



Assessments for Pre Prep and Prep

Why do we assess?

At the Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar our aim is to provide an outstanding education that encourages each child to develop to their full potential both in the classroom and through their interest in drama, sports, music and art.

An RGS student enjoys participating in and contributing to all areas of school life; is respectful of others, has pride in themselves and their school, is a good team player and will develop a positive self-awareness and the confidence to express themselves well.

Are we the right school for your child?

Selecting the best school for your child is all about finding a school where your child will be happy. In order for your child to succeed in school he or she should be in the right environment that makes them happy and fosters their love of learning. Assessing for places at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar helps us to understand not only whether your child would fit in well with our school, but also whether we would be providing the best learning opportunities for your individual child.

We follow the British Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for Pre-Prep children, aged 3-5. For older, primary aged children the UK National Curriculum forms the basis of our Prep School teaching and learning, with enhancements made through specialist teaching of music, sport and languages.

What is the format?

Our aim is to make our admissions process as informative, friendly and personal as possible. Parents should ensure they are able to stay at the School during the assessment.

Children being assessed for an immediate start will be invited to a 'taster session' at The RGS. Children will join a class for a morning session from 7.30am – 9.05am and participate in classroom activities. Observations and assessments will be conducted by an experienced teacher, alongside Mr Downs, Head of Prep School.

Assessments for children starting in September 2017 will take place individually or in small groups of up to a maximum of three children. These assessments will be conducted by Mr. Downs, Head

of Prep School. Early Years assessments will usually be about 45 minutes in length and 60 minutes in length for Key Stage 1 and 2. Times are approximate as we understand that while some children take time to warm-up, most children will quickly settle in as they realise this will be a positive experience

During the course of the assessment Mr. Downs will observe how comfortable children are interacting with him and how the children interact and communicate socially with each other. The activities are designed to be short, appealing and age appropriate. The children are encouraged to do their best and are praised for effort.

Early Years

Nursery (3 years +) and Reception (4 years +)

Our assessments for children entering Early Years are informal and play based. In Nursery children will be asked to complete puzzles, draw or match objects and colours, and engage with stories read by an adult. We will also observe how children interact socially with others in the room and if they enjoy participating in a singing or musical activity with other children. Children's general language skills will also be observed, focusing on how they communicate with others in the room and if they are familiar being in an English language environment.

For Reception aged children we also run activity based school readiness assessments which will include memory recall games, fine motor control activities, mark making and letter and number recognition.

Please note that entry into Reception will be conditional on successfully completing the year in Nursery and being judged able to cope with the demands of the curriculum at Pre-Prep level.

Key Stage 1

Year One (5+) and Year 2 (6+)

Children will be asked to complete a variety of activities, including Reading, Writing and Maths activities. The results of these activities are meant to give a reflection of current learning but are only part of the overall assessment. There will also be an opportunity for hands on activities and for your child to talk about their family, friends and interests. During the assessment we will be reflecting on your child's engagement with others, language and communication skills and their approaches to learning.

Key Stage 2

Year 3 (7+) – Year 6 (10+)

Assessments for children entering Years 3 – 6 consist of a Reading, Writing and Maths appraisal. There will be an opportunity for The RGS to learn more about each child through questions about their interests outside of academic learning. During the assessment we will be reflecting on your

child's engagement with others, language and communication skills and their approaches to learning.

Please note:

- All assessments are delivered in English as this the language of delivery in most instances at The RGS.
- Parents are asked to remain in school during the assessment, however parents are not permitted to enter the classroom with their child. This allows us to learn more about the children than when parents are present.
- We ask that parents to inform the School, prior to the assessment, if their child has any Special Education Needs, so appropriate arrangements may be made.
- The decision to admit your child is made after we have considered all aspects of the application and is subject to availability of places.
- Places will be offered within two working days of the assessment taking place.

When will the assessment take place?

At The RGS we understand the importance of selecting the right school for your child and appreciate how hard this decision can be. We believe that having specific assessment dates can add further stress to this decision, as well as being unpractical for some families. Therefore, assessments for starting school in September 2017 take place throughout academic year 2016/17. We appreciate that it may be difficult for children who are currently living overseas to be present in Qatar for an assessment in advance of a proposed start date. Under these circumstances the RGS will make special arrangements with your child's current school and may be able to make a provisional offer in advance of your arrival. Please contact us to discuss. Whilst all children require an assessment, we do try to make this as easy and convenient as possible.

How can parents help prepare their child for assessments at The RGS?

Every parent helps their child to develop in different ways and what follows are some ideas for how we believe children can be encouraged so that they will be able to thrive in a learning environment like that of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar.

- Read aloud to your child on a regular basis. Nurture their enjoyment of books and their love of learning, expand their vocabulary, encourage their curiosity and fill their imaginations! Explore, discuss and share.
- Encourage as much social interaction with your child and other children of the same age as you can. If English is not your child's first language, seek out opportunities for your child to play or learn in an English-speaking environment as this will help them prepare for an English language school.
- Building up your child's vocabulary through stimulating experiences, exposure to new concepts and words to describe them help this ongoing process. Improvements in verbal

skills can have a lasting impact on learning. They also help ensure the child has an ability to express themselves to others which can help with social interactions, decrease frustration and ensure the child is happy in themselves and their environment.

- Create opportunities for your child to develop perceptual skills - include activities such as puzzles, games, threading, cutting, sticking and fun arts and crafts into your child's everyday routine. Again, developments in this area can enhance how children progress in mathematics, science and creative arts.
- Provide opportunities for Early Years aged children to take part in mark making activities regularly and to become more familiar with letters and numbers. Children in Key Stage 1 and 2 should be provided opportunities to read, write and use their mathematical skills in practical ways.

Preparation for the assessment day

Most of all we wish for the assessment to be a positive experience for your child. Regardless of the outcome we seek to ensure that every child has an enjoyable time and is cared for with warmth and respect throughout. Here are a few simple tips to help prepare for the actual assessment appointment.

- Please ensure that your child is well rested on the day and has had their breakfast or snack before arriving.
- Arriving on time helps your child settle quickly and be able to do the activities to the best of their ability.
- 'Set the scene' by talking to your child about meeting a teacher who wants to see what children his/her age can do. Explain to your child that he/she may be asked to do some activities. Explain that you will be waiting outside whilst he or she is with the teacher.

Our staff are all experienced at striking up a rapport with young children. However, if for any reason your child is unable to separate at the appointed assessment time, we will be happy to schedule your child's appointment for another time.