



Nurture
Lifelong
Learning

ARCADIA GLOBAL SCHOOL

Nurture Lifelong Learning

Holly Simpson – Vice Principal

Holly Simpson is a passionate and experienced educational leader with over 15 years of international experience across the UK, UAE, and Southeast Asia.

Holly has spent over a decade in the UAE, where she held senior leadership positions at both RAK Academy and GEMS Westminster Schools. At RAK Academy, she played a key role in curriculum innovation, teaching and learning review, and Early Years development. At GEMS, she led schools through rapid growth—expanding enrolment from 200 to over 3,500 students—while building inclusive, values-driven cultures and empowering educators through mentoring, quality assurance, and strategic leadership as Head of Primary. She most recently served as Group Academic Manager at Vietnam Australia International School, leading seven campuses in Ho Chi Minh City. Her work focused on curriculum leadership, professional development, data-driven improvement, and ensuring alignment across a large international network.

As Vice Principal, Holly leads with a values - driven approach focused on academic rigor, health, happiness, and well-being. She is committed to empowering students with emotional intelligence, resilience, and purpose-driven learning. Her philosophy is rooted in nurturing children holistically - mind, body, and soul - so they can thrive both personally and academically.

Career Summary

- **Vice Principal**, Arcadia Global School (2024–present) –Founding Vice Principal. Led the key systems for placing the foundations for academic development, quality assurance with a focus on well-being and holistic growth.
- **Group Academic Manager**, Vietnam Australia International School (2022–2024) – Provided strategic leadership across seven campuses, focusing on curriculum development, teacher training, and whole-school quality assurance.
- **Head of Primary and Foundation**, GEMS Westminster Schools – Sharjah & Ras Al Khaimah (2013–2019) – Led large-scale growth, curriculum design, and staff development in new schools scaling from 200 to 3,500+ students.
- **Foundation Stage Leader**, Ras Al Khaimah Academy (2008–2013) – Developed and led curriculum innovation and assessment framework in Early Years with a strong transition to Primary.
- **Class teacher, Foundation Lead and Art Coordinator**, Willoughton Primary School, Ebbw Vale, South Wales (2004-2008), – Developed a creative play-based curriculum, worked closely with colleagues to implement early years best practices, monitor progress, and raise attainment in line with Estyn expectations. British Council Teaching Exchange – Grenada (2008) – Delivered a televised project teaching literacy through diversity.

Qualifications & Leadership

- BA (Hons) in Primary Education with QTS – University of South Wales.
- NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship).
- Wellbeing Governor for Arcadia Education.
- Recognised School inspector, curriculum moderator and well-being ambassador.
- 20 years Teaching and leadership experience in UK, South East Asia and UAE.

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ALTRUISM RESPECT COMPASSION ASPIRATION DETERMINATION INTEGRITY ADVENTURE
GRIT LIFELONG OPTIMISM BRAVERY ALACRITY LEARNING