

Subject-Based Banding

Catering to Your Child's Abilities

Networking Session 11 February 2017



Qifa Primary School



What is Subject-Based Banding?

- Provides the flexibility for your child by offering him the option of a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his strengths.



Why introduce Subject-Based Banding?

“We recognise different abilities... and help each student to proceed at a pace that he can manage.”

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam
Former Minister for Education

Why introduce Subject-Based Banding?

- Recognise the different abilities of pupils
- Provide more flexibility in subject combinations for pupils with strengths and abilities that vary across subjects



What Subject-Based Banding means for your child

- Greater flexibility in subject combinations
- Choice to take a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his strengths
- Focus and improve on the subjects that your child is strong in while building up the fundamentals in the subjects that he/she is very weak in.

Subjects taken into consideration for Subject-Based Banding


- English Language
- Mother Tongue
- Mathematics
- Science

How does Subject-Based Banding Work?

P4 pupils sit for school-based examinations



School recommends subject combination based on P4 exam results at the end of P4



Parents indicate their preferred combination in the option form

Subject Combination offered in Qifa

Courses	HMT	EL	MT	MA	SC	FEL	FMT	FMA	FSC
4S 1H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
4S		✓	✓	✓	✓				
3S 1F(FMT)		✓		✓	✓		✓		
2S 2F (FMA&FSC)		✓	✓					✓	✓
3F 1S(MT)			✓			✓		✓	✓
4F						✓	✓	✓	✓

Subject Combination Recommendation

Performs well in all 4 subjects & very well in Mother Tongue language

- **4S+1H**
4 standard subjects + 1 Higher MT



Pupils doing HCL

- Will get bonus points for admission into Special Assistance Plan (SAP) Secondary Schools (e.g. River Valley High, Nan Hua High) if they get the following grades in HCL

HCL Grades in PSLE	Bonus Points for admission to SAP Schools
Distinction	3
Merit	2
Pass	1

- Taking HCL does not guarantee entry into SAP schools. Pupils have to meet the PSLE cut-off points for the schools

Subject Combination Recommendation

Passes
all
subjects

- **4S**
4 standard subjects



Subject Combination Recommendation

Passes
3
subjects



- **4S**
4 standard subjects
- **3S+1F**
3 standard subjects + FMT

Subject Combination Recommendation

Passes
2
subjects



- **3S+1F**
3 Standard subjects + 1 foundation subject
- **2S+2F**
2 standard subjects + 2 foundation subjects
- **3F+1S**
3 foundation subjects + 1 standard subject

Subject Combination Recommendation

Passes 1
subject
or fails
all
subjects



- **3F+1S**
3 foundation subjects + 1 standard subject
- **4F**
4 foundation subjects

At the end of P5

Pupil who takes standard subjects and has difficulty coping



School may assign the pupil to take 1 or more subjects at foundation level in P6



Pupil takes subject combination **decided by school in P6**




Pupil sits for Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) in P6

At the end of P5

Pupil who takes HMT and has difficulty coping



School may assign the pupil to drop the HMT subject in P6 to concentrate on the rest of the subjects



Pupil takes subject combination decided by school



Pupil sits for Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE)

Subject-Based Banding and Secondary School admission

- Progression to secondary level depends on PSLE Score.
- The scoring system is **not new**
- Different expectations of standard and foundation subjects will be taken into account when the PSLE score is calculated

Subject-Based Banding and Secondary School admission

- Offering weaker subjects at foundation level is not a disadvantage.
- Your child will be able to focus on building up strong fundamentals in the weaker subjects

What can the school and home do together?

- Pupils' attitude to learn
- Parents' involvement at home
- Monitoring & supervision
- Growing up – social & emotional needs
- Peer pressure



Every child is special, with unique combinations of abilities and needs that affect learning...

all children deserve the opportunity to learn in ways that make the most of their strengths and help them overcome their weaknesses.

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