



# SCHOOL AID MTÜ

*Educational Support for Children in Need*

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Team Profile

July 2026

### Nichola de Montaigne

President — Chair of the Management Board

School Aid MTÜ | International Education | Safeguarding | EdTech | Programme Leadership

Based in Cascais, Portugal

MA International Education

20+ years · 6 countries

**20+**

Years in Education

**6**

Countries

**MA**

Int'l Education

**IB**

PYP School Leader

## PROFILE

Nichola de Montaigne is an international education leader and safeguarding specialist with more than 20 years across international schools in Portugal, China, Brazil and Norway, complemented by front-line social-work practice supporting vulnerable children and an early period in the Philippines working with Maribeth de Montaigne on Global Green Power. She has co-founded and led a new international school — building curriculum, culture and safeguarding policy from the ground up — and now founds and runs an EdTech venture.

As President of School Aid MTÜ she leads the charity's strategy, mission and operations and chairs the Management Board, directing education, safeguarding and grants across all programmes — Morocco, the Philippines and Venezuela — including the ring-fenced Panay education assignment, firewalled from the commercial biochar venture.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

| Period       | Organisation                                  | Role                               | Contribution                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023–present | DeMontaigne Life Design (Portugal)            | Founder & CEO                      | Invite-only education-design ecosystem; creator of the PPPP™ and WEITS™ frameworks; human-led, AI-supported education design                                         |
| 2020–2023    | Romerike International School (Norway)        | Founding Head & IB PYP Coordinator | Co-founded and led the primary division of this IB World School near Oslo; built teams, curriculum, culture and safeguarding from scratch; achieved IB accreditation |
| 2019–2020    | St. Francis College (Brazil)                  | IB PYP Lead                        | Led IB PYP implementation (ages 3–11); workshop presenter for the Brazilian Association of IB Schools                                                                |
| 2014–2019    | Suzhou Singapore International School (China) | Teacher & Case Manager             | Homeroom teacher, Student Services Coordinator and Case Manager; inclusive practice and individual learning plans                                                    |
| 2010–2014    | St. Dominic's International School (Portugal) | Teacher (IB PYP)                   | Chaired the PYP Curriculum Self-Study; served on the CIS reaccreditation steering committee                                                                          |
| 2009–2010    | Social work — UK & Portugal                   | Social Worker                      | Youth reoffending, family counselling and art therapy; supported vulnerable and abused children (0–18)                                                               |
| 2007–2009    | Global Green Power (Philippines)              | Community Engagement               | Based in the Philippines alongside Maribeth de Montaigne on community and socio-economic development for the renewable-energy platform                               |

## KEY EXPERTISE FOR SCHOOL AID

- ▶ Education and curriculum programme design — IB PYP/MYP and multiple national curricula (British, New Zealand, Portuguese, Chinese, Brazilian).
- ▶ School start-up, team building and IB accreditation.
- ▶ Safeguarding and child-protection policy and practice.
- ▶ Grant strategy, crowdfunding, and investor relations.
- ▶ EdTech and AI-supported education design; inclusive and special-educational-needs teaching.

## EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

|                                                      |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| MA International Education (Leadership & Management) | University of Sunderland, 2012–2015 |
| PGCE, Initial Teacher Training                       | University of Sunderland, 2011–2012 |
| BSc (Hons) Developmental Psychology                  | The Open University, 2003–2007      |
| Diploma in Child & Youth Studies                     | Lincoln University, 2001–2003       |

## SAFEGUARDING, RESEARCH & VOLUNTEER WORK

- ▶ Built a school safeguarding policy from scratch; served on safeguarding and wellbeing committees (2015–2022).
- ▶ Front-line social work protecting abused and at-risk children from infancy to 18.
- ▶ Published research on multisensory learning and thinking routines for concept-based curriculum.
- ▶ Volunteer: art therapy (Cheshire Home, Portugal); youth and community outreach, Cascais; remote-village education, Southeast Asia.

## LANGUAGES

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|                                 |                                |                              |                             |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>English</b><br>Mother tongue | <b>Portuguese</b><br>Excellent | <b>Norwegian</b><br>Beginner | <b>Mandarin</b><br>Beginner |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

**Ring-fenced assignment.** Nichola's Panay/Philippines education work is delivered by School Aid MTÜ and is operationally and financially ring-fenced from Biomass Asia Inc. It supports community and farmer education around biochar benefits, but is legally and financially independent of the commercial venture.