

Choosing an international school near Medini

A parent's checklist. Print it, or keep it on your phone.

1. Before you shortlist

The questions that decide which schools even belong on your list.

- ☐ **Does the school go to age 18, or stop at 16 (IGCSE)?** Either is fine — just know it going in, so you're not choosing a second school later by surprise.
- ☐ **What's the full annual cost** — tuition, plus application, registration, deposit, uniforms, bus, meals and exam fees? Tuition alone is never the real number.
- ☐ **Does the fee pass RM60,000 a year?** If so, ask the school directly whether Malaysia's 6% service tax applies to your child.
- ☐ **Is the fee from the school's own page, or a directory estimate?** Directories go stale fast — confirm every number with the school itself.
- ☐ **How long is the daily run**, by road, at actual drop-off and pickup times — not the straight-line distance on a map.

2. Before you call or visit

Have these ready so the call is short and the answers are useful.

- ☐ **Is there a seat** in my child's year, or a waiting list? Popular year groups fill up — ask early.
- ☐ **What entry test** will my child sit, and in which subjects? Most schools test maths and English.
- ☐ **Ask for the full fee list in writing**, for my child's exact year — not a general range.
- ☐ **Ask what's refundable** if our plans change after we pay a deposit or registration fee.
- ☐ **Ask about extra English (EAL) support**, and what it costs, if my child needs it.

3. On the visit

What to look at and ask while you're actually there.

- ☐ **The school bus route** from our home, its cost, and the real pickup time.
- ☐ **What's on the food menu** — and are halal options available, if we need them?
- ☐ **Is there a buddy system** for new students? How soon can my child join clubs and teams?
- ☐ **If the school stops at 16**, where do its students go next? Ask for real examples.
- ☐ **Bring your child if you can.** Their gut feeling about the corridors and the other kids is data too.

4. Before you decide

The last check before you commit a deposit.

- ☐ **Have I compared fees from each school's own page**, not just a directory listing?
- ☐ **Have I asked about the yearly extras** — uniforms, meals, clubs, exam fees — in writing?
- ☐ **If it's a new or unfinished campus**, do I have a firm opening date, not just an estimate?
- ☐ **Does the commute work for our actual daily schedule**, not just the distance on a map?
- ☐ **Have I picked the school before the home?** The school is the harder one to change later.

This checklist comes from a full, verified comparison of six international schools near Medini. Read it at bodaijumedini.my/insights/international-schools-near-medini