

**2021 MOE-OBS Challenge Programme**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

General

S/N	Question	Answer
1	<b>What is the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme?</b>	The programme consists of pre- and post-course lessons taught by our teachers and the OBS Course led by OBS Instructors. It is designed to ensure achievement of the programme learning outcomes and transfer of learning to other areas of the students' life. Students are not graded for performance but are encouraged to work on goals they set for themselves.
2	<b>What kind of activities will my child be going through during the OBS Course?</b>	<p>OBS uses the outdoors as its classroom. Your child will be engaged in a variety of activities that will help him/her not just to discover, but also challenge his/her personal limits.</p> <p>Some of these activities include problem-solving activities, adventure activities conducted over land and sea. It allows students to reconnect with nature, develop their resilience and connectedness with nature, while having a positive mindset in managing difficult situations.</p>
3	<b>Is the OBS course compulsory for my child?</b>	The MOE-OBS Challenge Programme is part of school curriculum but parental consent is still needed for the OBS course.

2-Day Course

S/N	Question	Answer
4	<b>How can the safety of my child be ensured during the OBS course, with such a big group of students coming together?</b>	<p>The positive learning experience and well-being of your child is our priority. Activities are purposefully designed to meet the programme outcomes. The students are supervised by qualified OBS Instructors who are trained in Wilderness First Aid, and have undergone rigorous training, technical skills assessments and certifications.</p> <p>Students undergo the Course in groups of up to 12-14 per Instructor, to facilitate good interaction, adequate peer support and opportunities to practice leadership roles.</p> <p>In addition, OBS has a robust safety monitoring system and evacuation plan for emergencies.</p>

5	<b>What are the SMM in place for the OBS course?</b>	<p>MOE-OBS adopts strict adherence to safe distancing and safe management measures for conduct and participation of outdoor activities in accordance to prevailing Covid-19 situation and guidelines from national governing and advisory bodies. Some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Participants will undergo temperature screening at designated reporting points in OBS, with visual markers for safe distancing;</li> <li>ii. Staggered movement will be implemented for large groups;</li> <li>iii. Twice a day temperature taking in the morning and at lunch time;</li> <li>iv. Face masks are to be worn at all times and must maintain a safe distance of 1 metre from each other at all times;</li> <li>v. Maintain a safe distance of 2 metres from each other when face masks cannot be worn during strenuous activities.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Does my child need to be certified fit by a medical doctor to attend the OBS course?</b>	<p>Your <b><u>timely submission</u></b> of the online registration form with <b><u>accurate information</u></b> is important. An accurate declaration of your child's health condition will allow us to assess if your child needs to be certified fit for participation by a medical doctor and/or if your child requires any additional support during the OBS course. You may refer to the important note on page 3 of this letter for more information.</p>
7	<b>Will my child be forced to go through an activity that he/she is not confident in?</b>	<p>OBS Instructors are trained to motivate and provide a supportive environment for the participants. Your child will not be forced to participate in any activity and will not be asked to engage in an activity without safety briefings and orientation.</p> <p>However, he/she will be strongly encouraged to participate in all activities during the Course and at a level that he/she is comfortable with. This is to maximise the opportunities for learning and self-discovery, in alignment with the philosophy of 'challenge-by-choice'.</p>
8	<b>Where will these activities be conducted?</b>	<p>Different activities will be conducted on mainland Singapore and/or Pulau Ubin. The OBS Course is designed such that despite the different types of activities, students can achieve the same learning outcomes.</p>

9	<b>What happens if my child has their period during the Course? Can they still go through the water activities?</b>	Your child can still participate in all activities as per usual. Female participants who are expecting their period during the programme should bring an extra supply of sanitary pads, dark-coloured shorts/pants, and extra plastic bags for the disposal of soiled sanitary pads. There is no requirement for them to take any medication to delay or postpone their menstruation cycle, unless otherwise stated by their doctor. Additionally, they can approach any female OBS Instructor for assistance during the Course.
10	<b>What should my child bring for the OBS Course?</b>	Please refer your child to the packing list. There is no need for expensive, technical gear. We encourage your child to borrow items that he/she does not have from family/friends/schoolmates to minimise unnecessary expenses. OBS discourages students from bringing along expensive items. Your child's valuables i.e. mobile phones and wallet will be kept by OBS to ensure security of personal items and minimal distraction during the Course.
11	<b>If my child is unwell or injured during the Course, do I need to pick my child up? What if I cannot pick my child up?</b>	If your child is sent to a clinic or hospital for further diagnosis or treatment, you may need to pick them up if the doctor issues them a medical certificate (MC), as it is best recommended for them to rest at home. We do not encourage your child to continue with the Course.  If your child is ill, we may ask that you pick your child up to see a doctor.  In both cases, your child will benefit from the comfort of your presence, and it is best for them to be brought home to rest, after seeking medical advice.  If you are unable to pick your child up, you can arrange for another family member above 18 years old to do so on your behalf or request for assistance from the school.

Communication

S/N	Question	Answer
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12	<b>Will I be informed if my child is injured/unwell?</b>	<p>At first instance of receiving a report of an injury/illness, OBS will assess, manage and monitor. Medical treatment will be given by the Instructor and/or our qualified OBS nurses for the well-being of your child.</p> <p>You will be informed if your child requires further medical attention at a clinic or hospital.</p> <p>If, after a period of rest and monitoring, our nurses and Instructors assess your child to be fit to re-join the Course, you will <b>not</b> be informed.</p>
13	<b>How do I contact my child in the event of a family emergency?</b>	<p>You may contact your child via the Teacher Coordinator. However, due to the expeditionary nature of the course, we seek your understanding that some time is needed for OBS to reach your child.</p> <p>Your child's valuables i.e. mobile phones and wallet will be kept by OBS to ensure security of personal items and minimal distraction during the Course.</p>

#### Registration

14	<b>I am a Singaporean/PR, but I do not have a SingPass. How do I register my child for the programme?</b>	<p>You may register for a SingPass via <a href="http://www.ifaq.gov.sg/singpass">www.ifaq.gov.sg/singpass</a>. The link also provides responses for other related SingPass queries.</p>
15	<b>I am a foreigner and do not have a SingPass. How do I register for the OBS Programme?</b>	<p>Please approach your child's teacher for assistance. Your child may still be enrolled.</p>
16	<b>What if I did not receive an acknowledgement email from OBS after I submitted the form online?</b>	<p>Please inform the school through your child's teacher if you have submitted the e-Registration Form, but did not receive an acknowledgement email from OBS. Your child's teacher will check in with OBS and advise you on how to proceed.</p>

Medical Examination (applicable only to those who have been informed that they need to be certified fit for participation by a medical doctor)

S/N	Question	Answer
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17	I am taking my child to see our family doctor for the medical examination. What do I need to bring?	<p>a) <b><u>A Medical Examination Form</u></b>  <i>You can either obtain a copy from the school through your child, or access and print out a copy that can be retrieved at <a href="http://www.go.gov.sg/moe-obsmedform">www.go.gov.sg/moe-obsmedform</a> or refer to the QR code below.</i></p>  <p>b) <b><u>Your child's e-Registration Form response (in PDF)</u></b>  <i>You should receive an email acknowledgement from OBS upon submitting the e-Registration Form.</i></p>
18	What are the steps involved for the medical examination?	<p>Step 1: Show the doctor the e-Registration Form response in PDF.</p> <p>Step 2: Give the Medical Examination Form to the medical doctor to certify your child fit to participate in the 2-day Course. Any medical concerns should be brought to the doctor's attention.</p> <p>Step 3: Ensure that the Medical Doctor has certified your child 'fit' on the Medical Examination Form (with medical doctor's signature and stamp of clinic details)</p> <p>Step 4: Submit the completed Medical Examination Form and doctor/specialist memo (if applicable) to the school through your child.</p>

Others

S/N	Question	Answer
19	What if nationwide situations that impact your child's participation arise?	In the event of a nationwide situation that impacts your child's participation (e.g. haze, Covid), MOE and OBS will provide updates to schools. MOE & OBS will reference requirements and standards from national agencies and apply the relevant requirements to the Course. During this time, if you have other questions regarding OBS, please check back with us at <a href="mailto:OBS_Programmes@nyc.gov.sg">OBS_Programmes@nyc.gov.sg</a>