

## **FAQ Regarding Year 1 Enrollment for Children as Young as 6 Years Old**

*General reference based on the announcement and explanation by the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) dated January 21, 2026.*

### **1. What are the reforms announced by the government?**

Starting from the 2027 school session, students may enter Year 1 as early as 6 years old (5+), compared to the previous practice of entering at 7 years old.

### **2. Is entry at 6 years old mandatory?**

No. Implementation in the early stages is flexible and depends on the child's readiness and the parents' decision. Students may still enter Year 1 at age 7 if parents feel their child is not yet ready.

### **3. Why is the government implementing this reform?**

Primary objectives include:

- \* Strengthening early childhood education.
- \* Aligning Malaysia's education system with many other countries.
- \* Optimizing student cognitive development at an early age.
- \* Providing exposure to formal learning earlier.
- \* Ensuring students are better prepared for the future.

### **4. What does "5+" mean?**

"5+" refers to a student who has reached the age of 5 and will turn 6 within that school year.

### **5. Is it suitable for all 6-year-olds to enter Year 1?**

Not necessarily. Every student has different levels of development in terms of emotion, communication, social skills, focus, self-discipline, and basic reading and writing skills. Therefore, parents are advised to assess their child's readiness first.

### **6. What are the traits of a student considered ready to enter Year 1 at age 6?**

General indicators include:

- \* Ability to manage oneself.
- \* Ability to sit and focus for a certain period.
- \* Ability to follow simple instructions.
- \* Ability to interact with peers.
- \* Possessing basic literacy and numeracy.
- \* Emotional stability.

### **7. Do 5+ and 6-year-old candidates need to sit for a special test for Year 1 admission at SRTNP?**

Yes, all candidates for Year 1 admission at SRTNP must sit for an entrance test.

**8. Will the Year 1 syllabus become easier?**

The MOE is expected to adjust teaching and learning approaches to be more suitable for the developmental age of 6-year-olds. The focus is expected to be on play-based learning, communication, hands-on activities, emotional and social development, and active learning.

**9. Will students finish school earlier?**

Yes, if students enter Year 1 at age 6 and follow the standard 6-year primary school structure.

**10. Is preschool still important?**

Yes, it is very important. Preschool serves as the main foundation for preparing students before entering Year 1 at age 6. The government also encourages preschool enrollment as early as age 5.

**11. What if parents feel their child is not yet ready?**

Parents have the absolute authority to choose whether to postpone entry until age 7, seek the opinions of teachers/preschools, or consult education officers or child development experts.

**12. Are schools prepared to accept younger students?**

Schools are prepared to accept younger students for Year 1, in line with existing capacity and operational planning. In terms of infrastructure, physical facilities, classrooms, and learning support resources, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate a permanent intake of 90 students per cohort without compromising the comfort and effectiveness of teaching and learning.

To ensure student readiness is at an appropriate level, schools will implement a standardized diagnostic assessment for all candidates. This test aims to assess basic literacy, numeracy, and early development, as well as identify the need for early intervention if necessary. This approach ensures that the entry of younger students does not affect the quality of learning, but is instead supported by a more organized early assessment system and appropriate educational interventions.

**13. Will teachers receive special training?**

Yes, teachers are expected to receive training related to early childhood pedagogy, emotional management for young students, play-and-learn approaches, differentiated learning, and child psychology development.

**14. What are the main challenges of this implementation?**

Expected challenges include unequal levels of student maturity, the emotional adjustment of young students, parental readiness, and the management of discipline for young-age students.

**15. What is the role of parents in ensuring the success of this implementation?**

Parents play a major role by building a daily routine for their child, training them in discipline and communication, reducing excessive screen time, encouraging social activities, reading with the child, and providing emotional support.

## Sources:

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