

# Growing Together from the Beginning

MEGAWATI WIDODO and NICHOLAS DARMONO from Indonesia chose NLCS (Singapore) for their family during the school's early days. They share how their children – Lana (G2 to G7), Neal (G1 to G5), Elena (G1 to G4) – have grown with the school since then.



**Why did you choose NLCS (Singapore) when it was still so new in Singapore?**

What gave us confidence was the long-standing reputation of sister school NLCS (UK) for academic excellence, combined with a strong emphasis on pastoral care and character development.

Even before the campus was fully established, there was a clear sense of purpose that the school would develop thoughtful, confident and kind young people. We wanted our children to grow with the school and be part of building its culture from the ground up.

**Over the years, what changes have you seen in your children?**

The growth has been holistic. Academically, they approach their studies with greater discipline and are willing to think critically. Their ability to articulate ideas, manage their workload and persevere through challenges has strengthened significantly. Personally, there's marked growth in confidence, resilience and maturity. They're more comfortable in expressing their views and taking initiative. At the same time, they've developed a stronger sense of empathy and respect for others.

**Have there been any particular experiences that stood out for you?**

We've been particularly impressed by the strength of the academic foundation, especially in Mathematics, Music and Languages.



Music has also been a standout. The programme maintains a high standard while fostering genuine enjoyment. The experience of working together during ensemble rehearsals and performances, strengthens not only technical skills but also teamwork and mutual support.

What stands out most is the balance the school achieves – academic excellence alongside creativity, discipline alongside enjoyment and high standards alongside warmth. There's also a clear emphasis on respect and character, which underpins the entire learning environment.

**Have your children found something they're passionate about through the school that they might not otherwise have explored?**

Music has become a genuine passion. Performing at venues such as the Esplanade become particularly meaningful experiences that give them a strong sense of accomplishment.

The school also provides leadership opportunities. Whether through student-led initiatives, house activities or representing the school at regional events, they've learned to take responsibility and contribute positively to a wider community.

**What do you think NLCS (Singapore) does especially well that families may not immediately see from the outside?**

What may be less visible is the deliberate cultivation of character and leadership. The school consistently reinforces values such as integrity, responsibility and respect.

Students are given structured opportunities to lead, collaborate and contribute meaningfully. Over time, this shapes their confidence and sense of accountability.

**What three words would you use to describe the school and why?**

- Ambitious, because it sets high academic expectations and fosters a culture that encourages students to aim higher than they might have thought possible.
- Principled, because integrity, respect and responsibility are consistently emphasised in both academic and pastoral life.
- Transformative, because the growth we have witnessed in our children has been significant and enduring. *a.*

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