Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

May 2020

Dear Parent

Information on 2020 Direct School Admission for Secondary Schools (DSA-Sec)

What is DSA-Sec?

DSA-Sec aims to promote holistic education and provides Primary 6 (P6) students an opportunity to seek admission to a secondary school based on a diverse range of talents and achievements that may not be demonstrated at the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE). Each participating school offers distinctive programmes and sets its own selection process and criteria to admit students with talents that can be further developed by these programmes.

Should my child apply for DSA-Sec?

Your child may consider applying for a secondary school through DSA-Sec if they are able to identify a school that offers a talent development programme in their area of strength. If not, they may continue to participate in the S1 Posting Exercise at the end of the year and be admitted to a secondary school based on their PSLE results.

If your child is successfully allocated to a school through DSA-Sec, he/she will not join the Secondary 1 (S1) Posting. As he/she has committed to the school, he/she will also not be able to seek for a transfer to another school after the release of the PSLE results.

Which school should my child apply to?

Finding a good fit will help your child enjoy learning at an appropriate pace, and enable him/her to benefit from the school's overall programmes. When selecting a DSA-Sec school, consider the following:
- Schools with talent areas that match your child's strengths and interests;
- The pace of learning; and
- The overall range of programmes offered by the school.

Details on the schools' programmes, DSA-Sec selection processes, and timelines are available at the secondary schools' websites.

How does my child apply for DSA-Sec?

You may submit your child's application online via the DSA-Sec Portal from **9am on 12 May 2020 to 3pm on 5 June 2020**. Either parent may log in using SingPass to submit an application. If you are unable to apply online for your child, please approach your child's primary school for assistance.

If your child is interested in School of the Arts (SOTA) or Singapore Sports School (SSP), you should apply directly to the school based on the school's application timeline. You may visit their school's website for more information.

You can indicate up to three choices during the application. For each choice, you will need to choose a secondary school and a talent area from that school. Of the three choices, a maximum of two choices can be used to apply to the same school (e.g. under two different talent areas). This is to cater for your

child's multiple interests, and allow for a choice of different schools which can develop your child's strengths and interests. You are encouraged to consider your choices carefully, and manage the time and effort required for your child to participate in the trials/interviews conducted by the school(s).

Do I need to submit any hardcopy documents during application?

There is no need to submit additional hardcopy testimonials and documents via the DSA-Sec Portal.

Your child's primary school information will be shared with the secondary schools that you have applied to. This includes your child's P5 and P6 academic results, Co-curricular Activities (CCA), Values in Action (VIA) involvement, School-based achievements/awards, NAPFA results and Junior Sports Academy participation. An optional field will also allow you to indicate any non-school-based activities and achievements related to your child's talent, which your child may have participated outside school.

When will I be informed on the outcome of my child's application?

You will be informed of the application outcome by the individual schools by 14 September 2020. If your child has a Confirmed Offer (CO) or a Wait List (WL) offer, you will receive notification on the School Preference Submission in Oct 2020. You can submit up to three school choices, in order of preference, online or at the primary school.[1] To gain admission, your child still needs to attain PSLE results that qualify them for a course (i.e. Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical)) offered by the school. If your child has not been given a place in the DSA-Sec school, they can still apply for a school through the S1 Posting using their PSLE results.

How will COVID-19 affect selection by DSA-Sec schools?

To ensure the safety and well-being of our students and school personnel amid the COVID-19 situation, DSA schools will conduct all interviews and selection for DSA via electronic modes (e-modes) using video conferencing. The e-modes will be done in the primary school during the selection period. You may approach your primary school for assistance if your child is shortlisted to undergo selection.

The selection process and timeline differ across schools, and across different DSA-Sec categories. Secondary schools may consider students based on talents and achievements, personal qualities, and primary school results. You are advised to refer to the school's website on the selection process.

Where can I find out more information on DSA-Sec?

Information on important dates and the 2020 DSA-Sec, can be found on **www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec** (scan the QR code below to access the website). You will also be able to download a copy of the DSA-Sec Portal user guide and application template from the website.

Pupil Placement Services Branch
Student Placement and Services Division

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[1] If your child has accepted an offer from Singapore Sports School (SSP), the school will contact you separately. You should **NOT** submit school choices during the DSA-Sec School Preference period, otherwise, your child's offer from SSP will be void.