



ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL
BATH

G D S T

EAL including INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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 overseas students are enabled to sit English Language qualifications as required
- To ensure that they are integrated into the community of Royal High School Bath
- To celebrate the diversity of the international intake at Royal High School Bath (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 or it may be possible for students to sit these at their current school. Entry in the Senior School is normally at Year 7 (11+) but we also take students in Year 8 or Year 9 (13+), Year 10 (14+) or Year 12 (16+) if places are available. In the Prep School, the Head of the Prep School, when considering applicants, will take EAL needs into her decision-making process when offering places. The Head of International Students may also interview the student, as appropriate.
2. The Head of International Students is available for language teaching and support as required. An EAL teaching support/language assistant is also available for additional in-class and subject support as needed at both the Prep and the Senior School.
3. All students must have the Right to Study in the UK. Visa support can be provided by the Admissions team.
4. All non-native speakers will have an EAL interview as part of the admission process. All students are expected to provide a report and reference from their school where applicable. Applicants are considered based on the following assessments: Year 7 (11+) - an online CAT4 assessment, written examinations in English and Mathematics; Year 8 - written examinations in English and Mathematics; Years 9 and 10 - written examinations in English, Mathematics and Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). For short-stay (one term to one year) students, these examinations can be reviewed at the school's discretion.
5. 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.

6. 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. The offer will be confirmed upon verification of GCSE or IB Middle Years programme results in the August before entry, unless the student already holds an unconditional offer based on her entrance examination results.
7. International students are entitled to EAL support as appropriate. Students are assessed within the first fortnight of school, and provision is provided according to need. For those working at below the expected RHSB language level for their year group, EAL lessons are provided as part of their school timetable (and included in the fees). Students who are working at/ above the expected level to fully access the curriculum can also attend EAL lessons as an optional extra. Cambridge English examination preparation classes are available to all overseas students from B1 (intermediate) to C2 (Proficiency) level. The Head of International Students monitors the language level of all EAL students throughout the academic year, in consultation with subject teachers and Heads of Year/ Departments and adjustments to provision are made as necessary. An EAL Teaching assistant supports the language development of Prep students, and the Head of International Students oversees this, providing subject teacher training as deemed appropriate by the Prep Leadership team.
8. In the Prep School, EAL needs should be met within the classroom environment. Girls may require additional support and differentiation in order to ensure progress. If required, EAL pupils will have a support plan informing staff of their needs in a learning environment. As these are working documents, amendments are required to determine the correct level of support/provision for the EAL pupil as the year progresses. This will be made in consultation with the Head of International Students and the EAL Teaching Assistant.
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 for both the Prep and Senior Schools and Sixth Form is maintained by the Head of International students and identifies which students have EAL and which ones have regular support. The register gives the student's working RHSB language level and is a working document to enable all staff to add successful strategies to support students in the classroom. 'Can do' statements and descriptors for each skill alongside expected minimum entry and exit levels for each year group are available for all staff. The Head of International students also makes sure that there is regular dialogue with subject and support staff if any EAL pupil is causing concern. The Head of International students is also able to provide staff training as required at both the Prep and Senior School.
10. The use by international 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. We encourage the language development of all students at every stage of their school lives with us. Sixth Form EAL students have the opportunity to work towards IELTS or the prestigious Proficiency (C2) qualification to support their academic language development and to help evidence their language proficiency to universities and/or future employers. Initial assessment and continuous monitoring will help guide students. Cambridge examinations can be taken at International House Bristol. Parents pay the exam entry fee.
13. Short stay students can prepare for and sit whichever Cambridge suite language examination is most appropriate for their level, so that they can return to their home country with a qualification in English. The Head of International Students will advise parents/guardians regarding levels following the initial EAL assessment within the first three weeks of their arrival.
14. Students can take examinations (GCSE/IGCSE and A level) in their native language, as appropriate.

15. Should SEND needs 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 international 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. Whilst the School will not recommend a specific Guardian, parents are advised to appoint an Aegis-approved Guardian. Guardians may attend academic and pastoral evenings *in loco parentis*. Parents can also meet senior staff at the Boarders' Academic afternoon in December or at the Academic evenings during the year. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to play a role in EAL pupils' education at the Prep School. Where possible the school will support Prep School parents whose first language is not English by providing a native speaker for meetings.
17. Boarders may remain in school for Exeat weekends, but not 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 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 international students with the British students, encouraging them to join in the evening and weekend activities. English is the designated language for all public areas in the school and in the boarding houses and all staff will monitor this and provide positive reinforcement. Help can be provided with dietary requirements and a strict eye is 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 Eid, Dia de los Reyes the Chinese New Year. The International Student Association provides the opportunity for international students to ensure their nationality is represented through leading events for the school community. Prep School students will also celebrate festivals and annual events linked to the creative and R.S curriculum, as appropriate. Additionally, the Head of International Students is available to support any international initiatives at Prep School, where possible.
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 a Head of International Students who works with admissions, academic and boarding teams and is available to support students and parents and to aid cultural integration and help new students to settle in.
23. The School Nurses ensure that the international students are registered with the School Doctor and have full access to health care.

Reviewed: July 2023	Next Review: August 2024
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