

THese days many parents enrol their children in a host of extracurricular activities. This oftentimes results in children getting tired or bored of the never ending cycle of classes.

This is particularly true with music lessons where children repeatedly practise playing an instrument that they do not enjoy.

The extra examinations related to these lessons only add to their already hectic schedules making this extracurricular activity a chore.

However, this is not the case at Nilai International School (NIS). The school's music room is a place of laughter and enjoyment and is indicative of the fun that is being experienced inside.

Inside the room, a group of Year 1 students are learning the fundamentals of music notation through interactive games and a variety of percussion instruments.

NIS' music room is also equipped with a piano, a dozen keyboards, an electric drum set, an acoustic guitar as well as bongos, tambourines and glockenspiels.

The music teacher, Deborah Gan, says that the main aim of the music lesson, especially for the younger children, is for them to have fun. The classes are structured, according to the IGCSE syllabus, to cultivate and nurture young children's interest in music.

Younger children, who begin music lessons at three years old in the Early Years preschool programme, are exempted from examinations for the music lessons but will be graded internally by the music teacher.

Their grading is based on

Hitting the right notes



Gan says that music lessons should cultivate and nurture children's interest in music.

their interaction, behaviour and aptitude in class, and parents will receive periodic updates on their children's progress.

Students from Year 6 onwards are required to sit for internal examinations and the evaluation

will be reflected in their overall grades.

Students who opt to take up music from Year 9 onwards will prepare for the IGCSE music examinations, where they will be tested on their musical knowledge

and ability.

The latter will encompass a recorded performance that will be sent to invigilators abroad for grading.

Students will also be required to write their own compositions.

Countless benefits

The learning experience should be fun and the new school song that was written by NIS students, with arrangements by Gan, can attest to this.

The school also has a music club, which further encourages students to nurture their musical talents as it hosts various activities, including jam sessions, band practices and concerts. So far, the music club has performed two recitals during the Chinese New Year and Christmas festivities.

According to Gan, students at NIS gain many benefits from being exposed to music lessons.

The younger children have an outlet for musical fun in addition to learning new skill sets.

Meanwhile, older children develop a sense of discipline as all aspects of music require patience, practice and perseverance.

These values will also positively impact their attitude towards their studies in other subjects.

Many students are seen practising and rehearsing in the music room after their lessons have ended and this is a clear indication that they are enjoying themselves and are feeling the music being taught.

■ For more information, call 06-850 2188 or visit www.nis.edu.my