

The Changing Role of Schools

It is very interesting to note how schools have changed over the years particularly in terms of what they offer in the classroom and also how children are expected to assimilate information and learn.

There is no area of the school where the change has been greater than in the Early Years classrooms (Pre-school and Reception).

In the 'old days', education for children generally began at the age of 5 and very little was on offer for children below this age.

If a school provided education for children aged 3 to 5 years, it was generally just a watered down version of what happened in older classrooms.

This meant that, from a very young age, children were seated in a formal traditional manner in rows, all facing the front and learning was regarded as the ability to retain and regurgitate facts.

Research into the way in which children learn recognised that this was neither the best way to teach young children, nor did it suit the learning styles of the majority.

In the early 1990s, a radical shift took place in the UK and the National Curriculum developed a specialist syllabus for young children called the Early Years Curriculum.

This programme was developed to take account of the fact that children of this age learn best through play and first-hand experience.

By giving young children a diet of planned experiences through areas of learning, they develop the skills to become much better learners as they move through the school.

At the Alice Smith School, we recognise and understand that children need a constant flow of interaction with people and their environment. We provide a well-resourced, stimulating and challenging environment which fosters a love of learning and ensures a secure foundation.

Choosing the right early years provision is very important. Research shows that attending a quality Pre-school setting has a positive impact on a child's academic and social development, and that benefits largely through to the end of Key Stage 2.

We welcome you to visit our Early Years Centre and discover how best we can embark on this great journey together with your child.

When entering a high quality Early Years learning environment in a school such as ours today, visitors cannot fail to be impressed by the quality of the education on offer.

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About the Alice Smith School

The Alice Smith School is one of the most prestigious and respected British international schools in Asia. It has an established reputation for excellence, and as a not-for-profit educational foundation, all the school's resources are focused on the well-being of students. The school is one of the first schools in Malaysia and earliest in South East Asia and wider afield to be accredited as a British School Overseas by the Department for Education in London and is graded as outstanding.

The School resides on two campuses. The Primary Campus caters to students from Pre-school to Year 6 in the city centre, while the beautiful purpose-built Secondary Campus in Equine Park situated on 25 acres of land caters to students from Years 7 to 13 and offers GCSEs and A Levels.

Since its founding in 1946, the school has grown into a diverse and dynamic community with 1,600 students from close to 50 different nations. The core of the student body comprises the founder nationalities of Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland and later as the school matured, the children of alumni. With close to 70 years of history, the school has a rich education heritage and an extensive web of alumni globally.

For media enquiries, please contact: Susan Wan, Director of Development or Karen Wong, Marketing & Communications Manager at Tel: +603 9543 3688 Fax: +603 9543 3788

Email: marketing@alice-smith.edu.my or visit our School's website at www.alice-smith.edu.my