



Assessment Guide

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 personally, socially and emotionally.

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 are an inclusive school, but operate a selective admissions policy, based upon the identification of pupils whose enthusiasm for learning, academic level and personal development appear to match the ethos and standards of the School. It is important that the educational vision and expectations of all families who join the school align with those of the RGS Guildford in Qatar.

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

What is the format?

Admission is by assessment, however the process has been designed to be as informative, friendly and personal as possible and to reduce the stress of assessment for both parents and children.

Whilst assessing the children is essential, we are also aware that anxious children are unlikely to be able to perform to their best ability.

We aim to ensure that all of the children are happy and relaxed throughout the assessment and start each assessment by speaking to the children about their likes and interests and getting to know them as individuals. Although this takes time, especially when assessing a large number of children throughout the year, we feel it is essential to welcome each child in this way and treat them as individuals. Building a relationship with the child and parents starts the moment they enter our school for assessment.

We also do not wish the admissions process to be stressful for parents so conduct our assessments all year round with no cut off dates for submitting application forms or set dates for assessments to take place.

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 School.

Assessments for children starting in September 2018 will take place individually or in small groups. These assessments will be conducted, wherever possible by Mr. Downs, Head of School. Early Years assessments will usually be 20 – 30 minutes in length and 45 minutes in length for Key Stage 1 and 2. Senior School pupils should allow approximately 2 hours. Times are approximate as we understand that while some children take time to warm-up, however most children quickly settle into the environment and enjoy a positive experience.

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 (Pre-Prep)

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

Our assessments for children entering Early Years are informal and play based. Children are observed at play within the classroom setting and usually have so much fun they don’t want to leave! 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.

We recommend that, where possible, such observations take place at your child’s current nursery. Our Head of School, Mr. Downs, completes all assessments himself and will happily visit your child at his/her Nursery at a time which is mutually convenient. This ensures the observation takes place in a setting familiar to your child, where he/she feels comfortable and secure. It can also be more convenient for parents as they do not need to attend the assessment and can drop their child at Nursery as normal.

Key Stage 1 and 2 (Prep)

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

We ask that Prep School pupils visit us at the RGS for their assessment where they will meet with the Head of School, Mr. Downs. Children will be asked to complete a variety of activities, including Reading, Writing and Maths. The results of these activities provide a reflection of current learning but are only part of the overall assessment. There will also be an opportunity for Mr. Downs 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.

Senior School

Year 7 (11+) – Year 8 (12+)

As with our Prep School pupils, we ask that Senior School pupils visit us at the RGS for their assessment where they will meet with the Head of School, Mr. Downs. Children will be asked to complete an online assessment in our IT suite or on a school laptop. There will also be an opportunity for a tour of the school and informal conversations with Mr. Downs.

Please note:

- All assessments are delivered in English as this is the language of learning in most instances at the RGS.
- 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.
- For Pre-Prep and Prep assessments parents are asked to remain in school during the assessment, however parents are not permitted to enter the classroom with their child for Prep assessments. For Pre-Prep children, parents are welcome to sit alongside their child if it makes their child feel more comfortable.
- 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.
- 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 impractical for some families. Therefore, assessments for starting school in September 2018 take place throughout academic year 2017/18 with no cut off dates for submitting application forms or set dates for assessments to take place.

We appreciate that some applicants will be coming from overseas and it is not always possible or convenient to attend an assessment in Qatar. In this instance we ask that a recent school report is provided to the RGS. If an offer of a place is subsequently made based upon a report, we then reserve the right to reconsider this offer if we feel that our learning environment and curriculum is not well-suited to your son or daughter. We will discuss this with you in full once we have had the chance to meet your child in our classroom setting.

Most of all we wish for the assessment process to be a positive experience for you and 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 and treated as an individual.

I look forward to meeting you and your child.

Mr. Downs