FAQ on 6-year Integrated Programme (updated May 2016)

1. What are the key features of NJC’s Integrated Curriculum?

- Broad-based curriculum
- Independent learning
- Application-based integrated learning
- Strong national orientation

2. How is NJC’s Integrated Programme curriculum different from that of other IPs?

We cannot comment on what is offered by the other IPs. NJC’s IP comprises a series of semester long or year long modules/subjects what build the students foundations for the first four years (Junior High) before they embark on the A level course for the 5th and 6th year (Senior high).

**Customised curriculum:** The curriculum offers a wide range of core and elective subjects/modules to the students. Core subjects/modules include Language Arts, Mathematics, Integrated Science, Higher Mother Tongue, Thinking, General Programme in Arts (Art & Music), Governance and Society, History and Geography. At the upper JH level, pure Sciences are offered (Physics, Chemistry and Biology), as well as Advanced Humanities and Advanced Language Arts.

Optional special subjects/modules include Man & Ideas, the Art Elective Programme, Music Programme, Advanced Science and Advanced Inquiry in Mathematics

**Special programmes:**
- Arts Appreciation Programme
- Special Programme in Inquiry and REsearch (SPIRE)
- Drama-in-Production
- Adventure Education

**Enhanced Boarding Component:** All students are expected to board for up to 1 term each year at least in their first 4 years of Junior High. There is a programme planned for the boarding component. For Senior High, there is also a boarding programme at SH1 for about a week.

**Modes of Assessment:** Besides the usual pen and paper tests, we have consciously adopted a continuous assessment framework that includes alternative modes of assessment such as:
- Class participation
- Oral Presentations
- Individual and group projects
- Performance tasks
- Model-making

We strongly believe that such an approach provides a better and more comprehensive measure of our students’ abilities.

3. Is everything integrated in the IP?

No. The curriculum has been integrated only when and where it is meaningful to do so. This has been especially relevant in the Sciences, Humanities and English.

4. When do IP students actually study A level material? Will ‘dis-integration’ happen so that students can be better prepared for the A levels?

The curriculum is designed so that content and skills currently in the A level syllabus are included in all our modules. Students are therefore being prepared for the A Levels since Junior High but progressively.

5. Do IP students have to take all modules?

They will have to take a core set of modules/subjects. There will also be a range of optional modules for them to choose from. From SH1 (Year 5) onwards, they will pick and choose their ‘A’ Level subjects based on their academic interests, and university and career aspirations.
6. Do students have a choice as to which enrichment programmes to take up?

Certainly. On a college level, the College forms partnerships with universities and other institutions in a variety of fields and makes these opportunities available to students. Students are then advised on how to go about applying for the programmes that interest them. Examples of programmes: VIA trips; Cultural Immersion programme; STaR programme etc.

7. Some of the content covered in the curriculum seems very different from what students study at O and A level. How is this material relevant to students?

We’ve designed the curriculum so as to give our students a broad base of knowledge from different subject areas as well as to teach them thinking and research skills that will be vital for them to meet the new A level syllabus requirements. In addition to the content that is required for the A levels, students will also be introduced to ideas and knowledge that will be useful supplements for what is normally taught at A level.

8. Is there banding in the IP?

We customize our lessons and curriculum to meet the learning needs of our students, and this flexibility extends to the way we group students during lessons. Students may be taught in mixed-ability or banded classes for certain subjects, depending on which benefits them more. We keep track of our students’ progress throughout the year so that we can review the banding process and re-group the students if necessary.

9. What textbooks and resources are used in the IP?

We use a combination of resources selected from various sources, such as extracts from the usual O and A level textbooks as well as other recognized texts, films and the Internet. These are given to students in the form of worksheets and printed notes. Students may be given recommended reading lists for individual modules, but there are no compulsory textbooks for most subjects. In 2015, we have also started the iPad programme for JH1s, where every student has an iPad for their learning purposes.

10. What is the average class size?

There are about 25 students in each JH1/JH2 class and no more than 30 in JH3/ JH4.

11. How long is the average day for students?

Longer than the average day for secondary students, but shorter than the average day for JC students. Students end at different times each day.

Students who join additional programmes such as Art Elective Programme (AEP) and Music Programme will have an average of 3 to 4 more hours per week. Students who take 3rd Language classes will have to do so outside the school and will take about 3 to 4 more hours per week.

12. Is Boarding necessary? Can a student be part of IP without Boarding?

The curriculum has been designed to leverage on Boarding. Therefore, a student will not be able to complete the curriculum without participating in Boarding. It is compulsory for all students on the programme to board.

13. Do you offer the O level track? Are you a dual-track school?

No, we only have the IP track which leads directly to the A levels. Students will be monitored throughout the six years for their progress to ensure that they can succeed.
14. **What is the fallback in case a student is unable to cope in the IP?**

The College will do its best to help these students cope. However, the college will help to facilitate arrangements for students who may choose to leave the IP mid-way. The number of such students is very small.

15. **What are the PSLE scores of your DSA students? Are they always lower than actual PSLE posting students?**

We cannot comment, as PSLE scores of all students are confidential.

16. **My child did not take Higher Mother Tongue in primary school, must he/she take Higher Mother Tongue in NJC?**

Most students in JH1 and JH2 take Higher Mother Tongue (Chinese, Malay, Tamil). Lessons are held in College. Students who do not qualify for HMT or choose not to take HMT after PSLE results are out will take Express Mother Tongue (Chinese, Malay, Tamil).

Exceptions: Non-Tamil Indian Languages, Foreign Language as Mother Tongue. Students must register on their own with external language centres. Information can be obtained from MOE.

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**FAQs on the Direct School Admission (DSA) Selection Process**

1. **Is NJC targeting a select group of schools / students?**

Since NJC is non-affiliated, no preference is given to students from a particular or select group of schools. Admission is merit-based and transparent. At the same time, DSA selection is not based on any niche CCA or talent.

2. **How to apply?**

All DSA applications to National Junior College must be done online at www.nationaljc.moe.edu.sg. Refer to website for application date and details. Application typically starts in late May and closes in July of current year for admission in the next academic year.

In addition, Primary 6 students can also apply through the Secondary One Posting Exercise conducted by MOE to join the college.

3. **What are the selection criteria for application through DSA?**

Please refer to NJC website for more information on DSA selection process and criteria.

4. **What is the selection process for DSA?**

Please refer to NJC website for more information on DSA selection process and criteria.

5. **How many places are allocated for DSA?**

We do not have a fixed number of places allocated for DSA. Rather, students are selected based on their ability and suitability for our rigorous 6-year Integrated Programme. The maximum number of JH1 students in each cohort is 200. Generally 50% of the intake can come from DSA.

6. **Is there an application fee?**

Yes. All students taking part in the DSA exercise will be charged a fee of $10 to cover the cost of test materials. This fee is non-refundable. Students on FAS will have the fee waived.

7. **What is the PSLE cut-off for NJC?**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cut-off</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>258</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>254</td>
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Note that as NJC is not a SAP school, the PSLE score for entry does not consider any bonus marks from PSLE Higher Mother Tongue. Also, PSLE cut-off is determined by the quality of the cohort of applicants, and not by the College.

8. What is the PSLE score requirement for a student accepted via DSA?

As long as the student meets the PSLE cut-off for Express stream as set by MOE (i.e. PSLE score of 200), the student can be admitted to NJC if a confirmed offer has been given.

Appeals

1. When is the appeal period for Junior High?

The appeal period starts a week after PSLE results are released and ends on the day of Sec 1 registration.

2. How do I make an appeal?

Only online appeal applications are accepted. Look out for the announcement on the NJC website after the release of the PSLE results. Please do not write in separately or walk in to apply.

3. What are the selection criteria for appeals?

Appeal applicants are considered on a holistic basis, however, under MOE guidelines, they must have met the school’s lowest PSLE aggregate (Cut Off Point). The school has to consider if the applicant has the potential to complete the 6-year IP successfully. Some applicants may be asked to attend a short interview in end December.

4. When will the outcome of the appeals be made known?

All appeal applicants will be notified of the outcome by 31 December and they will be advised on how to complete the transfer process. The outcome will either be an offer of a place or an unsuccessful status. There will be no waiting list.

5. How many places will there be for appeals?

There is no fixed number but places are limited and subject to available vacancies.

Fees and Financial Matters

1. What is the fee structure like for the Integrated Programme?

Junior High students (Singapore citizens) pay the same fees as students in government secondary schools (about $25). PRs and International students pay a different amount as stipulated by MOE.

2. Do students have to pay for additional enrichment programmes that are organised for them?

As the school fees do not cover the cost of additional enrichment programmes, students will have to pay for these programmes on their own. Singaporean students may withdraw funds from their Edusave accounts for this purpose.

3. How much is the fee for boarding?

The enhanced boarding fee varies from year to year, depending on the total duration in residence. There will be price difference between Singapore citizens, PRs and international students.

Students only pay the boarding fees during the period when they are in residence.

4. Are there financial assistance for needy students for boarding?
The College will provide avenues for needy students to obtain financial assistance for boarding. No child will be denied a chance to board because he/she cannot afford the boarding fees.

5. What would be the school fees for permanent residents and international students?

Please refer to MOE website for most updated fees. Boarding fee for non-Singaporeans is between S$1300 and S$2000, depending on the duration of the termly stay.

CCAs

1. What kind of CCA programme do students follow?

Students in Junior High 1, undergo a customized CCA programme - CAFE (Co-curricular Activities for Experience) for Semester 1, before they make a choice and commit for the rest of the JH years. They can change their CCA again at SH1.

Students in Junior High 3 and 4 follow the same CCA programme as Senior High students. In the case of activities that demand a lot of time and commitment on the student’s part, it is up to the discretion of the CCA teachers-in-charge to make arrangements to cater to the needs of the younger Junior High students so that their CCAs will not be too demanding for them. We also keep track of our students’ performance in the academic and CCA arenas and teach them time-management skills.

2. Are Junior High students given the same opportunities as Senior High students to take part in inter-school or national competitions?

Certainly. Students who play individual sports compete in the B division with other secondary school students. Those who play team sports will be able to compete in the B division if we have the critical mass of students needed to form a B division team. The same goes for students in the music, dance and drama groups.

For students in Junior High 1 and 2, they will focus on developing their skills to compete in B division when they reach Junior High 3 and 4. Currently, some CCAs also participate in the C Div if they have a critical mass of members.

3. Can Junior High Students take part in uniformed groups?

Currently, we do not have the critical mass of students needed to start up uniformed group CCAs. They may however, continue with their external involvement in uniformed groups at their own time.

4. What leadership opportunities are given to Junior High students? Are they disadvantaged because of their age?

Many leadership opportunities are made available to all our students in a wide variety of areas: in their classes, CCAs and in the College’s student leadership body. Students also have opportunities to be leaders when doing curriculum-based projects and CIP. A structured leadership development is in place to ensure that Junior High students are developed in their leadership to be able to take on higher leadership roles in Senior High. JH students will get opportunities to take up leadership roles in our niche JH CCAs, as well as in the Student Council.