

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Music Elective Programme (MEP) at Secondary Level

#### Pursuing music in secondary school

#### 1. My child has strong interest in music but is not so certain about his/her own musical ability. Would the MEP be suited for him/her?

Students who demonstrate strong interest in music and have put in effort in developing musical abilities can consider applying to the MEP and sitting for the selection exercise. The development of musical abilities need not be through private music lessons or certification by external music examination boards. For many students, this can be through active and self-directed participation in Music co-curricular activities (CCA) and Primary Music lessons where they learn to:

- Make connections to music concepts when listening to music
- Perform by singing or playing an instrument fluently
- Create or arrange songs/music

#### 2. Aside from the MEP, what other pathways can my child consider to best develop her/his ability and interest in music?

Depending on your child's interest, readiness and commitment towards music learning, while bearing in mind other interests he/she may have, other pathways to consider include:

- Offering the [Enhanced Music Programme \(EMP\)](#) (also a MOE special music programme)
- Offering O- Level Music as a subject at upper secondary level
- Joining music-related CCA
- Enrolling in schools that offer Aesthetics / Music and Performing Arts related Applied Learning / Learning for Life Programmes (ALP/LLP)

One child may benefit more from an early 4-year commitment to specialising in music, while another child may benefit more from withholding such a commitment until upper secondary level.

#### Curriculum

#### 3. Is the MEP the same as the GCE O-Level Music/Higher Music syllabus?

No. The MEP is a four-year programme whereas non-MEP O-Level Music/Higher Music students would only offer the subject at the upper secondary level. On top of having the O-Level Higher Music syllabus as a core component to the MEP curriculum, the programme also provides additional enrichment and arts leadership developmental opportunities at the national level (such as the MEP camp and concerts) and in school.

As with all students who offer O-Level Higher Music, the Higher Music grade may be taken as follows upon graduation:

- The R1 or R3 subject in the L1R5 aggregate score computation (equivalent to a Humanities subject) for admission to junior colleges
- The R1 or R2 subject in the L1R4 aggregate score computation for admission to Millennia Institute

- The R2 or B2 subject in the ELR2B2 aggregate score computation for admission to polytechnics
- A GCE O-Level grade for admission to ITE

Learn more about the [admission criteria to post-secondary institutions here](#).

#### **4. What is the difference between the MEP, EMP and the O-Level Music Course?**

Please refer to this [infographic](#) for a comparison between the three options.

#### **5. What is the difference between the MEP and the School of the Arts (SOTA) music curriculum?**

SOTA is one of Singapore's specialised schools. It provides a 6-year curriculum with the learning of art forms (such as visual arts or music) at its core. It is also an International Baccalaureate (IB) World school that offers the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) and the IB Career-related Programme (IBCP). In contrast, the MEP is a special music programme that is still situated within mainstream schools. Secondary MEP students offer the GCE Higher Music syllabus and sit for the corresponding national examination in their graduating year.

#### **6. Can students be in MEP and Third Language concurrently?**

Like MEP, Third Language requires significant commitment from its students. Students should consider factors such as total workload, scheduling and aspirations carefully before committing to an overall curriculum that is manageable. Lastly, students should also check with schools on school-based policies regarding enrolment in external programmes.

#### Eligibility and selection

#### **7. Are Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) students eligible for the MEP?**

Students from all courses are eligible to apply for the programme.

#### Fees and subsidy

#### **8. Will the MEP support the cost for learning a musical instrument? Are there other costs required by the MEP?**

Schools may arrange for students who cannot afford their own instruments to loan school instruments home where available. As part of the MEP, there may be co-payment required for enrichment activities (e.g. learning journeys and workshops) using students' Edusave funds where available. Students who need financial assistance can apply for [MOE financial assistance schemes](#) through their schools and will be supported based on their needs.

#### Post-secondary pathways

#### **9. What are the possible pathways to pursue Music in post-secondary institutions?**

Depending on the students' aspirations, MEP students can further their interest in Music in the following pathways:

Type of post-secondary institution	Relevant courses/subjects
Junior Colleges	Selected Junior Colleges offering Music at A-Level H2 and H3 Music or International Baccalaureate at Higher Level.
Polytechnics	Republic Polytechnic <i>School of Technology for the Arts</i> Singapore Polytechnic <i>Media, Arts and Design School</i>
ITEs	School of Design and Media <i>Higher Nitec in Performance Production</i> School of Engineering <i>Nitec in Electrical Technology (Lighting &amp; Sound)</i>
Arts Higher Education Institution	LASALLE College of the Arts <i>School of Contemporary Music</i> Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts <i>School of Music</i> National Institute of Education <i>Visual and Performing Arts</i> Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music

**10. Do Secondary MEP students automatically qualify for MEP for junior college?**

No. Interested students can only offer MEP at one of the 6 MEP JCs and must first gain admission into one of these 6 JCs via the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE).

Once enrolled into these MEP JCs, all students who have obtained a pass in GCE O-Level Music or Higher Music can be admitted into the JC MEP. Students who did not offer Music or Higher Music at GCE O-Level will have to pass the MEP selection exercise to qualify for the programme.

Alternatively, students may apply to enter these JCs to offer MEP via Direct School Admission (DSA-JC).

**11. Does the MEP grant bonus points for admission into junior colleges?**

No. Bonus points are only awarded for attainment in CCA, language grades and school affiliation.

Withdrawal

**12. Can MEP students withdraw from the programme at any time?**

Students and parents should note that the programme constitutes a 4-year commitment to a formal curriculum programme. Withdrawal from the MEP is strictly subject to MOE's approval on a case-by-case basis. Once enrolled, students are strongly encouraged to commit to the programme's full duration to experience its full scope and maximise its benefits.

Centre-based learning at the MEP Centre (for students not enrolled in schools that offer MEP/EMP)

**13. How should students choose which MEP Centre to apply for?**

Interested students should choose the MEP Centre (i.e. ACS(I) or DHS) based on schedule and proximity (including travelling time required) to school/ home for their overall well-being. MEP lessons form part of students' formal curriculum and would take precedence over CCA should there be clashes in schedule.

**14. Can students still enrol in the MEP Centre after the selection exercise at the beginning of Sec 1 has concluded?**

Enrolment in the MEP Centre is strictly through the selection exercise at the beginning of Sec 1 only.

Students wishing to enrol in the study of music at O-Level may apply for the upper secondary O-Level Music course. Application opens in May every year. Interested Secondary 2 Express, 2 Normal (Academic) and 2 Normal (Technical) students can apply and can find out more from the Music Coordinators of their own secondary schools.