

Why choose an international school?

By Andrew Masinde

For many parents, finding a school that suits their child is often difficult, especially for parents who work overseas. International schools come in as the solution to this challenge. A parent with a child at an international school, says when he moved to Uganda, his worry was where he would take his child for an education similar to that in

his country. His prayer was answered when he found an international school that was offering the Cambridge curriculum. Mustafa Ekizoglu, the principal of Horizon International School Jinja, says international schools are home to children of many nationalities and exposure to different cultures. He explains that many put emphasis on cultural exchange which is phenomenal, and as world markets become increasingly

interconnected, it is now more desirable to understand the dynamics of cultures different to your own. **The curriculum** He adds that the schools often use international curricula. Ekizoglu adds that, many international schools offer extracurricular activities which allow the children to gain access to skills that cannot be nurtured in many local schools. "These can range from imagination games and

creativity to mathematics and robotics. When the child develops new and exciting skills, they grow more confident and learn how to communicate and work with other children," he says. George Musiime, the Cambridge co-ordinator Vienna College Namugongo, says international schools offer a holistic approach in educating an individual. "We believe that every individual has at least one thing they are good at and many schools assume there are those that have nothing



Pupils of Kabira school doing mental work

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good in them. That is why international schools are the best option because they help find that something in each child and try to encourage the learners to exhibit confidence," Musiime says.

Teaching

Musiime adds that the teaching in international schools is learner-centered. "A teacher will prepare a lesson that caters for all sets of learners," he says.

Musiime explains that with the increasing desire to further studies abroad, it is very likely that they would choose to offer their children an international background in international schools. He notes that it is widely accepted that opportunities for students after international school are tremendous with the top universities the world over consistently competing for the best students.