

Why choose an international school?

By Andrew Masinde

For many parents, finding a school that suits their child is often difficult, especially for parents who work overseas. International schools come in as the solution to this challenge. A parent with a child at an international school, says when he moved to Uganda, his worry was where he would take his child for an education similar to that in

his country.

His prayer was answered when he found an international school that was offering the Cambridge curriculum.

Mustafa Ekizoglu, the principal of Horizon International School Jinja, says international schools are home to children of many nationalities and exposure to different cultures.

He explains that many put emphasis on cultural exchange which is phenomenal, and as world markets become increasingly

interconnected, it is now more desirable to understand the dynamics of cultures different to your own.

The curriculum

He adds that the schools often use international curricula.

Ekizoglu adds that, many international schools offer extracurricular activities which allow the children to gain access to skills that cannot be nurtured in many local schools.

"These can range from imagination games and

creativity to mathematics and robotics. When the child develops new and exciting skills, they grow more confident and learn how to communicate and work with other children," he says.

George Musiime, the Cambridge co-ordinator Vienna College Namugongo, says international schools offer a holistic approach in educating an individual.

"We believe that every individual has at least one thing they are good at and many schools assume there are those that have nothing



Pupils of Kabira school doing mental work

good in them. That is why international schools are the best option because they help find that something in each child and try to encourage the learners to exhibit confidence," Musiime says.

Teaching

Musiime adds that the teaching in international schools is learner-centered. "A teacher will prepare a lesson that caters for all sets of learners," he says.

Musiime explains that with the increasing desire to further studies abroad, it is very likely that they would choose to offer their children an international background in international schools. He notes that it is widely accepted that opportunities for students after international school are tremendous with the top universities the world over consistently competing for the best students.

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When is your child ready for international school?

By Vision Reporter

Parents worry about what age to take their children to school. This worry is even greater when it comes to international schools.

Some worry that due to the diverse cultures and nationalities in the schools, it would be hard for their children to adopt.

However, Muhammed Kakiika, the principal of Vienna College Namugongo and a veteran educationalist, says, there is no need for parents to worry because all international schools are governed by one body that governs other schools.

He says that all the parent needs to know is that their child is ready for school. This would be at the age of three years as recommended by the Ministry of Education.

He says that at three years, the child joins pre-primary until they are five years. During this stage they will learn the basics about relating with others, among other things.

"At this age children learn lifeskills that help them adapt to the life when they

start the real education," Kakiika says.

He adds that at six years the child is ready to join primary and this is where formal learning is supposed to begin. The child will be introduced to learning and they are expected to stay in primary until 11 to 13 years before they join junior secondary which is an equivalent of Primary Seven to Senior Two.

He also explains that after completing Senior Two at 13 years, the child is ready to do check point exams to see if they are ready to join senior secondary. At 14 they join senior secondary which is an equivalent of Senior Three to Senior Four and at 17 to 18 the child will be in A'level and after they are ready to join university.

"Naomi Devino, the director Kings International School, says because of their busy schedule, parents now take their children to school as early as two years.

She, however, says it is not recommended for international schools, but for those who have no option, Devino advises they find out if the school has all the basic facilities for a day care centre.