



ST. GABRIEL'S SECONDARY

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Secondary One Intake 2018 Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

1. Is my son's class determined by his PSLE T-Score?

Only the stream (Express, Normal Academic & Normal Technical) is determined by your son's PSLE T-Score. His class in the respective stream is not determined by his score. Therefore, whether he is 1E1 or 1E4, it does not really matter.

2. Will my son be able to laterally transfer to Express or Normal Academic stream in Secondary 2? If yes, what is the criteria?

Your son is able to laterally transfer to Express Stream or Normal Academic Stream in Secondary 2 if he meets the criteria of having 70 % for his overall AND for his English Language, Mathematics and Science subjects. More details can be found on pg. 47 to pg. 49 of the 2018 Student Handbook which students are required to buy.

3. Does my son need to participate in the Mass and prayer sessions?

Regardless of religion, every Gabrielite is expected to be present, quiet and respectful during the Masses (3 times a year) and daily morning prayers. However, only Catholic Students will be required to partake in the rituals and prayers.

4. What can I as a parent do to help my son manage his transition into Secondary One?

Parents need to play an active role to support and affirm your son's learning and development during this transition period. Do get yourself involved in his life by familiarising with secondary school life and the developmental changes that adolescence go through. We have arranged a series of talks and workshops for parents. Please do attend them to learn more.

5. My son would like to take Higher Mother Tongue. What is the criteria and does St. Gabriel's offer Higher Mother Tongue?

Students may opt to take up HMTL (viz. Higher Chinese/ Higher Malay/ Higher Tamil) from Secondary One (S1) onwards if they have taken MTL or HMTL at the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) AND are in the

- Top 10% of the PSLE cohort; or
 - Top 11%—30% of the PSLE cohort and meet the language criteria i.e. an A* grade in the MTL or at least a Merit in HMTL.
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Students who are eligible will be informed through their secondary school. They will attend HMTL lessons in the following designated centres:

- HCL- Ang Mo Kio Sec,
- HML- MOELC,
- HTL- UPTLC

6. My son would like to take Malay Special Programme (MSP) or Chinese Special Programme (CSP). How should we go about this and is there an advantage in taking this programme?

Students who are eligible for Third Language will be informed of their eligibility through their secondary school. Eligible students who are interested to take up a Third Language at Secondary One must exercise their Third Language options. Below are the list of Third Languages that a student could be eligible for:

- Chinese (Special Programme) [CSP]
- Malay (Special Programme) [MSP]
- Bahasa Indonesia (BI)
- Arabic
- French
- German
- Japanese
- Spanish

Students meeting the eligibility criteria do not automatically qualify for entry into the Third Language programme. In the event that the number of applicants for a Third Language exceeds the number of vacancies, selection will be based on each applicant's PSLE results.

A student who obtains a grade of A1 to C6 for CSP/ MSP/ BI at the GCE 'O' Level Examination and qualifies for admission to a Junior College (JC)/Millennia Institute (MI) will be given a concession of two points in his application to the JC/MI of his choice through the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE). A student who takes up CSP/ MSP/ BI in the General Cambridge Examination (GCE) Ordinary ('O') Level Examination will be allowed to use the respective CSP/ MSP/ BI grade in lieu of a Humanities subject grade for admission to the JC/MI.

7. My son is taking a foreign Language. How do we register him?

Students taking foreign language (FL) or Asian Language (AL) in-lieu of MTL should inform the school upon reporting for registration. They will be issued with an application form when school re-opens in Jan 2018 to re-apply for approval for FL/AL.

Students granted approval at the primary level to offer a foreign language (FL: French, German and Japanese) or Asian Language (AL: Arabic, Burmese and Thai) as MTL-in-lieu are required to continue learning the language at the secondary and pre-tertiary levels, and to sit for the FL/AL paper at the GCE examinations. These students will need to arrange for private study of the MTL-in-lieu (similar to Primary School), except for students who are admitted to MOELC to offer French, German or Japanese. This is subject to the availability of vacancies at the MOELC. Students who are studying

FL/AL privately should provide evidence to the school that they are receiving instruction from a suitable private centre/tutor.

8. My son is not good with his Mother Tongue language. Does the school allow him to take Syllabus B?

The school will assess the performance of those students who faced difficulty in the learning of their MTL for at least 1 Semester before providing advice to the students and parents on the suitability of the students switching to MTL B Syllabus. MTL B Syllabus is NOT an O/N Level subject and cannot be used for computation for entry to JC/ MI/ Polytechnic.

9. Is it a must that I must download SNAAPP?

Yes. We strongly encourage all parents to download the app (SNAAPP - School Notification and Attendance App) for more effective communication between the school and the parents. It is a notification system adopted by our school to disseminate class or school-based information to parents and notify parents if their child is absent from school or late for school.

10. Can a DSA applicant request for transfer to another school after opting for and is successfully posted to St Gabriel's Secondary School?

No. Once a DSA applicant opts for and is successfully posted to our School, he will not be allowed to transfer to another school after the release of the PSLE results. The applicant is expected to honour his commitment to the posted DSA-Sec school, for the duration of the programme that he is admitted to.

11. What are the Niche CCAs in St. Gabriel's Secondary?

Our school offers a range of CCAs – uniformed groups, sports, performing arts groups as well as clubs. Each CCA has its own specific objectives and CCA specific skills to offer. The choice of CCA should be made based on the child's interest and skills.

12. Can my son take more than one CCA?

Your Child is encouraged to take only one Core CCA in school as they will have other academic commitments to manage as well. However, students may opt to participate in more than one CCA to broaden their experience and gain more exposure. Such involvement will be passion driven and students will not be awarded a higher attainment for their participation in an additional CCA. However, if they represent at school or higher level, they may be awarded CCA points. Minimum attendance for a second CCA is not a criterion for points to be computed. (Refer to pg. 24 of student Handbook)
