



The Royal Grammar School Guildford Qatar School Prospectus



RGSGUILDFORD
— QATAR —

*500 years of traditional
British academic excellence*



Welcome to The Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar

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The Royal Grammar School Guildford, Qatar, (RGSGQ) is an independent British international school. Our partnership with The Royal Grammar School UK enables us to benefit from their rich tradition of over 500 years of academic success. RGSGQ was opened in 2016 and provides a world class values-based education for students from the age of 3-18.

RGSGQ is a vibrant, welcoming international school that provides a first-class education, enabling our pupils to thrive in a dynamic, 21st century global environment. We have a strong commitment to internationalism with over sixty different nationalities that provides our pupils with an appreciation of different cultures and communities.

The RGSGQ Vision is to be a community which is internationally recognised for the quality of learning, where our pupils can excel and develop into caring and confident individuals who are well prepared for the challenges ahead. We provide a supportive environment that will encourage your child to be the best they can be, both academically and creatively. Through their learning journey we aim to encourage our children to be life-long learners, working with others to solve problems and hopefully make our world a better place.

We offer a traditional British curriculum that teaches the English National Curriculum from Early Years to Year 9. In Year 10 and Year 11 we provide a range of IGCSE subjects to prepare our Year 12 pupils to study AS level subjects to gain access to universities across the globe. Our smaller pupil to teacher ratio enables greater teacher contact time to allow our children to flourish. We have a truly British style Pastoral structure with a House system that provides the necessary care, guidance, and support for our pupils to thrive both socially and academically. RGSGQ's values of Respect, Scholarship, Collaboration, Inclusivity, Courage and Integrity provide a sound basis to live on.

A broad and varied co-curriculum complements the focus on academic achievement and pupils are encouraged to embrace the wider aspects of school life through participation in the extra-curricular activities on offer. Our values-based ethos is at the heart of this, and pupils are encouraged to commit to engage in a variety of activities that challenge and extend their learning. There is a team of talented staff at RGSGQ who support, nurture and challenge the hardworking pupils who attend our school.

At RGSGQ we realise that the education of your children is something that cannot happen without the support of the parent body and greater community. There is a strong community feel that exists here, and to foster this, parents are encouraged to be active participants in the education of their children. Research clearly shows that when parents participate and are involved in their child's education, there is a greater likelihood of academic success for the child.

Come along and see for yourself what The Royal Grammar School Qatar has to offer.

Paul Williamson

Principal





A strong foundation...

Whilst steeped in our traditions, we are also at the forefront of modern and innovative educational practices.

Tradition and Innovation

Whilst relatively new to Qatar, the RGSGQ is not new to education. We have over 500 years experience and a worldwide reputation for academic excellence. We bring to Qatar The RGS Guildford bespoke, British curriculum, designed to stretch and challenge all of our students. We bring to Qatar the RGS British school ethos and pride ourselves in having purposeful and diligent classes where manners, good behaviour, respect and consideration for others are expected and celebrated.

Whilst steeped in our traditions, we are also at the forefront of modern and innovative educational practices. We listen to the latest educational research and enrich our curriculum accordingly. Our facilities and teaching equipment are some of the best in Qatar and our highly qualified, British trained teachers are selected not only on the basis of qualifications, professionalism and experience, but also upon their passion and their extraordinary ability to engage and teach young people.

Our Enhanced Curriculum

Our language of instruction is English and we follow the British Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum and the National Curriculum for England.

Our challenging RGSGQ curriculum is enhanced to inspire our children and to spark their natural curiosity and imagination. At The RGSGQ our pupils are not just taught what to learn, but how to learn which instils a lifelong love of learning and a determination to excel.

All of our pupils are taught our Learning Habits which form part of everyday life at the RGSGQ and underpin everything that we teach, both inside and outside of the classroom. Pupils are encouraged to explore, analyse, think critically and to challenge themselves. Our pupils are well prepared for life after they leave education and they have the know-how, the ability, social skills and confidence to achieve their ambition's extraordinary ability to engage and teach young people.



RGS is proud of our former pupils, known as Guildfordians, which include a number of Olympic and sporting personalities, a former Prime Minister and many notable names from the world of industry, politics and the arts. By joining The RGSGQ, your child will automatically become a member of the elite Guildfordian alumni.





Where it all begins...

“Choose the right school in the early years and your child can enjoy a lifetime of successful learning”

- Deputy Head

Pre-Prep Department

Our Pre-Prep Department consists of Nursery and Reception classes and educates children between the ages of three and five in a series of bright, colorful, self-contained classrooms centred around a large library and indoor play space. Each classroom is fully equipped with quality learning materials; and enjoys its own tree-lined, secure playground with superb outdoor play equipment.

Both the Nursery and Reception classes follow the British Early years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS), which is based upon the seven areas of Learning and Development and includes communication and language, personal, social, emotional and physical development. Almost all of our activities are based on structured play and exploring, which allow the children to develop their essentials skills in areas of literacy, mathematics and expressive arts.

Our imaginative role play topics are changed regularly and encompass all areas of learning. Maths is best taught in our role play 'Post Office', sorting parcels by size and weight and our French café is beneficial for developing basic foreign language skills.

Languages are taught from Nursery onwards by specialist teachers, with an introduction to Arabic and French and all children receive specialist tuition for PE. Teaching Assistants support the class teachers and the ratio in our Pre-Prep is never more than 1:10.



A closer look at our Primary Education...

Prep Department

Pupils in Years 1 to 6 are taught by their class teachers and supported by Teaching Assistants for the core subjects of Maths, English, Science and Computing. Whilst Music, PE and Languages are taught by specialist subject teachers in dedicated classrooms.

Our curriculum is further extended to include a wide range of subjects including, History, Geography, Art and Design and Design and Technology. Pupils in the Prep School also benefit from access to Science and Design and Technology laboratories which further enhance the teaching and learning.

By the end of Year 6, all of our pupils are well prepared both academically and socially for the excitement and new challenges of Secondary School.

Primary Parent

Elisabeth Brotherhood

We recently moved to Doha from Europe, and our daughter started at RGSGQ (Reception class) in the middle of the school year. RGSGQ have made us feel incredibly welcome and facilitated a smooth transition for our daughter.

She has only been here a couple of months, but her knowledge and skills in phonics and maths have developed so much, thanks to her talented teachers! The school regularly organises events and activities which are enjoyable for the children and encourage them to be creative and outgoing.

We also appreciate that RGSGQ offers many opportunities to interact with staff and other parents and pupils in a relaxed atmosphere, such as the monthly coffee mornings or the annual Spring Fayre.

The headteacher Mr Williamson is very approachable and engages easily with parents. I'm glad to say that we feel part of the school community, and RGSGQ has helped make our arrival in Doha a really positive experience.









Secondary School....

“Our reputation is built upon the success of our pupils. We have the expertise to support them through their exams and the experience to guide them towards the ideal university for their future”

-Head of School

The Secondary School runs from Year 7 to Year 12 through Key Stage 3 (Year 7 to 9), Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) and Key Stage 5 (Year 12). When pupils move into the Secondary School they are taught by individual subject teachers and classes are more focused on formal subject based learning IGCSE and A Level examinations are taken at the end of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 respectively.

As pupils get older and move into Key Stage 4, they begin to focus on their preferred subjects and IGCSE exams are taken at the end of this stage in different subjects.

In Key Stage 5, the Secondary School remains firmly committed to traditional A Levels which are accepted by universities around the world. Pupils who have successfully completed their IGCSEs will select their preferred subjects to study in Year 12 which will prepare them for university and then the start of their careers. Their subject selection at this stage will influence their choice of degree

course at university. We take pride in supporting all our pupils through the exciting choices and the hard work that goes into their last year at the RGSGQ.

Although mindful of the demands of formal examinations towards the latter part of Secondary School, the emphasis remains on encouraging pupils to explore beyond the formal curriculum and to continue to develop a true love of learning. Universities are increasingly looking at the whole person, not just examination results. At RGSGQ, we take pride in our pupil's academic success and their pathway to university.

However, our commitment to their growth goes beyond that. We strive to equip our students with the skills and values needed to become not only successful professionals but also compassionate, responsible parents, partners, and friends.



Rich with diversity...

Languages

In accordance with the Ministry of Education in Qatar, all Qatari pupils receive Arabic language lessons with a specialist Arabic teacher. Children also benefit from non-native and French lessons. Islamic Studies is available to our Muslim pupils and all pupils are taught the History of Qatar from Year 1.

Music, Sport & Art

We are fortunate to enjoy fantastic music and sports facilities at the RGSGQ, as well as plenty of large, open spaces in which to practice and perform. We have a dedicated Music Room, an Art Room an impressive Sports Hall, a large all weather sports pitch, athletics track and

undercover basketball courts. Pupils also benefit from swimming lessons throughout the year as part of their PE curriculum.

The sound of music can be heard throughout the School and plays an important part in school life. All of our pupils receive specialist music tuition and we offer a range of practical and theoretical music lessons. We are introducing opportunities to study various instruments and to join the school choir and bands.

All pupils enjoy creative art lessons and their handiwork can be seen adorning the school walls and noticeboards. Displaying and celebrating our pupil's work is essential for building confidence and developing a sense of pride and competition.

“It is an absolute pleasure to be an RGSGQ parent, and to watch the incredible academic and personal growth of my child.”

–Reception Parent





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“We challenge and support pupils, so that they are able to achieve their very best personally, as well as academically.”

Head of School

More than just in the classroom...

Outside of the Classroom

At The RGSGQ, learning extends beyond the classroom school events, visiting speakers special topics, visits and trips play an important role throughout the School. We celebrate International Week, Book Week, Maths and Science Days as well as visiting local museums, farms and parks. Older pupils enjoy an annual residential trip and pupils enjoy day trips connected to curriculum topics.

Extra-Curricular

We run a wide range of clubs that are driven by the interests of the pupils and the staff. They include dance, music, cooking, tennis, football, art, languages and games. There is no limit to the activities we welcome if it is possible and enough children are interested.

An extended day is available to all of our pupils, including our Nursery and Reception classes who can attend after school crèche.

Pastoral Care

At The RGSGQ, we provide a supportive pastoral environment which meets individual needs, and promotes the development of happy and considerate pupils. Children succeed best when they feel cared for, secured and comfortable in their surroundings and have clear boundaries of expectations.

The pastoral care of all the pupils is coordinated by every class teacher and is overseen by the Head of School and Deputy Head Pastoral care is the cornerstone of the RGSGQ. Our philosophy is clear - a happy child that feels safe, cared for, and valued will learn and thrive and that is what we do here at The RGSGQ.





Technology at the forefront...

Technology

At RGSGQ, modern technology in the classroom is vital and complements our traditional teaching methods, both of which are fundamental in providing an essential balance of long established values and progressive learning.

Interactive whiteboards throughout the School are a perfect teaching tool to engage learners and bring lessons to life. Pupils also benefit from the use of tablet devices, programmable robots and access to a dedicated IT suite.

The result is that pupils progress rapidly in IT skills across the year groups, from games and eBooks in Nursery, to producing presentations, animations and videos in the later stages of the Prep Department and in Secondary School.

“The wealth of resources and opportunities provided by the RGSGQ help our pupils to gain confidence and learn skills way beyond average expectations. From coding to green screening, the RGSGQ equip children to thrive in the ever changing world of technology.”

- Deputy Head

Our school, your community...

“The RGSGQ made my family feel very welcome. What a great start to our life in Qatar.”

-Year 1 Parent

The Community

We offer a thriving school community

The RGSGQ is a very social and friendly community and we organise many activities and events each year to bring our families together. Regular weekend picnics, monthly coffee mornings and full school events such as the annual Spring Fayre, International and National Days, help to generate a strong bond amongst our parent body. We are fortunate to have a very active Parents Association alongside an army of parents, who are always willing to lend a helping hand and make our school a better place for our children.

Through the House system, our pupils belong to smaller groups within the community and participate in numerous competitions which include competitive sport and music activities. Pupils proudly wear the House T-Shirts for regular House events and assemblies and can earn House Points for good work and behaviour. Inter-house competitions provide opportunities for friendly rivalry and help to bolster team spirit and House identity.



Awarding our young achievers...

Achievements

The Primary School meets each Thursday to recognise and praise pupils who have worked exceptionally hard during the week and have demonstrated one or more of our sixteen RGS Learning Habits, which includes: practice, teamwork, independence and reasoning.

Star of the Week

Star of the Week certificates are presented to pupils who have shown academic achievement, progress, or excellent all-round behavior.

“We pride ourselves on a highly effective rewards system that acknowledges and celebrates the achievements and successes of all our pupils.”

– Deputy Head



Join us and be part of our rich tradition...

Admissions

Admission to the School is by assessment, which we make as informal as possible, with most children not even realising they are being assessed at all. We feel this helps reduce the stress of the assessment process for both parents and children.

Our assessments consist of our younger children being assessed by observation at play within the classroom setting and children usually have so much fun some don't want to leave. We recommend that, where possible, such observations take place at your child's current nursery. Our Head of School 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 secured. 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. We ask that Prep and Secondary School pupils visit us at the RGSGQ.

We ensure that all of the children are happy and relaxed at the start of the assessments, beginning with a conversation to find out more about each individual. Prep children will work with our Head of School or Deputy Head on Mathematics and English activities while Secondary School pupils complete an online assessment which provides a standardised measure of cognitive reasoning ability.

Whilst assessing the children is essential, we are also aware that anxious children are unable to perform to their best potential. It is for this reason that we also conduct our tests year round, often on a one-to-one basis and never more than a few children in an assessment group at a time.



How to find us

Address

We are located just off the Al Shamal Road, a few minutes drive from IKEA and Doha Festival City and approximately 10 minutes drive from Landmark.

The opening of the Lusail Road makes the journey from the Pearl and West Bay Lagoon less than half an hour, even in rush hour, making the School accessible to more families.

Um Salal Mohammed

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