

PRSS e-Open House 2021
Collated FAQs from online engagement session (26 Nov)

Key Information for Secondary 1 students	
What is the intake size for the 2022 Secondary 1 cohort in each of the 3 streams (EX/NA/NT)?	The intake size for Secondary 1 in 2022 will be 4 Express classes, 2 Normal (Academic) classes & 1 Normal (Technical) class. The approximate class size for each class is 38 students. This is to facilitate the inclusion of SBB students.
If the school is over-subscribed, will the school open more classes to accommodate the increase in demand?	No. Admission to the school is first of all based on merit. The indicative AL scores published by MOE are based on historical trend. Each year's cut-off point is dependent on demand vis-a-vis the given number of places. Hence, it may change, depending on the PSLE grades of the applicants each year.
When do Secondary 1 students have to report to school upon receiving their posting results?	Secondary 1 students posted to PRSS do not have to report to the school for registration. The Secondary 1 Registration exercise will be conducted online this year. A webinar session will be held one day after the release of the posting results. For more information on our Secondary 1 Registration exercise, kindly refer to the school website or Parents Gateway (PG) after the release of the posting results.
When can Secondary 1 students purchase their books?	Secondary 1 students posted to PRSS can purchase their books from the school bookshop between 27 - 29 Dec 2021, from 9.00 AM - 3.00 PM. Purchase of books from the school bookshop is on an appointment basis. Alternatively, students may purchase their books online, where a home delivery service is available.
Are students allocated to classes by their grades?	Secondary 1 students are not allocated to classes based on their PSLE scores. Students are allocated to their classes based on the key principle of ensuring that there is a diversity of student profiles (eg different grades, race, religion, gender etc) in each class, so as to enrich the learning experience for every student.
How does the school support students who are academically weaker?	The school adopts a Tiered System of Support (TSS) in both the academic and socio-emotional domains to provide customised and targeted support for all student segments, based on their learning profiles, needs and abilities. For students who are academically weaker, transition support and intervention are provided in the form of small group consultation, remediation or provision of scaffolds during lessons to support students' learning.

<i>What is the criteria for a 1NA student to be promoted to 2E?</i>	For a 1NA student to be promoted to the Express stream in Secondary 2, he / she must attain an average of 70% or higher for all subjects and deemed able to cope with the Express Course.
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Subject-Based Banding (SBB)

<i>Will an NA student who scored AL5 for a subject be offered to read the subject in the Express stream?</i>	NA students who attain AL5 or better in English Language (EL), Mother Tongue Language (MTL), Mathematics and/or Science are eligible to read the respective subject(s) at the Express level. For more information on SBB eligibility, please refer to MOE website .
<i>How are the classes for SBB students allocated?</i>	NA SBB students are either allocated to an Express class or form a class consisting of only NA SBB students, depending on the class size. Likewise, NT SBB students are either allocated to an NA class or form a class consisting of only NT SBB students, depending on the class size.
<i>What is the difference between SBB and Full SBB? What is the advantage of Full SBB?</i>	SBB was first implemented in 2018. It allows students to take EL, MTL, Mathematics and/or Science at a more demanding level when they enter Secondary 1, based on their performance in the respective subjects at PSLE. With Full SBB, which will be fully implemented in all schools by 2024, students will have even greater flexibility to study more subjects at different levels that suit their interests, aptitude and learning needs. There will no longer be the Express, NA and NT streams, and students will be in mixed form classes, where they can interact with peers with different strengths and interests. For more information on SBB and Full SBB, please refer to MOE website .

Subjects Offered at Secondary 1

<i>If a student is not eligible for HMTL in Secondary 1, can they appeal?</i>	All students eligible for HMTL will first receive an offer letter from MOE. In the event that a student does not receive any HMTL offer letter from MOE, the school will further assess the student's HMTL eligibility via other data points, such as the student's PSLE MTL / HMTL score & an in-house diagnostic test conducted at the beginning of the year.
<i>Does the school offer CLB?</i>	The school offers CLB for all students. However, Secondary 1 - 3 CLB students will attend lessons at our designated CLB centre, St Hilda's Secondary School. Sec 4&5 CLB students will attend lessons in PRSS.
<i>Does the school offer Non-Tamil Indian Languages (NTIL), like Hindi?</i>	The school does not offer any NTIL. Students offering NTIL, such as Hindi, are required to register for lessons at NTIL centres on their own. A list of NTIL centres can be found on BTTSAL's website here .

General School Information

<p><i>What is a typical day in Pasir Ris Secondary School like?</i></p>	<p>A typical day in PRSS will start with a reading period at 7.40 AM, followed by the morning assembly. The recess period for Secondary 1 students is typically between 9.20 - 10.00 AM and dismissal time is between 1.50 - 3.00 PM daily, depending on the student's subject combination. CCAs are conducted twice weekly and usually end around 5.30 - 6.00 PM.</p>
<p><i>What is the school culture like and what opportunities are there for students' growth?</i></p>	<p>The school believes in providing an inclusive environment where all students can learn and grow. It does so through the range of academic and non-academic programmes where students are challenged with various learning experiences that are customised for students of various learning profiles. Teachers play the role of facilitators where they provide the support that is necessary to instill independence and self-directedness in learning. Please refer to our school website for more information on our signature programmes, curriculum and co-curriculum.</p>
<p><i>How are the teaching staff in PRSS?</i></p>	<p>All our teachers (Education Officers) are graduates and have attended teacher training at the National Institute of Education (NIE). They actively participate in research and Professional Learning Communities / Teams to hone their professional practice, so as to keep abreast with curriculum updates and pedagogies of engagement, including leveraging the affordances of technology to foster the joy of learning. Many of our teachers also present papers at local and overseas conferences, and mentor others in the fraternity. Most importantly, our teachers are expected to uphold the ethos of the profession to lead, care and inspire our students.</p>
<p><i>Do the teachers use WhatsApp or other forms of communication to contact students outside school hours?</i></p>	<p>The official mode of communication between PRSS teachers and students is face-to-face in the classroom. All administrative information and instructions on learning activities are communicated during school hours, either physically or via various online platforms, such as the Student Learning Space (SLS) and Google Classroom (GC). Communication via applications, such as WhatsApp, is not considered as official, except for the urgent cascading of information. Communication via WhatsApp between teachers and students outside school hours is also not encouraged, in order to protect the rest time for students and teachers.</p>

<p><i>How is the school's Parent Support Group (PSG)?</i></p>	<p>The PRSS PSG is proactive in rendering strong support to many school programmes, such as the annual school-wide hamper wrapping Values-In-Action (VIA) activity during CNY, Racial Harmony Day, International Friendship Day etc. Parents in the PSG contribute their talent and time to support school initiatives, and also provide feedback to the school where appropriate.</p>
<p><i>How has the school performed at the national examinations for the past 3 years?</i></p>	<p>The school has consistently performed within expectations at the national examinations for all 3 streams over the past 3 years, with most of our students eligible for post-secondary options in the JC / Polytechnic / ITE.</p>
<p><i>What is the percentage of 4E5NA students who are eligible for JC / Polytechnic in 2020?</i></p>	<p>Over the past 3 years, the percentage of our 4E5NA students eligible for JC / Polytechnic has been consistently above 90% each year.</p>
<p><i>What is the percentage of 4NA students who are eligible for Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP)?</i></p>	<p>This varies year on year. Based on historical trend data, approximately 10 - 20% of our 4NA students are eligible for PFP.</p>

Signature Programmes

<p><i>Is it compulsory for all PRSS students to purchase & use the Chromebook? Are students allowed to purchase other Personal Learning Devices (PLDs) instead?</i></p>	<p>It is compulsory for all PRSS students to own and use a Chromebook. The school has chosen it as the prescribed PLD as it is affordable, lightweight and has a good battery life. Other types of PLDs (Windows laptop, Ipad etc) will not be compatible with the PRSS online learning environment. The school will facilitate the purchase of the PLD for students via the MOE bulk tender. More information will be disseminated to students in January 2022. For more information on our NDLP, please refer to the school website.</p>
<p><i>How frequent are Applied Learning Programme (ALP) activities conducted? Are all ALP activities compulsory?</i></p>	<p>PRSS' ALP: Eye on the World – Stories through Journalism aims to provide students with opportunities to relate learning to real-life situations, increase their awareness of local and global issues, and develop critical thinking and effective communication skills through various journalism platforms. For more information on our ALP, do log on to our school website to find out more.</p>
<p><i>How are students selected for the Learning for Life Programme (LLP)? Will every student get an equal chance to participate in LLP activities?</i></p>	<p>All students are provided with multiple opportunities throughout their 4 - 5 years in PRSS to participate in LLP programmes / activities on a yearly basis.</p>
<p><i>How frequent are LLP activities conducted? Are all LLP activities compulsory?</i></p>	<p>PRSS' LLP in Music & Performing Arts is infused into school programmes, such as the Level Camps, post-examination activities and other level-wide enrichment modules. The LLP adopts a progressive and developmental approach to ensure there is breadth and depth in students' learning throughout their 4 - 5 years in PRSS. For eg, Cultural Fusion 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 are specially designed to cater to Secondary 1, 2, 3 students respectively. Students are given the autonomy to select from a list of curated Arts modules, based on their preferences and interests. LLP activities are compulsory for all students in PRSS, in alignment with the programme's key objective of providing opportunities for every student to be exposed to the Arts, thereby enhancing appreciation for the Arts. For more information on our LLP, do log on to our school website to find out more.</p>

Subjects offered at Upper Secondary

<i>What are the subject combinations offered for Secondary 2 students promoting to Secondary 3?</i>	The subjects offered at Secondary 3 can be found in the list of FAQs on our school website.
<i>What is the maximum number of subjects that students are offered in Upper Secondary?</i>	Currently, the maximum number of subjects offered to our Upper Secondary students is 9, including HMTL.
<i>Does the school offer Pure Science subjects in Upper Secondary? How many Express classes offer Triple Pure Sciences?</i>	Typically, each Upper Secondary level has 2 classes offering Pure Science subjects. They include students offering a mix of Double or Triple Pure Sciences subjects.
<i>Does the school offer GCE O Level Principle of Accounts (POA) and Art?</i>	POA and Art are offered to Upper Secondary Express and NA students. All Lower Secondary students also offer Art.

CCAs	
<i>When are CCAs conducted? What time does CCA end?</i>	Most CCAs are conducted twice weekly - on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, from 3.00 - 6.00 PM. For more information on our CCAs and their respective schedules, please refer to the school website.
<i>Are there any prerequisites for any CCA? What is the selection criteria for Choir?</i>	There are no prerequisites for any of our CCAs. For Performing Arts CCAs, we welcome students who are aesthetically-inclined, and have the potential and interest to deepen their knowledge and skills in music or one of the Performing Arts. The Choir will conduct auditions for all students to assess their pitch.
<i>Will the school be offering any new sports CCAs in 2022? Will the school be forming a Badminton Girls CCA in 2022?</i>	The school will not be offering any new sports CCAs at the moment. Due to student preferences, Badminton only has a boys team. Girls who are interested in sports CCAs can choose from one of the following sports: Basketball, Netball and Volleyball.
<i>What are the CCA days and timing for Table Tennis?</i>	Table Tennis training is conducted every Tuesday and Thursday, from 3.00 - 6.00 PM.
<i>Are students allowed to participate in a CCA if he / she is not part of the school team?</i>	All our sports CCAs recruit more members than is required to form a school team. Hence, students who are not selected to be part of the school team are still allowed to participate in the CCA.
<i>What are some programmes / activities that the Tinkers Club offer?</i>	Our Tinkers Club leverage on the MakerSpace to provide various opportunities for students experience coding and crafting. For more information on our Tinkers Club , please refer to the school website.

<p><i>What are the programmes the school offers to develop students in coding and visual arts?</i></p>	<p>All Lower Secondary students attend 6 - 10 hours of coding workshops annually. Some of the modules conducted include: (1) Digital Makers through Microcontroller (on Microbit with environmental sensors) and (2) Mobile App Writing (on Thinkable platform). Students who are keen on coding can also join the Tinkers Club for more exposure and opportunities to apply their coding skills to address real world issues. The school also conducts other workshops throughout the year, covering topics such as AI coding through Chatbots.</p> <p>To develop students in visual arts, all Lower Secondary students will be taught basic drawing / sketching techniques, using traditional and digital platforms. Students will also be exposed to basic mobile phone photography techniques, and learn about the role of lighting, focus and composition in phototaking. Students will also learn still life painting using pencils and acrylic paint. They will get the opportunity to work on a caricature project using ICT graphic editing tools, such as Sketchbook Pro and/or Lunapic. Upper Secondary students who offer the Art elective will be exposed to various mediums through several mini-coursework projects, such as shoe self-portrait, mini canvas painting etc.</p>
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School Discipline

<i>What is the school's mobile phone policy?</i>	Students are allowed to bring their mobile phones to school. However, they are not allowed to use them during curriculum time, unless they are given the permission by their teachers to use them for teaching and learning purposes. Students are only allowed to use their mobile phones at designated zones during recess. Any infringement of this rule may result in students having their privilege to bring their mobile phones to school withdrawn.
<i>How does the school handle discipline cases?</i>	In PRSS, it is our belief that discipline is an educative process, and we seek to help our students reflect and learn from their mistakes. Hence, in dealing with discipline cases, the school will first conduct a thorough investigation. Thereafter, recommendations on appropriate consequences will be made to the SLs. Upon approval, the consequences will be meted out accordingly. Throughout the entire process, parents will be duly informed and updated.
<i>How does the school handle bullying cases?</i>	The school does not condone any form of bullying and will deal with all such cases seriously. Just like any other discipline cases, a thorough investigation will be conducted and appropriate consequences meted out.