

Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary)
Principal's Dialogue with Parents of Secondary 1 Students 2022
FAQs

General Transition
1. How do I prepare my child for the transition from primary school to secondary school?
Will be answered during P's Dialogue

Class Allocation
2. How are the students grouped in the Secondary 1 classes? Is it random or by a banding system?
Students are evenly distributed across the five Express classes in the Secondary 1 level.

Overall Academic
3. Is there any change of syllabus for 2022?
There is no change in syllabus from 2021 to 2022. However, for the various subjects, there might have been a change of syllabus in the recent years before 2021. For more specific information, parents can enquire with their child's subject teachers directly.
4. If my child would like to opt in for HCL, how does it work? Will she need to attend lessons outside of her curriculum time?
Students who display strong aptitude in CL will be given an opportunity to sit for a HCL Entry Test at the end of the year. Students need to score at least 75% for CL, at least 70% average for the End-of-Year examination to be eligible to sit for the entry test.
5. Is it feasible to have Tamil lessons class arrangement in school as part of the curriculum?
We recognise the challenges faced by students to travel to the Tamil Language Centre after school for lessons. However, we do not have the manpower and resources to run the Tamil language classes in school at the moment.

SBB
6. How is SBB carried out?
For Sec 1 2022, SBB for the NA class and the NT class for English Language, Mathematics and Science is carried out via a 'pull-out' arrangement where the SBB students will move to a different venue for their SBB lesson. For Mother Tongue, students are banded. The SBB students in NA taking Exp Mother Tongue will join the Express students, while the SBB students in NT taking NA Mother Tongue will join the NA class.
7. Is SBB offered to 1NA? How can my son benefit?
SBB is offered to Sec 1NA students. If the child is strong in the subject, the child may benefit by being stretched further at a higher level. The child will be doing the subject at an Express level, if he is from the NA stream.
8. If student is offered SBB at Sec 1, is the child required to take the subject at N Levels or O Levels?
If the child is offered SBB at Sec 1 level, at the end of Sec 2, the child may continue in Upper Secondary. However, the child must at least pass the SBB subject at Sec 2 and meet the overall promotion criteria for him/her to continue in Upper Sec. If the child does not fare well in the subject at the end of Sec 2, the child will revert back to the subject in his/her stream. At the end of Sec 3, if the child is not able to cope with the higher stream subject, the subject teacher/form teacher will recommend that the child revert back to the subject in his/her stream. If the child can cope at the end of Secondary 3, the school will sign the child up for national examination in that higher stream subject in Secondary 4.

Lateral Transfer
9. What is the criteria for lateral transfer from NA to Exp?
In order to qualify for a lateral transfer from NA to Express, the student must be strong in overall performance and be strongly recommended by his / her teachers.
10. What is the criteria for lateral transfer from NT to NA?
In order to qualify for a lateral transfer from NT to NA, the student must be strong in overall performance and be strongly recommended by his / her teachers.
11. Is the opportunity for lateral transfer until the end of Secondary 2?
Yes. For Sec 2NA, the student can be laterally transferred to Sec 3Exp. For Sec 2NT, the student can be laterally transferred to Sec 2NA.

Streaming
12. Is there any streaming during the 4 years?
Throughout the year, there will be bite-sized Weighted Assessments, and an End-of-Year Examination, to assess the suitability of the student to continue in their current stream. For Sec 2 and 4, there will be a Mid-Year Examination. At the end of the year, students who cannot meet the promotional criteria will be asked to either change to another less demanding stream, or to be retained for another year.
13. What are the subject combinations offered at Upper Secondary?
For Express, the choices for the 2021 Sec 2 students were: (1) Triple Science with compulsory Geog/Hist Humanities Elective, EL, MT, A Math, Math (2) Double Science (Physics and Chemistry) with double Humanities (Geog/Hist Humanities Elective and Pure Geography or Literature); EL, MT, A Math, Math (3) Double Science (Biology and Chemistry) with double Humanities (Geog/Hist Humanities Elective and Pure Geography or Literature); EL, MT, A Math, Math (4) Combined Science (Phy/Chem) with A Math or Literature, and Geography or Biology; EL, MT, Math, Geog/Hist Humanities Elective This last course is more suitable for students who are more Humanities inclined. For students in the Express streams who wish to take coursework subjects, the coursework subjects will be offered in replacement of any of the A Math, Science or Pure Humanities subjects, and to be taken outside curriculum time. For students in N(A) stream, there will be a choice in terms of coursework subjects (i.e. Design and Technology, or Food and Nutrition), and for the Humanities Elective (Geography or History). For students in N(T) stream, there will be a choice in terms of coursework subjects (i.e. Design and Technology, or Food Studies). The confirmed subject combination for the 2022 Sec 1 students will be briefed to the students when they are in Sec 2 in 2023.

CCA
14. When does CCA start?
CCA begins after Chinese New Year, on 4 Feb.
15. If student is not able to get CCA of his / her choice, is there a waiting list?
Based on past CCA selection exercises, students will get one of their 6 choices.
16. How many CCAs are students required to have?

Students are required to have one CCA, but can also apply for a second CCA, Journalism or Christian Fellowship, if both CCAs do not clash in timing.

17. Is there any open house or orientation for CCA?

There is a virtual CCA Open House on YouTube that will be shared with parents.

Chapel / Devotions

18. Are there any official Christian education / pastoral care sessions planned into the school curriculum?

Will be answered during P's dialogue

19. Are there any additional pastoral care programmes provided by the school or chaplains?

Will be answered during P's dialogue

Student Well-being

20. What kind of social, emotional and mental health support is available for students?

We recognise the challenges faced by our students and continue to advocate help-seeking behaviours among our students. Our school counsellors are available to support our students in managing their mental and social-emotional well-being as they navigate through their secondary school years. Counselling is helpful in guiding students in discovering new coping mechanisms, making changes and managing their problems more effectively.

SEN

21. How are students with SEN supported?

Students with SEN are identified and supported based on their level of needs. Depending on their needs, interventions may target areas such as literacy, social skills and behavioural management.

Transition support, which is a planned and goal-oriented process that facilitates a student's successful transition into a new setting, is also in place to prepare our incoming students for the next phase of their education. These support structures aim to help every student gain confidence and build life skills that will help them as they journey through their secondary school education and beyond.

Vaccination

22. How will vaccination status affect the carrying out of BB and PE lessons?

There is no impact of vaccination status on participation in CCA and PE lessons. If students have recently received their vaccination, and are not able to engage in physical activity for two weeks, they can sit out on physical activities, but still be present to observe their peers or CCA mates.

Others

23. Why is there a Miscellaneous and Autonomous school fee?

Miscellaneous fees are set by MOE but go towards individual schools' budgets and operating expenses. The same rate applies to all students, regardless of nationality. Monthly miscellaneous fees are \$10. Autonomous school fees are additional fees charged by autonomous schools, ranging from \$3 to \$18 per month. Refer to <https://www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/fees>.