

# Dalat's the choice for expatriate kids

By SHARON VONG  
Pix: CHIN CHENG YEANG

**E**XPATRIATES working in Asia who seek international boarding schools for their children have often picked the Dalat School in Penang.

The school, operated by the Christian Alliance group, currently has 200 day-students and boarders.

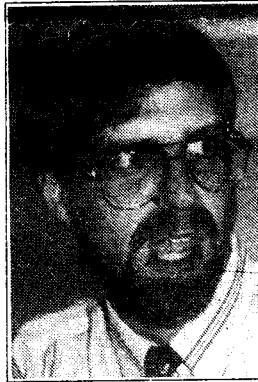
Where boarding is concerned, the school gives priority to those whose families are involved in social work.

School director David Wilcox said such families included missionaries, relief workers, doctors, orphanage workers and community development workers.

"We reduce the fees by 60 to 70 per cent for such families," he said, adding that the families often do not have enough money to pay the regular fees.

The elementary school fees for a child from the business community is RM12,000 per annum, while those for a high school student is RM15,000.

Seventy per cent of the student population is American, with five per cent Canadian, and the rest from Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Europe



David Wilcox ... strict regulations at Dalat.

and Russia.

Wilcox said Dalat's regulations are stricter than those of an average American school because the school takes its role as a guardian for students seriously.

The children are barred from smoking, drinking liquor, drugs, playing with fireworks and patronising discotheques.

They face disciplinary action leading to expulsion if they break the rules.

Wilcox said the students usually spend an average of three years in Penang, and are guided in respecting local customs and rules by Dalat teachers.

The school authorities laud the Government's censorship policies as well as its laws on morality, for they feel such practice helps the community

to flourish

School principal Steve Livingston said 99 per cent of the teachers are hired from the US, and most hold Master's degrees.

The school adheres to the US syllabus and curriculum, and is accredited with the US Western Association of School and Colleges.

Dalat School was first started in Vietnam in 1929.

In 1965, it was shifted to Bangkok, then to Cameron Highlands the following year.

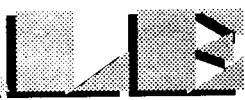
In 1971, Dalat School took over a former military site in Penang.

The school sits on a 3.43ha plot in Tanjung Bungah, and has dormitories, a chapel, auditoriums, libraries, a gymnasium and a student centre.

Students involve themselves in various clubs such as the pep, drama, herpetology, windsurfing, kayaking clubs, and also take part in Penang's inter-school tournaments.

The school also liaises with the Kuala Lumpur International School and the Singapore American School in sporting activities, choir, music and speech competitions.

Recently, Dalat School held its Cultural Awareness Day for students and parents.



November, 1993

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