the DSA-Sec Exercise via press release in May 2016. Following the announcement, you should refer to the MOE website at [www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/direct-admissions/dsa-sec](http://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/direct-admissions/dsa-sec) for information on participating secondary schools and exact dates for this year’s exercise. If your child does not participate in the DSA-Sec Exercise, they should participate in the S1 Posting Exercise that is conducted immediately after the release of PSLE results.

Thank you.

Pupil Placement Section
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