

# Malaysian Primary School Trailblazing in Digital Skills Education



Al-Amin Darul Musthofa School (AADMS), with its dedication to providing students with essential 21st century skills, has proudly become a pioneer amongst Malaysian primary schools in introducing ICDL digital skills programmes and certification. Having attained its status as an ICDL Accredited Test Centre since 2021, the initiatives at AADMS aim to enhance the digital literacy of its students, thus preparing them to thrive in an increasingly digital landscape.

Established in 2019, Al-Amin Darul Musthofa School (AADMS) is a forward-thinking institution dedicated to meeting the educational needs of the community and working parents. With two primary schools in Batu Caves and Elmina, Shah Alam, as well as an Early Childhood Centre in Batu Caves, AADMS integrates Islamic values with modern educational practices, focusing on intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and physical development. With a workforce of over 50 staff members, AADMS currently serves 463 students, nurturing them to become innovative thinkers and compassionate leaders.

Recognising the critical importance of digital skills in today's rapidly evolving world, AADMS made the strategic decision to incorporate ICDL modules into its academic curriculum. This initiative began with a teachers' training session in early 2021, laying the foundation for a comprehensive rollout of ICDL programmes for students. As part of a pilot programme, 75 students from 3 classes were introduced to the ICDL Smart Digital module, marking the start of a comprehensive effort to embed digital literacy across the 6-year primary school curriculum, catering to students aged 7-12.

**ICDL modules and certification help schools to advance their digital and internationalisation goals.**

Throughout its implementation of ICDL, AADMS has recognised its significant benefits – particularly the strength of the learning outcomes and competency-based task items covered in the syllabus, as well as the structured and quality-assured certification test environment. Both these elements align with the school's goals of driving digital transformation and fostering internationalisation.

In addition, AADMS encourages its educators to participate in advanced courses such as "AI in Education", as well as the ICDL Digital Educators' Awards competition, thus enabling them to leverage upon emerging technologies in their daily teaching and learning. With peer learning, this further enhances the digital competencies of the entire school community.



ICDL Modules Incorporated in the AADMS Academic Curriculum

Two key ICDL modules aligned to AADMS digital transformation goals were embedded into its curriculum:

-  **Smart Digital**
-  **Application Essentials**

Module	Unit	Level
Smart Digital	Unit 1: Starting	Primary 1
	Unit 2: Building	Primary 2
	Unit 3: Sharing	Primary 3
Application Essentials		Primary 4

By implementing these modules within its classroom lessons from Primary 1 to Primary 4, AADMS ensures that students develop strong digital literacy competencies, further enhanced through additional ICT activities and programs. This approach has established a strong foundation in digital skills among AADMS students, enabling them to advance their digital learning capabilities.

Looking ahead, AADMS plans to introduce one of the following ICDL modules—Computing, Cybersecurity, or Artificial Intelligence—into its curriculum next year, further strengthening the digital expertise of its students.

AAADMS students have successfully represented Malaysia in prestigious international competitions, including the Digital Talent competition in Vietnam (2023), and the ICDL Asia Digital Challenge 2024, where they advanced to the Grand Finals.

Achieving Success Through the Effective Implementation of ICDL Programmes

By proactively addressing challenges and continuously refining best practices to meet learning objectives, AADMS has developed a highly effective digital literacy programme delivery, which is instrumental in ensuring a successful implementation of ICDL which enriches its students' educational experience.

AADMS has also implemented its own EzICTVocab programme to address weaknesses in ICT vocabulary amongst its students. AADMS teachers introduce key ICT terms at the start of each lesson, providing clear definitions and examples to help their students familiarise with essential terminology.

Furthermore, to address the varying levels of ICT skills among its students, which could potentially impact a cohort's progress, AADMS went the extra mile by **offering supplementary computer classes and integrating computer lessons into ICT Club activities**. These additional classes provided students with practical hands-on experience and personalised instruction. The ICT Club activities also served as a dynamic platform where students could apply their learning in real-world scenarios, further enhancing their proficiency and boosting their confidence.

AADMS teachers also **developed simplified and visually oriented ICDL notes using PowerPoint presentations**, which helped to break complex information into more manageable segments, resulting in enhanced comprehension and retention by their students. These visual aids and concise explanations made the learning process more accessible and engaging.

AADMS has set a benchmark in digital literacy for primary education, with its strategic planning, dedication to overcoming challenges, and focus on continuous improvement, all of which highlights its commitment towards developing future-ready, innovative, and compassionate leaders.

## Student Testimonials

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ICDL helps me to enhance my skills in office productivity applications, such as word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, while also improving my critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Digital skills and activities like coding and programming taught me to approach problems methodically, think logically, and troubleshoot issues systematically. These skills are valuable not only in technology-related fields but also across all areas of study and life.

*Adam Rayyan Mohd Noorfaizal, AADMS 11-Year-Old Student*

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Learning ICDL is fun. Now I can create presentations for my school projects easily. My teachers are impressed, and I feel more confident sharing my projects in class.

*Ezra Iskandar, AADMS 8-Year-Old Student*

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The Smart Digital module really helped me in my studies as I learned how to create documents and other basics of using Microsoft Word. I worked very hard to understand the module and to pass the certification test.

*Adam Rizq, AADMS 8-Year-Old Student*

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Before I did the ICDL course, I didn't know much about computers. Now I can do my homework on the computer without asking my parents for help all the time.

*Nur Adira Aqila, AADMS 11-Year-Old Student*



## Parent Testimonials

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As a parent, I see the immense value of digital skills for my children. Completing ICDL modules has been transformative. With improved ICT skills, my children improved academically, solved problems effectively, and are better prepared for future careers. The courses have boosted their confidence and independence in using technology and taught them essential digital literacy. Investing in ICDL has greatly benefitted my children, setting a strong foundation for success in today's digital world. I highly recommend ICDL modules for equipping children with essential digital skills.

*Mrs. Sofia, Mother of Lily Fatihah*

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The teaching of ICDL enables my son to use digital devices more responsibly. This was demonstrated by observing “No Handphone/Tablet” days. I would like to express our utmost gratitude to AADMS and their teachers for passionately educating my son on the subject.

*Mr Sahrani, Father of Emir Ismail*

## Educator Testimonials

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I am thrilled to witness our 8-year-old students successfully passing and scoring well in the ICDL Application Essentials module. I believe the ICDL syllabus not only enhances their English and ICT vocabulary but also prepares them to have skills in doing their assignment, reports, and presentations later in their secondary and university level. For further collaboration, our plan includes offering training sessions specifically tailored for underprivileged students. This initiative aims to equip them with essential digital skills that will empower their educational journey and broaden their opportunities for future success.

*Dr. Mohd Hairul Nizam, CEO of Al-Amin Darul Musthofa School*

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As an ICDL educator, I have had a highly positive experience with its implementation. I have noticed substantial enhancements in students' digital literacy and increase in their confidence when utilising technology. The structured ICDL modules offer a comprehensive curriculum that aligns seamlessly with our educational objectives, facilitating the integration of digital skills into our teaching practices. Looking ahead, there are several promising collaboration opportunities. Firstly, we can implement training programmes designed to empower teachers with advanced digital skills to ensure that they stay updated with the latest technological advancements. Secondly, we can develop initiatives such as workshops and resources to engage parents, emphasising the significance of digital literacy and offering guidance on supporting their children's learning at home.

*Teacher Nabilah Hanum, Associate Headmaster of Curriculum & ICDL Coordinator*

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I found the ICDL implementation to be highly beneficial in enhancing digital literacy skills. The experience has been positive, increasing student engagement and improving their tech proficiency. We hope to incorporate more interactive notes and multimedia resources to make learning more exciting and effective, fostering greater enthusiasm for ICDL among students.

*Teacher Emisyahirah, ICDL Educator*