

**NORTHBROOKS SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**Foreign Languages (FL)/ Third Languages**

**1. Applying for Asian/Foreign Language as MTL-in-lieu (not as Third Language)**  
**Eligibility Criteria**

The eligibility to offer an approved Asian Language (AsL: Arabic, Burmese and Thai) or Foreign Language (FL: French, German and Japanese) in lieu of an official MTL depends on several factors, including the student's parentage and nationality. These students are typically those who join our school system mid-stream and have had formal learning in AsL/FL overseas, or students with a parent who is foreign-born and of non-Chinese/Malay/Indian ethnicity. An application is required for eligible students and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Starting from 2019, Secondary One students who have obtained approval at the primary level to offer an Asian/foreign language are **not** required to submit a re-application.

**Implications of offering an Asian Language/ Foreign Language - FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS**

- The instruction for Asian Languages and Foreign Languages (AsL/FL) is not provided in schools. Parents are responsible to make arrangements for private learning of AsL/FL for their child at the primary, secondary and pre-university levels. Parents must also provide evidence that their child is receiving regular instruction from a private tutor/centre. e.g. marked assignment, result slip or payment receipt.
- For the purpose of Secondary One posting, students offering AsL/FL as MTL-in-lieu under the new PSLE scoring system will be assigned an MTL score between Achievement Level (AL) 6 and 8.
- Students are required to take the AsL/FL papers at the Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC), and the Arabic or FL papers at the GCE A Level (H1) examination.
- To be eligible for admission into a junior college or centralised institute, students are required to fulfil the MTL requirement by attaining D7 or above for the Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) AsL/FL examination. For admission into a local publicly-funded undergraduate programme, the minimum grade required for the GCE A Level (H1) AsL/FL examination is an S grade.
- Upon progression to Secondary One, students offering FL can re-submit an application through their secondary school to be placed on the waiting list for admission to MOELC, subject to availability of vacancies and passing a readiness test. All other students offering AsL/FL as MTL-in-lieu are required to engage in ***private study***.
- An application for MTL exemption due to difficulties in learning AsL/FL will not be possible. A change of language from AsL/FL to Chinese/ Malay/ Tamil/ NTIL will not be accepted from the secondary level.

## **2. Applying for Third Languages**

The result of the Third Language application will be announced through the Parent Gateway.

## **3. Applying for MTL Exemption**

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Learning difficulty in MTL is not a valid reason to apply for MTL exemption. MTL exemption should only be considered as a last resort for students under exceptional circumstances as highlighted below:

- **Mid-stream Entry**

The student enters our school system mid-stream after prolonged absence from our school system and with no or weak prior learning of any of our MTLs or languages that can be offered as MTL-in-lieu.

Applications are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and several factors will be taken into consideration holistically, including:

- a. Duration and location(s) of the student's stay overseas
- b. Prior language learning
- c. MTL curriculum and assessment demands

- **Special Educational Needs**

The student has certified Special Educational Needs (SEN) and shows severe difficulty in coping with his overall learning.

### **\*Application Form can be collected from the General Office.**

- (1) Students granted MTL exemption from the primary level are not required to submit a re-application.
- (2) Applications submitted based on mid-stream entry must be supported by the student's school results for the past two years prior to entering our school system (translated to English if applicable).
- (3) **Supporting Documents**  
Applications submitted based on SEN must be supported by a medical/psychological report. The report must be dated within the past 3 years.
- (4) **Processing Time**  
Depending on the complexity of the case, it can take up to three months to process an MTL exemption application submitted on the basis of having SEN. To minimise unnecessary delays, we seek your cooperation to ensure that all supporting documents are submitted promptly.

## **Frequently ask questions:**

- **How do I know whether my child is exempted from MTL?**

If you have applied MTL exemption when your child was in Primary School, you would have a copy of the approval letter from MOE/CPDD. Please submit this letter to your child's Form teacher.

- **My child did not take MTL in PSLE, does it mean that he/she is exempted from MTL?**

NO, this is because students who are taking AsL/FL in Primary School also do not need to sit for PSLE. Parents must check whether their child are exempted or taking AsL/FL by ensuring that they have the approval letter from MOE/CPDD.

- **Is it possible for my child to change from FL to CL/ML/TL in Sec Sch?**

As your child has missed the PSLE MTL, he/she will not be able to change from FL to CL/ML/TL in Sec Sch.

- **My child has not been taking regular lesson in Primary School, can I apply for MTL exemption?**

No. Not able to cope with AsL/FL will not be an acceptable reason to apply for MTL exemption.

- **What can I do if my financial situation does not allow me to send my child for AsL/FL private lesson?**

Parents who decided to apply for AsL/FL for their child in Primary School and have signed the approval letter would have been briefed that they are required to engage private study for their child in AsL/FL. MOELC only accept students who passed the readiness test or when there is vacancies at the centre. Parents would still need to engage private lesson for their child.

- **Can my child change his/her FL from French Language to Japanese Language?**

Yes, but he/she would need to re-apply for Japanese Language.

- **Can my child still apply to take HMTL in Secondary One even though he/she was not offered HMTL by MOE?**

Your child can still apply to take HMTL at the end of Sec One if his/her results meet the criteria.

- **Can I apply for exemption in MTL if my child is not doing well academically in MTL?**

No. Being weak in academically in MTL cannot be use as a valid reason for exemption in MTL.

- **My child is very weak in CL, can he/she change his/her MTL to ML?**

Yes, but your child will need to take an entry test to prove that he/she can do better in ML.  
An application to change MTL subject will need to be submitted.