Streaming may end, but will parents’ behaviour change?

Beware the unintended effects of having subject-based banding, if parents shy away from schools that group students into mixed-ability classes.

By Kelvin Seah

For The Straits Times

From 2020, streaming in secondary schools will no longer be an option. The move to subject-based banding across all streams will enhance the learning environment for all students.

However, parents may react differently to the changes, as they may still prefer schools that group students into mixed-ability classes. While streaming may end, the unintended effects of having subject-based banding may still persist.

For many parents, streaming in secondary schools was a way to ensure that their children had the best possible learning environment. By grouping students into mixed-ability classes, schools can cater to the needs of all students, regardless of their abilities. This helps to ensure that students from different streams can learn together, promoting social integration.

However, some parents may still prefer schools that group students into mixed-ability classes. They may believe that this helps to promote a more inclusive learning environment, where students from different backgrounds can learn together.

Therefore, it is important for schools to communicate clearly with parents about the changes and the benefits of subject-based banding. By doing so, schools can ensure that parents understand the advantages of this new system and are more likely to support it.

It is also important for schools to be transparent about their selection process and the criteria used to group students into different classes. This helps to ensure that parents feel confident in the decisions made by the school.

Overall, while streaming may end, the unintended effects of having subject-based banding may still persist if parents do not feel confident in the changes made by the school. It is important for schools to communicate clearly with parents and ensure that they understand the benefits of subject-based banding.