

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are my child's chances of getting in with AL XX?

We are unable to advise you as posting is done centrally and determined by the cut-off point for the year.

The PSLE Score ranges for individual secondary schools are generated from students' PSLE results and school choice patterns at the previous year's S1 Posting Exercise. They reflect the PSLE Score of the first and last student who have been posted into each school under the AL system. Slight fluctuations in schools' Cut-Off Points (COPs) can happen from year to year and would typically be by 1 point.

Does my rank order in selection of schools affect chances of enrolment?

Posting to secondary school will still be based on academic merit.

A student with a better AL score will be considered for admission first, subject to the availability of vacancies in the selected school. If there are no more vacancies, then the student will be considered for his/her next choice school(s).

Tie-breakers are used only if there are two or more students with the same PSLE Score vying for the last available place(s) in a school.

Order of tie-breakers:

Citizenship (Singapore Citizens, then Singapore Permanent Residents, then International Students)

Choice order

Computerised balloting

Students will only be balloted when those vying for the last place(s) in the same school have the same PSLE Score, citizenship and choice order of schools.

For other queries, please check on MOE website or contact MOE customer service. 68722220

PROSPECTS OF EDGEFIELD GRADUANDS

What is the school's O Level results? What percentage of students enter JC/poly?

Our students are doing well in the national examinations. 98.5% of our express students qualify for JC / Polytechnic and students apply for these institutions based on their aspirations. In fact, with the educational landscape shifting focus to develop the joy of

learning in students, the school is enhancing its effort in the holistic development of our students, developing them to be self-directed lifelong learners.

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

What time does school start?

Students have to report to school for silent reading and assembly by 0745. Lessons start at 0815.

What time does school usually end?

Y1 timetable should end by 3.15 pm except Friday (12.45pm). The dismissal timing varies as students move into Y2 -4.

How many examinable subjects do Sec 1s have?

There is no mid-year examination for Y1s.

Generally there are 9 subjects that are examinable (EL, MT, Sci, Math, Hist, Geog, Lit, D&T/FCE, Art).

CCA

How many CCAs are there? / What CCAs does the school offer?

The school offers 24 CCAs.

	Uniformed Groups	Performing Arts	Sports	Clubs & Societies
1	Girl Guides	Choir	Badminton	Art Club
2	Scouts	Concert Band	Basketball	Robotics
3	NPCC (Sea)	ELDDS	Shooting	SYFC

4	NCDCC	Festive Drums	Softball	New Media Club
5		Guzheng	Taekwondo	Entrepreneur Club
6		Harmonica	Volleyball	
7		Modern Dance	Wushu	

Which days are CCA days?

CCAs generally hold 2 sessions a week. They can take place on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and / or Friday. For a detailed schedule, pls refer to the school website at the beginning of the term.

Is Golf offered as a CCA?

As Golf is now offered as part of cohort exposure, it is no longer offered as a CCA.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

Does the school offer a Triple Science combination?

Yes, we do. This subject combination is offered in Y3 and subject to criteria and availability. The Subject Options Exercise takes place in Y2 and more details will be provided in Y2.

Does the school offer Combined Science (Chem/Bio)?

Yes, we do. This subject combination is offered in Y3 and subject to criteria and availability. The Subject Options Exercise takes place in Y2 and more details will be provided in Y2.

Does the school offer Literature / Additional Mathematics?

Yes, we do. These subjects are offered in Y3 and subject to criteria and availability. The Subject Options Exercise takes place in Y2 and more details will be provided in Y2.

Can my child offer Higher Mother Tongue at Sec 1 even if he/she is not offered the subject by MOE?

Your child will be able to offer Higher Mother Tongue Languages at the start of Sec 1 only if he/she has an offer letter from MOE. The option letter is given by MOE to the following students:

Pupils who offer Mother Tongue Language (MTL) or HMTL at the PSLE and are ranked among the top 10% of the PSLE; OR

Pupils who are in the top 11% - 30% band and receive an A* grade in the MTL or at least a Merit in the HMTL.

If your child did not receive the option form, but performs well for Express MTL at the end of Sec 1 (overall subject result), shows good learning attitude towards the language and receives recommendations from teachers, he/she may be selected to offer HMT in Sec 2.

Can my child offer CL 'B' at Sec 1?

CL 'B' syllabus may be offered from Secondary 1. Students with Grade C and below in CL or offered FCL at PSLE may be allowed to take CL 'B'. Please indicate your preference in the option form.

Please take note of the key implications on the offering of CL 'B':

The CL 'B' result from the national exam will NOT contribute to the calculation of aggregate score for progression to Post-Secondary Education Institutions (PSEIs). A pass will meet the minimum MTL requirement for entry to Junior College.

For N(A) students who are keen to pursue Sec 5, taking up CL 'B' will reduce the number of O level subjects offered. This will affect the students' progression to JC.

In 2023, our Sec 1 CL 'B' students will be banded together in the same class with students offering Basic CL.

Are Tamil Language classes offered in this school?

Tamil Language students will attend lessons after school at the following external centres:

**Higher Tamil Language: Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre (tentatively on Monday)
Express/N(A) TL students: Seng Kang Secondary School (tentatively on Monday)**

N(T) TL Students: Seng Kang Secondary School (tentatively on Tuesday)

Students will attend their Tamil Language classes at the designated language centre. The lessons will be conducted after school hours.

How will external Tamil Language lessons after school impact my child's learning?

On Monday afternoons, students will leave the school earlier to attend their language lessons. While the school will try to arrange CL/ML lessons or non-core subject lessons in the afternoon, the students may still miss some lessons.

In terms of CCA options, parents are not encouraged to choose a CCA on Monday as this will impact their TL lessons. These include: Basketball, Taekwondo, Volleyball, Girl Guides, Choir, ELDDS, Festive Drums, Harmonica, Modern Dance and Art Club.

Does the school provide Hindi lessons?

Edgefield Sec is designated as one of the venues for Hindi weekend centres with Hindi Society. Students offering Hindi can attend lessons on Saturdays conducted by the Hindi Society. Hindi lessons will not be offered during regular curriculum time due to a lack of venues.

Is my child eligible for the offering of a Third Language?

Students who have applied for a Third Language by MOE will be notified of the outcome during Sec 1 Registration.

For unsuccessful students, no further action is required.

For successful students, please register at your assigned language centre to confirm you are taking up the offer of a place on the assigned third language programme. Places that are not taken up will be re-allocated to other applicants.

How will external Third Language lessons impact my child's learning?

Depending on the centres assigned, we will try to streamline your external lessons to Monday afternoons, subjected to the schedule of individual centres. Students will leave the school earlier to attend their language lessons. While the school will try to arrange non-core subject lessons in the afternoon, the students may still miss some lessons.

In terms of CCA options, parents are not encouraged to choose a CCA on the day of the third language lesson.

My child is offering Asian Languages (AsL: Arabic, Burmese and Thai) or Foreign Languages (FL: French, German and Japanese) in lieu of an official MTL since Primary School. What are my follow-up actions in Secondary School?

Starting from 2019, parents are no longer required to submit a re-application for Secondary 1 students who have obtained approval at the primary level to offer AsL/FL.

Your child is required to attend private lessons regularly and eventually take the AsL/FL paper at the GCE 'O' Level Examinations. Your child is required to provide documentation (e.g. marked assignment, result slip, payment receipt) to the school to show that they are learning AsL/FL regularly.

Students are required to take the AsL/FL papers at the GCE O Level. To fulfil the minimum MTL requirement for admission into a junior college or centralised institute, your child will have to attain the minimum AsL/FL grade of D7 or above at GCE O Level.

SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

Are all programmes e.g. ALP compulsory?

Yes, all school programmes are compulsory unless otherwise stated.

Do I need to pay for courses under the ALP?

Costs will mainly be borne by, if not heavily subsidized by the school. We will also ensure support for students who may require financial assistance.

What can I expect my child to learn from the ALP?

The goal of our school's Applied Learning Programme 'Growing the Edgefield Mindset' is to develop Edgefield students with future-ready capabilities through authentic learning so as to nurture them to become autonomous lifelong learners.

The future-ready capabilities that our ALP seeks to develop in our students are curiosity, collaboration skills, communication skills, problem definition skills, inventive thinking, critical thinking, reflective thinking and global awareness.

During the first 2 years of the Applied Learning Programme, your child will go through a series of learning experiences such as skill-based lessons, learning journeys, sharing by knowledgeable others and hands-on workshops. Students will then apply what they learnt by going through 2 project cycles to hone their complex problem solving skills. During the project cycles, they will identify problems, propose solutions to the problems identified and implement the solutions either within the school community or within the wider community. In Year 3, students will be provided with various platforms to pursue their passion and advocate in their areas of interest through our biennial carnival ARTasFEST, external competitions such as MOE Innovation Programme and Future Problem Solving Programme, as well as many other student-initiated projects.

When are the lessons for ALP/LLP conducted?

They are conducted within curriculum time.

National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP)

How much does the iPad cost? Are there options we can select for example, may we exclude the cover or screen protector? Does the iPad come with wifi only or does it come with wifi and cellular data?

The purchase of iPads through Edusave via the school is bundled together with the Apple Pencil, iPad cover, screen protector and warranty, and not available for sale as a standalone device. The screen protector will be mounted onto the iPad upon delivery to ensure protection. Please note that the iPad cover that is included as part of the bundle will not be customised with the school logo.

Our school has selected the new iPad with A12 Bionic chip (64GB, wifi only) that is sufficient to meet students' learning needs.

The device purchased through the school will also come with 3-year warranty and 3-year insurance that will cover 2 repairs or 1 replacement claim as well.

May we opt out of buying the iPad if we already own one? Can my child connect to the school network if he is using his own iPad? Will the school assist in installing all the necessary Device Management Application (DMA) software and Apps required by the curriculum?

Every student is required to have a device for teaching and learning purposes and is encouraged to purchase one through the school via MOE's bulk tender. Students are encouraged to use the device model prescribed by the school, as the uniformity of systems and software would ensure a smooth learning experience for everyone. The device purchased through the school will come with the necessary warranty and insurance as well.

MOE's bulk tender will lower the cost of the iPads for students.

Recognising that having to purchase a Personal Learning Device (PLD) would incur costs for parents, MOE has therefore decided to make it more affordable for parents by allowing the using of the child's Edusave account to pay for the PLD. In addition, the

government has provided Edusave top ups of \$200 in 2020 and \$200 in May 2021 (as part of the Household Support Package announced in Budget 2021), to all eligible SC students in primary and secondary schools. This is on top of the annual \$290 credited into the Edusave account for Secondary School students and \$230 for Primary School students.

Students who do not wish to purchase a device because they already have their own devices will have to check with the school to ascertain whether the specifications of the existing device meet the school's requirements. Please email HOD/ICT, Mr Shasikumaran at shasikumaran@edgefield.edu.sg for clarifications.

If your child's existing device meets the school's teaching and learning requirements, we will assist to install the necessary DMA software and apps required by the curriculum. The device may then also connect to the school network to facilitate learning.

Can we continue to loan the school unit? Is it compulsory to install DMA in the iPad even if my child already owns his own device?

The current iPads are on loan only to support Secondary 1 students' learning for the interim period before they obtain their own iPads. These will have to be returned thereafter.

To maximize the learning benefits with the personalised learning device, students should be able to use it both in school as well as at home. Beyond the classroom, students will be able to use the device for home-based learning.

Devices purchased under the PLD initiative belong to the students, and they can continue to use their device after graduation. For students who are receiving financial assistance, they will be provided additional subsidies such that their out-of-pocket expenses for the device will be zero.

If parents/guardians wish for their child/ward to use their own iPad instead of purchasing a new device using Edusave, please note the following points:

Ascertain that the specifications of the existing device meet the school's requirements through emailing HOD/ICT, Mr Shasikumaran at shasikumaran@edgefield.sg

Device Management Application (DMA), with the required restrictions will have to be installed in the said iPad before it can be used in school.

Existing data in iPad will be erased when DMA is installed.

It is not advisable for the child to share the iPad with family members as he/she will need the iPad to complete homework and do revision at home.

School will not be able to purchase extended warranty for iPads that are not bought through Edusave.

Parents will need to purchase an Apple Pencil for their child. Parents are also advised to purchase an iPad cover with a secured Apple pencil slot to guard against loss and damage.

Will the Device Management Application (DMA) collect my personal information?

The following information is NOT collected by DMA:

User's login credentials, activities and data (e.g. posts, online comments, shopping cart, etc) in accessed websites

User's login credentials, activities and data in device applications

Documents and photos stored in the PLDs

Is there any free engraving of students' names on the iPad if we make the purchase from school? Apple provides this as a free service and it would help prevent loss or mix up of devices among students.

Engraving service on the iPad is not provided. However each iPad is identified by a unique identification number and any loss of iPad will be traceable to the owner through the DMA.

Is it a must to use the Apple Pencil in class?

Apple Pencils are most ideal for the following reasons:

Sketchnoting – to encapsulate abstract thoughts and ideas into visual representations and make their thinking visible. This keeps students engaged in classroom learning, continually activates their thought processes and deepens their re-collection of the knowledge learnt.

Pressure Sensitivity – designed to work like a regular pencil, you can hold it at an angle and press the side of the tip alongside the iPad for shading with ease. This is especially

useful for subjects such as Design & Technology and Art, where pressure sensitivity will have a direct impact on the product i.e. fine and thick lines in drawing, shading etc.

Intuitive touch – similar writing experience as a traditional pen/pencil.

This helps to condition students and familiarizes them for pen-and-paper format exams.

Is there a high risk in losing or damaging the Apple Pencil?

The bundled iPad cover comes with a slot to keep the Apple pencil. Students are to secure their Apple pencil in this slot when not in use, to prevent any loss or damage. We will continue to remind and educate students to do so. Parents who are purchasing their own devices are advised to obtain an iPad protector with an Apple pencil slot for the same reasons.

What are the controls/ restrictions put in place to prevent students from getting distracted while using iPad? For example, chatting with friends or using the iPad for gaming or other entertainment outside school?

The Device Management Application (DMA) that comprises the Mobile Device Management Service, Classroom Management Service and Usage Management Service, would allow school and parents to exercise a high degree of control over students' usage of the iPad.

The Mobile Device Management Service is able to limit screen time i.e. the total time students spend using the iPad, and can be customized to even individual apps. The Classroom Management Service, including Apple classroom, will allow teachers to monitor and control students' iPad if they get distracted.

The usage management service will allow school and parents to further address stress to the student's eyes from prolonged use and cyberwellness concerns with screen time control, application filtering, content filtering and monitoring of usage/activities. The various affordances of DMA will help prevent students from being distracted in class, and even during after school hours.

We will be providing resources to parents on the configuration of such settings at home when students receive their iPads. If parents would prefer to defer the management of the device to school, we would be glad to assist as well.

Other than control through device management application, we hope to work together with parents to continue to educate students on cyber-wellness and responsible digital citizenship.

Would there be a temporary device assigned if the actual device is faulty or being repaired?
Would the data in the iPad be backed up in case of data loss due to device repair or if the device is actually lost?

The school will loan out an iPad for interim use to ensure that students' learning will not be affected when the student's iPad is sent for repair. The school will then inform the student about the duration of repair which will in turn depend on the extent of repair work required.

Students will be required to back up their data in the iCloud and Google Drive.

Are all the different kinds of iPad apps presented and used in school free or do parents need to pay to download/install? Are these apps compulsory? Are the apps used for all classes or are they dependent on each teacher? Can students access these apps at home if they wish to revisit what they have learnt?

The school regularly reviews the apps required for teaching and learning for effectiveness and suitability. New apps will be downloaded if assessed useful and appropriate.

All school-approved apps to be downloaded by students will be free. These apps will be downloaded to your child's iPad by the school through the Device Management Application (DMA). In the rare event if a paid app is required, the school will inform parents separately.

These school-approved apps will be available for students' use in school as well as at home. Some apps are standardized for use at the school level, while subject-specific apps will be dependent on respective teachers.

Can kindle be included as an app for students to read online?

Parents may allow the purchase and installation of certain educational apps that they would like their child to utilize. Please inform the school via techsupport@edgefield.edu.sg the names of these apps so that we can whitelist these apps in the DMA.

Is there a recommended limit to screen time?

There is no recommended screen time as it depends very much on the nature of the activity. According to the American Academy of Paediatrics (2016), there is no one-size-fits-all approach to limiting the amount of screen time for teenagers. The academy recommends that screen time takes into consideration a child's developmental stage, how the technology is used, the quality of the content and design of the material. Schools will design their learning programmes to ensure that the students' use of PLDs is balanced in relation to other activities and modes of learning.

However, all PLDs will be installed with DMA, which allows teachers to manage students' screen time if they so desire. Teachers will also continue to ensure that the amount of assignments set (both online and offline) is guided by the school's homework policy.

E-Textbooks / Digital Textbooks

I would like to find out more details about digital textbooks. Can all the physical textbooks be replaced with digital copies? How do we purchase e-copies of textbooks?

The availability of digital textbooks depends upon respective textbook publishers. Digital textbooks can replace physical textbooks if they are available for purchase from the textbook publisher. Some parents have also bought bundle packages where the physical textbooks are left at home for revision while the digital textbooks are brought to school via their child's iPad for note taking and learning.

To check on the availability of digital textbooks, please email booklist@edgefield.edu.sg

Homework & Assessment using the iPad

Which subjects require homework to be submitted electronically and which are those that are submitted in hard copies?

There will be a balance of assignments that are submitted electronically and via hard copies. Students will be informed in advance about the submission mode.

Is assessment done via iPad or is it paper-based?

Assessment is done via a variety of modes. Students will be informed in advance if the mode is via pen and paper, or through alternative assessment modes.

Financial Assistance

We are currently under the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS). Do we need to reapply again for financial assistance for the device? What form should I fill up for the application of the device? If my household income is less than \$4000, how do I go about applying for assistance? How may I apply for subsidies for the purchase of the iPad?

Students on the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) are automatically eligible for subsidy. They need not reapply for the purchase of iPad.

Students who are not on FAS and whose GHI (Gross Household Income) is less than \$4,000 or PCI (Per Capita Income) is less than \$1,000 can apply for subsidy by obtaining the Application Form for Subsidy for Purchase of Personal Learning Device from the General Office.

FULL SUBJECT BASED BANDING (Full SBB)

Is there a mix of students from each course in one class? How then do students with very different PSLE scores learn? Do they have to move to separate classes for each lesson?

With Full SBB, the school is moving towards one secondary education, with many subject bands, to better meet our students' learning needs, without labels. This is part of the broader shift in our education system to recognise the strengths and interests of our children, to help them build their confidence and develop an intrinsic motivation to learn for life in them.

Our school implements the following:

Reorganised form classes at Secondary 1.

This is applicable to Secondary 1 students entering our school since 2019.

Each form class comprises students offering the Express, Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) courses of study. There is a balanced mix of students with different PSLE T-scores in each form class, even within each course of study.

Students take common curriculum subjects (CCE, PE, Art, Design and Technology, Food and Consumer Education and Music) together as a form class.

For subjects such as English, Mother Tongue Languages, Mathematics and Science, the students are regrouped and continue to offer these subjects through the subject-based banding (SBB) arrangements. For example, students eligible for SBB Express English will join other students offering the Express course of study.

Students continue to benefit as they have been before, and benefit even more as the full subject-based banding model creates a common learning experience and creates a valuable setting for students to mingle, build meaningful friendships, and appreciate different perspectives.

We understand that Edgefield Sec is one of the pilot schools to adopt the Full SBB system. Will students still be eligible for lateral transfer from Normal to Express course? If so, what is the criteria for such a lateral transfer?

There will be lateral transfer from one course to another, and this is based on the student's overall performance. Lower secondary students who do well, especially if they are also offering SBB subjects, and are deemed able to cope with an academically more demanding course of study, will be offered the lateral transfer.

What is the rationale of having Express, Normal Academic and Normal Technical students in a class? What is the average class size for the Sec 1 class in 2022?

While the number of students in the form classes may vary year on year, depending on the overall enrolment, each form class typically sees up to 40 - 41 students with 2 Form Teachers. For each class, there is a mixture of students offering the different courses of study posted to the school i.e. Exp, N(A) and N(T).

In each class, almost all students who are not already offering the Express course of study, are eligible to offer at least 1 Subject-Based Banding (SBB) subject i.e. subject offered at either N(A) or Express course of study.

Can my child in NA or NT course offer Humanities subjects at a more demanding level?

This is applicable to students who are in Secondary 2 Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) courses. Eligible students are offered at the end of Sec 1 Eligibility criteria is based on Sec 1 Overall results and subject teacher's feedback. Students who met the eligibility criteria will receive a Letter of Offer Consideration factors to offer the Humanities at a more demanding level includes the strengths, interest in the subject and an appropriate overall academic load for the child.

For more information on Full Subject Based Banding, please visit MOE website at <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/psle-fsbb/full-subject-based-banding/main.html>

INCLUSIVITY/ SPECIAL NEEDS

Is the school able to manage my child with special needs?

The Special Needs Officer collaborates with parents, staff and students to support students with special needs. Support can be in the form of in-class support, or external sessions (out of class, after school or during exempted lessons; frequency of sessions is needs-dependent), or linking up with external agencies.

Up to 20% of our teachers are also trained in engaging students with special needs.

Parents can indicate if your child has specific needs that require additional support when they register with our school.

Is there a special arrangement made for my child with special needs?

Based on the needs of your child, our school will develop appropriate strategies that aim to support your child's transition into the new school setting and work towards enabling the child to learn independently. The strategies may include skills training, customisation of instruction strategies as well as access arrangement for examinations, depending on the needs of the child.

CANTEEN

Is there a vegetarian stall in 2023?

No. However, some stalls have vegetarian selections.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

What is the eligibility criteria for MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS)?

A student is eligible for MOE FAS if he / she is a Singapore Citizen and meets either of the following income criteria:

**Gross Household Income not exceeding \$3,000 per month OR
Per Capita Income not exceeding \$750 per month**

How do I apply for MOE FAS for my child?

To apply for the MOE FAS for your child, you can obtain the application form from the school's general office, or download a copy of the MOE FAS Application Form from MOE's website at <https://www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/financial-assistance>.

If I do not meet the eligibility criteria for MOE FAS, where can I seek financial support for my child?

You can approach the school's general office. Depending on your Gross Household Income or Per Capita Income, we could consider your child for our school-based FAS.