

Frequently Asked Questions about S1 Discretionary Places Admission

1. What are the admission criteria? What types of students are preferable?

The four admission criteria include Conduct (25%), Academic performance (internal academic results and EDB “Discretionary Places Rank Order List”) (25%), Extra-curricular activities and service performance (25%) and Interview performance (25%). Overall, diligent students with strong Chinese and English proficiency as well as those who exert a positive influence on their peers are preferable.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the interviews for 2022-2023 S1 Discretionary Places have been cancelled. The school assessed students’ performances according to the application information submitted. The four admission criteria include Conduct (25%), EDB “Discretionary Places Rank Order List” (25%), Internal academic results (25%) and Extra-curricular activities and services performance (25%).

2. How many Discretionary Places are allocated to the two nominated schools or schools in Sha Tin District?

During the Discretionary Places Admission stage, the selection of applicants is made based on the four admission criteria regardless of the applicants’ educational background, district of residency, and religious background.

According to Secondary School Places Allocation System mechanism, not more than 25% of places (26 places in total) can be reserved for the two nominated schools after the deduction of Discretionary Places and repeater places. Thirteen (13) places are reserved for each of the two nominated schools respectively. The total number of Discretionary Places (Part A and Part B) and walk-in places is 134; and they are open to all applicants in Sha Tin District.

3. Is having special talents an advantage of acquiring a school place in the school?

Yes, it is. Extra-curricular activities and service performance is one of the admission criteria and its weighting is 25%. More marks will be given to this criterion for obtaining international awards. Marks will also be given to those who demonstrate outstanding performance in national, regional, and inter-school competitions.

4. Are students other than those in nominated schools less likely to acquire a school place in the school?

According to last year’s admission figures, successful applicants were from 41 primary schools (24 of them were from Sha Tin District and 17 of them were from other districts). 5 primary schools have more than 5 successful applicants. One of the non-nominated schools had 7 successful applicants in total.

One was successful in Discretionary Place application, five were allocated a school place in Central Allocation, and one was offered a walk-in place. At the Central Allocation stage, applicants who have selected the school as the Order of School Preference 1 in Part A and Part B have an equal chance to acquire a school place in the school.

5. Why should applicants select the school as the Order of School Preference 1 at Central Allocation (both Part A and Part B) despite unsuccessful applications at the Discretionary Places Admission stage?

Applicants are allocated a school place with a random number. As a result, all of them have an equal chance to acquire a school place in the school. Applicants who have selected the school as the Order of School Preference 1 at both Discretionary Places Admission and Central Allocation are preferable even if walk-in places are available.

(i) The school has been devoted to nurturing students for 45 years. Aside from outstanding performances in different fields, alumni are also enthusiastic about providing guidance and support to junior brothers and sisters.

(ii) In addition to excelling academically, our students also have good conduct. 70% of students received conduct grade A- or above when admitted to the school, and the rest of them received grade B+. The school actively encourages value education and moral cultivation, which is fully recognized by the community. The percentage of graduates receiving university offers is also more than 90%. The academic value-added indicator of core subjects and the best 5 subjects is 6, and the academic value-added indicators of some subjects are 8 or 9 (remarks: 9 is the highest).

(iii) With an emphasis on whole-person education and diverse development, students are provided with more than 90 activities for learning and leadership training so as to fully maximise their potential. For sports, boys have won the Overall Champion in Hong Kong Inter-School Athletics Competition once, the first runner-up eighteen times, and the second runner-up three times. Girls have won the first runner-up twenty times and the second runner-up three times. The school choir has also won the Foreign Language Mixed Voice in Hong Kong Schools Musical Festival in 2016 and 2019. Not only that, Physics Olympiad Team were awarded with the second runner-up and the first runner-up in International Physics Olympiad in 2019 and 2021 respectively.

(iv) To cater for students' needs and curriculum development, the new annex and the Makers' Lab were built, and the school library and the auditorium were renovated.

(v) In view of providing a holistic learning environment, the school seeks to continuously refine its curriculum and actively nurture its servant leaders. We also strive to foster gifted education, life education, integrated education, Maker education, cross-cultural learning as well as English literature learning. In addition, the school has offered HKDSE language subjects, including Japanese Language, Spanish Language and French Language.