



The Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar School Prospectus

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RGS Guildford Qatar



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Welcome to our school...

We are proud to bring over 500 years of British academic excellence to Qatar.

The Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar is a British curriculum school for girls and boys, located in Um Salal Mohammed.



Welcome to The Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar

"What makes our school different?"

To me it is the warm and purposeful community we have created here at The RGS Guildford in Qatar and the mutual respect we show each other.

We are a happy place to learn. There is nothing more rewarding than to see the children arrive each morning eager and excited for the challenges of the day ahead. Parents often tell me how happy their child is at the RGS and how enthusiastic they are about their lessons, teachers, friends and the wealth of extra-curricular activities we offer.

It is the energy, the passion, the imagination and the excitement to learn that makes The Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar such a special place to be.

The key to our success is the personal touch. We know all of our children well. We like to think of The RGS Guildford in Qatar family as a warm, caring and nurturing environment, where the children learn together, play together, eat together and have fun together: just like a real family.

Whilst our expectations for your children are high we

are every bit as protective of your child as you are. A happy child, who feels safe, respected and confident is a happy learner, which in turn allows them to fully realise their potential.

It is worth remembering, that we attract children from many different countries, so your child will make lifelong friendships with children from local, national and international communities. The experience of such a multi-cultural education is a privilege and one that will prepare your child well to succeed in today's modern, global world.

This prospectus tells only a small part of our story. There really is no substitute to visiting the School, talking to our staff and pupils and seeing for yourself what a very special place this is. I look forward to welcoming you to The Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar.

Alistair Downs, Head of School



A strong foundation...

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

Tradition and Innovation

Whilst new to Qatar (the School opened in September 2016), The Royal Grammar School, Guildford 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 also bring our 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 RGS curriculum is enhanced to inspire our children and to spark their natural curiosity and imagination. At The RGS Guildford in Qatar 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 RGS 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. The results of this method are clear; whilst over 25% of our pupils gain entry to either Oxford and Cambridge universities annually, all of our pupils are well prepared for life after they leave education. They have the know-how, the ability, social skills and confidence to achieve their ambitions.

At The RGS Guildford in Qatar we are 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 RGS Guildford in Qatar, 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, colourful, 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 essential 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 music and 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 One to Six 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 Six all of our pupils are well prepared both academically and socially for the excitement and new challenges of Senior School.

“I see my son being encouraged and helped to be all that he can be, by a team of extraordinary staff and a strong Head of School.”

– Year 2 Parent

Senior Department...

“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 Senior School runs from Year 7 to Year 13 through Key Stage 3 (Year 7 to 9), Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) and Key Stage 5 (Year 12 and 13). When pupils move into the Senior 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.

In Key Stage 3 pupils continue to benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum which includes mathematical, scientific and technological, linguistic, human and social, creative and literary, physical and moral and spiritual areas of learning. The combination of breadth and depth of study is at the heart of the School’s philosophy, ensuring that pupils experience the full breadth of academic opportunity and challenge before making key decisions when selecting their IGCSE and A Level options. This breadth of study means that no long-term university or career plans are closed at this early stage of Senior School.

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

In Key Stage 5 the 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 and 13 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 the last two years at the RGS.

Although mindful of the demands of formal examinations towards the latter part of Senior School, the emphasis remains on encouraging pupils to explore beyond the formal curriculum and continuing to develop a true love of learning. Universities are increasingly looking at the whole person, not just examination results. Nearly all RGS’s pupils go on to university. Academic success helps guarantee a good career, but we also want children who have been to the RGS Guildford in Qatar to become good 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 for up to three lessons a week. All other pupils can choose between Arabic or French language lessons. Islamic Studies is available to our Muslim pupils and all pupils are taught the History of Qatar from Year 3.

Music, Sport & Art

We are fortunate to enjoy fantastic music and sports facilities at the RGS, 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. There are opportunities to study various instruments and to join the school choir and bands.

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

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

– Reception Parent



“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 RGS Guildford in Qatar, 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, we will do it.

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 RGS Guildford in Qatar we provide a supportive pastoral environment which meets individual needs, and promotes the development of happy, considerate pupils. Children succeed best when they feel cared for, secure 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 RGS. 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 RGS Guildford in Qatar.



Technology at the forefront...

Technology

At the RGS, 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 Senior School.

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

– Deputy Head

Our school, your community...

“The RGS 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 RGS 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 Fair, 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 willing parents.

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 their House T-Shirts for regular House events and assemblies and can earn House Credits 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 whole school meets each Thursday for our weekly 'Achievement Assembly', which recognises and praises 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.

'Superstar' certificates are presented to pupils who have shown academic achievement, progress, or excellent all-round behavior; and trophies are presented to the 'Class of the Week' for attendance and on time arrival. All of our individual and class winners receive their award to rapturous applause.

Good manners are expected at all times and pupils who demonstrate excellent table manners and healthy eating habits throughout the week will be invited to join the Head of School for lunch on the weekly 'Top Table'.

“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 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.

We ask that Prep and Senior School pupils visit us at the RGS. We ensure that all of the children are happy and relaxed at the start of the assessments with 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 Senior 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.

The Royal Grammar School, Guildford in Qatar

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Doha, Qatar

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/sCQsYcKkYqp>

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