

The Parents' Guide to Better Schooling

Finding the right school is important, so here's a roundup of our readers' recommendations to get you started. *Compiled by Victoria Yim, photography by Hart Tan, Tomato Photo*

Australian International School

1 Lorong Chuan
6883 5155 | www.ais.com.sg

“When we found out we were moving from Melbourne to Singapore last year, the stability of schooling for our children – and their integration into a new school – was our top priority.

The children are enjoying mixing with kids from all over the world. Jemima said travelling to Kim Bang Orphanage in Vietnam was a life-changing experience for her. Jacob said his field trip to the Tioman Islands with a group of marine biologists was ‘awesome’, and the two younger ones love sport.

The school staff members went out of their way to ensure the children understood they were not alone in moving to a new school in a new country. All the teachers made sure the children were comfortable and had someone to help them if they needed anything. The staff were instrumental in our decision about our children's education and they had a significant impact on making their transition to their new school a happy and successful one.

Rachael Cox, Australia



Rachael's four children, Jemima (13), Jacob (12), Remy (8) and Orlando (5), attend the Australian International School (AIS).



Both of Teresa's two sons, Joseph (12) and Joshua (8), attend Avondale Grammar School.

Avondale Grammar School

Phoenix Park, 318 Tanglin Road
6258 8544 | www.avondalegs.com.sg

“This is the first time we've lived overseas, so it's the first time our boys have attended an international school. The small school environment has been excellent for their academic development, for making them feel at home and helping them to forge friendships.

When my husband came for a visit before we moved here and checked out several schools, we both felt good about Avondale. It just felt right – like family. Being at a small school has meant that the boys have been able to make friends more easily and get the attention they need from the teachers.

Avondale's focus on public speaking and performing has been the best thing for my boys. I believe that when they go back to public schools in America, they will be way ahead of other kids their age, not only in education but also in their ability to perform in front of an audience.

Teresa Coombs, US

Dover Court Preparatory School

Dover Road
6775 7664 | www.dovercourt.edu.sg

“We loved the fact that Dover offers a few small-group placement classes alongside its mainstream classes. This was exactly the support Lily needed to maximise her academic progress. While this model is common elsewhere in the world, Dover is the only international school in Singapore that could accommodate Lily in this way.

Dover Court has the intimacy of a small school but the spacious grounds of a much larger school. Likewise, Dover’s arts programme has the ambitions of a much larger school, but the opportunities for involvement that come with a smaller school. Lily loves participating in the annual musical theatre production. It is tremendously exciting for the students and it creates a real sense of pride in their accomplishment.

I don’t hesitate to recommend Dover to other parents who prefer the British curriculum but want the advantages of a smaller school.

Laurel Crawford, Australia



Laurel's oldest daughter, Lily (11), is into her fifth year at Dover Court.



eAge Youth

1 North Bridge Road #19-04/05
6492 8709 | www.eageyouth.com

“My daughter runs on a very tight schedule, so time management is crucial for her. She had a few free trial sessions, which were made available when she registered at eAge Youth. It was entirely my daughter’s choice to take online tutoring.

She found the teachers to be very good and also liked the fact that she did not have to travel anywhere. She could participate in the sessions from the comfort of our home. The customer support is efficient and any problems get addressed quickly.

Kids today are comfortable with technology; my daughter adapted to the idea of virtual tutoring very easily. Her grades have improved considerably since she started with this online tutoring programme.

Lilian Yu, Hong Kong

Lilian's daughter is currently in grade 10 and uses eAge Youth's online tutoring programme.