



Circular No. OMEDB/SKL/26/01

Monday, 26th January 2026

To: ALL PARENTS & GUARDIANS OF SRI KUALA LUMPUR

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the management team and all the staff of the School, may I wish you a belated but very Happy New Year and welcome you back to Sri KL for Academic Year 2026.

Now is a busy time for parents and so here are a few reminders to help you smoothly navigate the first few weeks of school and beyond.

Parents in and around the School

Once again, I'm pleased to report that the Year 1 parents for 2026 have done a wonderful job in preparing their children for big school so that the first week of the semester has been a pleasure for all concerned. Parents have not lingered at the gates and students have settled in with confidence. Well done to everyone. Likewise, Year 7 students have quickly adapted to their new environment and the rigors of Secondary School.

With regard to parents' access, please be reminded that if you do wish to visit the school to meet staff or tour the premises, you should make an appointment with either the Admin office or the Principal's office of your respective school. Security will not allow you in without an appointment. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Vehicles in and around the School Compound

Traffic over the first two weeks of School is always a little stressful for all concerned as parents and students adjust to unfamiliar locations and directions. As such your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Once again, we must remind parents and drivers NOT TO ARRIVE EARLY when collecting students. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated. This includes parking at or near the Persiaran Kewajipan roundabout.

Parents are also reminded to download and use the Sri KL traffic app (SKELTA) if you intend to drive your children to and from school. This will entitle you to car stickers allowing vehicle access to the School Compound and stickers are available at the administration counter. Only cars with valid stickers may enter the School and, subject to availability, may be parked for a maximum of ONE HOUR after which time they must be removed.

However, there is strictly no parking for parents or visitors during peak time drop-off and pick-up periods. There is also no entry for cars without stickers and spot-checks will be conducted from time to time. **Cars without valid stickers will be subject to clamping and a fine of RM100.00.** New parents driving to school, please ensure you apply for and collect your car stickers without delay.

More importantly, parents are reminded to drive **SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY** in and around the School. Please drive as you would expect others to drive when young children (YOUR CHILDREN) are crossing the road. Parents found speeding in the compound or disregarding the instructions of traffic wardens and security guards will be barred from entering the School in future.

Finally, parents/drivers who continue to ignore instructions from traffic wardens and/or park in restricted locations **are liable to have their children's enrolment at Sri KL terminated**. These regulations are for the safety and well-being of everyone at the School and parents are requested to co-operate fully at all times.

IMPORTANT NOTE

After week 1, we have reviewed the data on the efficacy of the 2026 pick-up points for students after school and we will be making two important changes with immediate effect. From Tuesday 27th January onwards :

- **Y3 students pick-up location will now be at the Great Hall/Primary Canteen.**
- **Y8 students pick-up point will now be at the Secondary School Porch**
- **The time of pick-up, colour-code and all other details for Y3 and Y8 remain unchanged.**

A revised pick-up schedule will be issued to all Y3 and Y8 parents today.

Email communication

All parents should have already received an official email address using the School's email server. This is the primary means of communication between parents and the School for all official notifications regarding your children. If you have yet to receive an email address, kindly contact the Admin Office at your earliest convenience.

Proposal by Ministry of Education to lower age of entry to Year 1

A number of concerned parents have contacted the School regarding this hot topic. In essence, the government has floated the idea of lowering the age of entry for Y1 students entering primary school from "6 turning 7" to "5 turning 6" on a voluntary basis starting January 2027.

Fully doing justice to the issues involved and the reasons for our response to this proposal would require a lengthy explanation which is not appropriate to this circular. However, here is a brief encapsulation of Sri KL's position on the matter.

- Despite the fact that a notable number of countries practice "5 turning 6", it is our humble opinion that this is actually **the wrong answer to a problem that has less to do with education and more to do with childcare**.
- Across the globe, from so-called first world countries, to developing and third-world nations, working parents with young children need affordable childcare. In the absence of state-funded tadika/pre-schools, primary schools are seen as a compromise solution.
- The unseen effects of this early entry into a formal school setting are significant and, contrary to popular belief, mostly detrimental to early child development.
- Younger aged children are shoe-horned into a peer group that may have an age difference of 15 months or more between oldest and youngest. This age disparity often translates into anxiety and stress for those younger children that persists into adult life.

- These younger children are also usually forced to take a curriculum that is inappropriate for their age. Studies have shown this affects their academic success and that this under-achievement also persists into adulthood.
- Typically, it is working class parents that are most in need of state-sponsored childcare. Sadly, it is their children that suffer most from the compromise of early primary school entry. Instead of enhancing their children's chances of doing better in life, the proposed system actually makes it more difficult to succeed. This is something that the political establishment urgently needs to understand.
- The effect on Year 1 teachers forced to deal with pre-school issues of potty training, shorter attention span, the need for more play-based learning and so forth is also important to note, but will not be discussed here. Simply put, our memories are short and it seems we have forgotten the valuable and still highly relevant lessons learned from Finland's approach to early years education. Another trip to Helsinki before a final decision may be a prudent way forward.
- It is also worth noting that, despite the difference in age of entry to primary school across the globe, the age of entry into institutions of higher learning (universities, polytechnics, specialist colleges and so forth) the average age of entry has been increasing over the years, the mean age being around 19 years old.
- This begs the question, if the aim is to attend a good college and then to leave college with a good degree, it seems self-evident that, generally speaking, a student with more experience and confidence, less anxiety and a more mature outlook on life is going to do better than his or her younger course mates. Therefore, rushing through the system is not a good strategy for success and this is a fact now understood by today's college-going students across the world who are delaying entry until 19 plus years of age regardless of which system they have been through.
- Last but not least, we firmly believe that our children deserve a childhood. Rushing them through school is short-changing them and depriving them of that full experience.
- Therefore, it is our humble opinion that the answer is not earlier starting of primary school. Instead, it should be state-funded or state-supplemented pre-school for those who need financial help. A simple cross-check with tax return records at LHDN can provide an effective means test for determining who qualifies for that financial assistance. We suggest that this may even prove less expensive for the government than other alternatives.
- Providing pre-school facilities at under-occupied state schools may also be a way forward. However, special care must be taken to provide a curriculum and modus operandi that is appropriate for early years learning, socializing and so forth.

As such, Sri KL will not be changing its age of entry requirements for the foreseeable future unless mandated to do so by the Ministry of Education. We hope this explanation is helpful to our parents.

Once again, may I welcome you all back to Sri KL. Your excellent support for the School is truly appreciated and I wish you all the very best for 2026. Have a great year!

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
HANIF OTHMAN MERICAN
Chief Executive Officer
Sri Kuala Lumpur