



OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND EAL [EMMA SYMONDS, NATALIE CHEERS] 2021-22

Point 17 refers to what to do in a pandemic situation if boarders have to leave the school.

Applicable to: All relevant students, parents and staff.

See also: Policies on Accessibility, Equal Opportunities, SEND & Admissions

Aims:

- To ensure that the Overseas Students fulfil the academic criteria for entry to the school
- To ensure that they are enabled to sit the British public examinations at GCSE/IGCSE/A Level, or the IB Diploma
- To ensure that they are integrated into the community of The Royal High School Bath (RHSB)
- To celebrate the diversity of the international intake at RHSB

Implementation:

1. Applications are welcomed from bilingual students and from those students for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL). Entry is considered for those wanting to join either as day or boarding students. Information can be supplied about agencies which help with the administration of the RHSB entrance exams, but it is the responsibility of the parents to make the choice. The school cannot make recommendations. The British Council is also able to administer the tests. Entry is normally at Year 7 (11+) but we also take students in Y8 or Year 9 (13+), Year 10 (14+) or Year 12 (16+). A video interview usually takes place with a key member of staff: for example, Heads of KS3/4, Head of Sixth Form and (for non-native speakers) the EAL Co-ordinator, the Registrar. The Head writes to confirm offer of a place.
2. The EAL Co-ordinator is available for language teaching and support as required.
3. As of July 2019 (but subject to legislative change) all students outside the EEA (the European Economic Area) must have a valid Student Visa, issued by UKVI to be obtained before she leaves home. (Please see the latest advice on visas, application forms and information provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website – www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration) A letter of Confirmation of Acceptance for Study, including the CAS number and other relevant details, will be provided by the school to facilitate the obtaining of the correct visa. Parents must ensure visas (and passports) are renewed at the appropriate times and are also responsible for reimbursing any monies that the school has paid towards obtaining the UKVI visa. In the event of a student's non-arrival it is the responsibility of the school to inform the relevant authorities i.e. UKVI.
4. Acceptance: applicants for Year 7 (11+) are considered based on the following assessments: an English examination; a Mathematics examination; a Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning examination; a report from the applicant's school where applicable. In addition, there is an EAL examination for non-native speakers. EAL students need sit the Non-Verbal Reasoning only.
5. Applicants for Year 8 are considered based on an English and Mathematics assessment. For entry to Years 9 and 10 candidates are required to do assessment in English, Mathematics and Science (biology, chemistry and physics). In addition, there is an EAL examination for non-native speakers.

6. Overseas applicants for Year 12 (16+) are considered for either IB Diploma programme or A levels on the basis of: predicted results at IGCSE or an equivalent; an English GCSE-style entrance paper; a Mathematics GCSE-style entrance paper, and entrance papers in subjects proposed for sixth form study. There is an EAL examination for non-native speakers although an IELTS score of at least 6, or an equivalent qualification such as Grade 6 in IGCSE English Language, is preferred for entry into Year 12.
7. A student already at a UK school will be assessed on their predicted GCSE/IGCSE grades, an interview and a report from the current school. Where students are not in a UK school, any provisional offer made by the Head is confirmed upon verification of GCSE or IB Middle Years programme results in the August before entry, unless the student has had an unconditional offer based on her entrance examination results.
8. Overseas boarding students are entitled to EAL support which is included in the fees: up to Year 11 at least one lesson a week and in Year 12/13 one lesson a fortnight. Sometimes places are offered on condition that the students attend additional EAL lessons. These lessons may be delivered either individually or in small groups. If the number of lessons needed exceeds one a week or a fortnight (as indicated above), there may be an additional charge for these lessons. They are taught by an experienced EAL teacher. A recommendation for additional support may be made before or after entry, following concerns raised by subject teachers. Some non-boarding students may also be included for EAL lessons.
9. Procedures are in place to ensure that teachers and non-teaching staff are aware of EAL students and supported in meeting their needs. The EAL register is maintained by the EAL Co-ordinator and identifies which students have EAL and which ones have regular support. The EAL Co-ordinator also makes sure that there is regular dialogue with subject and support staff if any EAL pupil is causing concern. The EAL Co-ordinator is also able to provide staff training as required.
10. The use by overseas students of a bilingual dictionary in a public examination can be a complex issue. If the candidate's first language is not English and if the use of such a dictionary is the normal way of working, it may be possible to use. The Examinations Officer can give further guidance after seeing the student individually and considering the subjects which she is taking. The dictionary should be provided by the candidate, should not be annotated and during the examination season should remain under secure conditions and be held by the Examinations Officer. Dictionaries may be traditional hard copies or electronic (without additional functions).
11. The JCQ Regulations for Public Examinations specify that extra time for EAL candidates is 10%. The Examinations Officer ought to be consulted about this because of the complexity of the legislation. The entrance requirements for RHSBB make it extremely unlikely that any of our EAL candidates would qualify.
12. If Sixth Form students need to take the IELTS (International English Languages Testing System) examination, as they do not have English GCSEs for their UCAS applications, training can be provided, and the examination taken at International House (IH London) Bath. Parents pay the exam entry fee. Tuition of at least an hour a fortnight for Y12 is included in the fees.
13. Short stay students can do the Cambridge First Certificate Examination, or other suitable examination, so that they can return to their home country with a qualification in English.
14. Students can take examinations (GCSE and A level) in their native language, as appropriate.
15. Most overseas students including EAL students needing support with their English do not have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). However, should SEND be identified, EAL students have equal access to school SEND provision, in addition to EAL support. A charge may be levied for this.
16. The parents of Overseas Students are kept in touch with the school via all the mailshots, academic reports and/or via email communication. Parents are required to appoint a Guardian, resident in the UK, to whom reference can be made in the case of emergency/where parents cannot be contacted. (In the case of students requiring a visa to study in the UK, it is also mandatory to have a UK guardian, and this is indicated in the offer letter.) A Guardianship Agency may be used for this purpose. Guardians may attend academic and pastoral evenings *in loco parentis*. Parents can also meet staff at the Boarders' Academic afternoon in December or at the Academic evenings during the year.

17. Boarders cannot remain in school for Exeat weekends, during the half-term or main holiday periods, as the school closes. Boarders must stay with Guardians or responsible family members if they are unable to travel home. In the event of an emergency school closure (e.g. during a flu pandemic) it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that guardians are available to take students if immediate repatriation is not possible.
18. The Boarding and teaching staff make a concerted effort to ensure the full integration of the Overseas Students with the British students, encouraging them to join in the evening and week-end activities. English is the designated language for all public areas in the school and all staff will monitor this. Help can be provided with dietary requirements and a strict eye kept on medicines brought from abroad.
19. The views of the students are sought and considered.
20. The cultural identity of overseas students is actively supported and celebrated through assemblies and events to mark occasions such as the Chinese New Year.
21. EAL support and provision is regularly evaluated in the light of levels of attainment in formal school and EAL assessments.
22. The school has an Overseas Student Liaison Officer who is available to support students and parents and to aid cultural integration and to help new students to settle in.
23. The School Nurses ensure that the Overseas Students are registered with the School Doctor and have full access to health care.

Reviewed: September 2021

Next Review: June 2022