



SHERBORNE QATAR

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Sherborne Qatar is modelled on its British mother school. There are 2 Preparatory Schools, a Senior School and a School for Girls. We have pupils from Pre-school to Year 13. We teach an enhanced curriculum based on the National Curriculum of England. All members of the teaching staff are fully qualified, and the overwhelming majority of teachers are from the United Kingdom.

Sherborne Qatar attracts pupils from the local and international communities. Creating the correct balance of pupils is a vital element of the admissions process as it enables all schools to maintain the ethos of Sherborne Qatar as well as meeting the original vision for the schools.

The following criteria are taken into consideration when applications are received:

- numbers already in that year group
- academic ability
- previous school assessments / reports
- gender
- nationality and mother tongue or first language

In practice, this means that places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis; that an application can be unsuccessful even for an academically able child; or that availability of places can be dependent upon gender or nationality. There are more places available for British and first language English applicants than for other nationalities, and applications from Qatari families are given priority before other international families.

It is a requirement for entry that children are able to communicate in English at a level that is appropriate to their age and development. Our ethos is to develop well-rounded citizens and develop their potential not only academically, but also by promoting our Values.

Our experienced teachers differentiate the curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils in their class, however, some children require extra support to achieve their learning potential. We have dedicated Learning Support departments in each of our schools that provide specialist and bespoke intervention.

To ensure that the appropriate support is in place from the first day your child joins us, if you are aware that your child has a learning need, please complete the Learning Support Needs Form. Our specialist team will then assess applicants on a case-by-case basis.

We must comply with the regulatory requirements of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education when allocating places in the Preparatory Schools, Senior School or School for Girls. In most cases, a child will be placed in the appropriate Year Group for their age and on the basis of their last school year of attendance.

Parents seeking a place for a child who has not previously been educated in a British curriculum school should refer to the Ministry equivalency chart (*see page 14*), so that they understand which is the appropriate Year Group for their child.

Sherborne Qatar uses the following minimum ages for the Year of entry:

Age		Year Group
3	on or before 31 st August	Pre-School
4	on or before 31 st August	Reception
5	on or before 31 st August	Year 1
6	on or before 31 st August	Year 2
7	on or before 31 st August	Year 3
8	on or before 31 st August	Year 4
9	on or before 31 st August	Year 5
10	on or before 31 st August	Year 6
11	on or before 31 st August	Year 7
12	on or before 31 st August	Year 8
13	on or before 31 st August	Year 9
14	on or before 31 st August	Year 10
15	on or before 31 st August	Year 11
16	on or before 31 st August	Lower Sixth
17	on or before 31 st August	Upper Sixth

Admission to Sherborne Qatar Preparatory Schools, Senior School or School for Girls is subject to passing entrance assessments.

Headteachers' Waiting Lists

If a child is accepted and the relevant Year Group is full at that moment, he or she will be placed on the appropriate Headteachers' Waiting List. Places at the relevant School are then granted, as they become available, at the discretion of the Headteacher and based on criteria such as ability, gender or nationality, but not on a first come, first served basis.

We do not give a guaranteed place to children who have a brother or sister at any of the Schools, but we look favourably at all sibling applications that meet the academic and other standards required for entry into the Schools.

Leaving Sherborne Qatar

Written notice of parents' intention to withdraw a child (or a child wishing to leave the school) must be given to the appropriate Headteacher at least two weeks before the leaving date or the end of term. The school will require completion of a Leaving Form, so that the Finance Department can contact parents about any outstanding fees. Reports and transfer certificates will not be released until all outstanding fees have been settled.

Appeals Process

Sherborne Qatar Preparatory Schools, Senior School and School for Girls are fully established and much in demand. As a result, there will be very few spaces available each year. This will mean disappointment for the families of unsuccessful applicants. This does not always mean that a child has failed or is not up to the standards required by Sherborne, but simply that we do not always have the spaces in the schools to accept all of the children who would like to attend.

Parents can lodge an appeal if they are not satisfied with the decision reached. In the first instance, they must write to the relevant Head by email, stating clearly the reasons for their appeal.

If parents continue to be dissatisfied, they can write to the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Governors by email, via the Clerk to the Governors, stating clearly the reason for their appeal.

The Executive Committee will review the appeal as quickly as possible, but this might well take some weeks.

Sherborne Qatar reserves the right to exclude pupils whose behaviour is unacceptable or whose educational needs cannot be met. Sherborne Qatar also reserves the right to exclude families from being considered if they show disrespect to school personnel during the admissions process.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

SHERBORNE QATAR PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

Sherborne Qatar Preparatory Schools are British Prep Schools in an international setting. They are gently selective, co-educational day schools set up in collaboration with the Supreme Education Council of Qatar under the 'Outstanding Schools Programme'. They provide a British education for children from Qatari and British families, as well as those from the wider international community.

Sherborne Qatar Preparatory Schools are divided into three separate sections: EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage), Key Stage 1 (Years 1 – 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6), with each section having slightly different entrance requirements which are set out below.

All prospective pupils must demonstrate that they have the ability, skills and knowledge to access the age-appropriate curriculum successfully. English is the language of communication throughout the school and in all academic lessons, except Arabic, French and Islamic Studies. Consequently, prospective pupils must demonstrate that they are sufficiently fluent in English (written and spoken) to be able to communicate effectively.

As a fully inclusive family of schools, during the admissions process, if your child is assessed as having a learning need our specialist team will define the bespoke intervention required to support his or her learning journey. There may be an additional charge for this learning support which will be discussed with you (please see the fees policy for details).

Admission into Pre-School

Parents should note that our Pre-School is not a nursery, but a class where the children will start to develop and practise the basic skills required in the earliest stages of their school lives. Therefore, it is desirable that all prospective pupils are currently attending an English-speaking Nursery in preparation for this next stage in their development.

Places are offered based on the evidence gained from a report and a reference obtained from the nursery as we believe they are in a far better position to make a realistic assessment of the child. However, if a child is not attending an English-speaking Nursery it may be possible to arrange an assessment in school to establish if the child is ready for our Pre-school. We look at a variety of factors, including whether the child is happy to separate from his or her parent/carer, listens to and responds to instructions given in English, is growing in independence with respect to toileting, washing hands, eating and getting dressed.

It is also important to state that, although we hope the children in the Pre-School will progress through Reception and on into Year 1, this is **not guaranteed**. All pupils who start their schooling in Pre-School will be required to demonstrate sufficient progress to ensure that they will be able to access the full British curriculum delivered in Key Stage 1 (Year 1). Parents of pupils who have not reached this level

will be contacted in the second term of their Reception year. Pupils will also be expected to attend all day and every day that the school is in session and pupils with a poor attendance record will not be able to continue into Key Stage 1.

Admission into Reception

Children applying for Reception must be attending an English-speaking Nursery or Pre-School to be considered for a place. They must be able to understand and communicate in English. This is because Reception is an all-day, structured school environment. All Reception children must be fully toilet trained before starting school and be growing in independence, such as washing their own hands, eating independently and getting dressed. They must also demonstrate early reading and writing skills. We will invite applicants to Reception for an informal assessment (between January and March) prior to the September start. Applicants after this date will be invited to come into school for an assessment if there is a place available.

Admission to Key Stage 1

Children applying for Years 1 and 2 are invited to spend no longer than 1 hour in the school. They are welcomed and we ensure that they feel safe, so that their parent/carer can leave them and allow the classroom teacher to look after them. Children must have an acceptable level of and comprehension of English and be able to use it suitably. This is because the curriculum is taught in English. Children need to be able to understand instructions and be able to make their needs known to others. There will also be a number of short activities involving number recognition, practical mathematics and writing. If it is appropriate, children's reading levels will be assessed and those children looking for entrance into Year 2 will be asked to sit a computer-adaptive test that covers English, Mathematics and non-verbal reasoning (a test of their potential). We will also consider how children interact with others. Parents are asked to provide a drink and a snack for their children during the assessment period.

Admission to Key Stage 2

Children applying for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are invited into school to meet the Deputy Head. The child will be asked to complete a short written exercise followed by a computer-adaptive test in English, Mathematics and non-verbal skills. This test gives age-equivalent levels to determine strengths and weaknesses and is administered via a computer with headphones to ensure that the instructions and questions are read out loud. The assessment includes reading (word recognition, decoding and comprehension), general mathematics, mental arithmetic, and developed ability (picture vocabulary and non-verbal ability).

If a child is accepted, the information from the test is given to class teachers, so that they can determine what he or she already knows and what his or her potential might be, allowing them to put in place any interventions (G&T, EAL or Learning Support) that may be required, as well as determining, for example, in which Mathematics set the child should be placed.

Although we hope that all our pupils from both schools will progress on to the Senior School, admission is **not guaranteed** but is dependent on the performance of the pupil over their time at the Prep Schools and their final level achieved in our regular assessments in English and Maths. We also consider his or her commitment to the school and involvement in extra-curricular activities and clubs.

Sherborne Qatar Preparatory Schools reserve the right to exclude pupils whose behaviour is unacceptable or whose educational needs cannot be met.

Please note that the results of assessment test are not published to applicants or to their parents and no correspondence about results can be entered into.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

SHERBORNE SENIOR SCHOOL

Admission to the Senior School (Year 7 – Year 10)

The Senior School is a British, academically selective, co-educational day school in an international setting. Its education provision is based on and monitored by Sherborne School, Dorset.

We teach an enhanced version of the National Curriculum for England in Years 7 – 9. In Years 10 and 11, pupils are taught a full range of subjects leading to examinations at I/GCSE level.

All of our UK teachers are specialists in their curriculum area and are well-qualified and trained. They are fully conversant with the requirements of the National Curriculum, I/GCSE, BTEC, AS Level and A Level.

Admission to the Senior School is subject to passing an entrance assessment. Applicants are assessed using a computer-adaptive test which is designed to measure, as far as is possible, ability and aptitude for learning rather than achievement. The test is comprised of vocabulary, mathematics, non-verbal ability and a range of skills. All sections of the test contribute to an overall measure of ability that strongly suggests likely subsequent achievement. If a child is accepted, the test results are used to identify strengths and weaknesses, to inform teaching and learning and to assist in target setting and monitoring of performance.

Admission to Sixth Form (Year 12)

In the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13), pupils are taught a broad range of subjects leading to examinations at AS Level at the end of Year 12 or A Level at the end of the Year 13. Pupils can also undertake the Extended Project Qualification as an important part of their Sixth Form curriculum.

As a rule, a minimum of 5 I/GCSE passes at grade 4 (equivalent to a grade C) or above is required (including English Language and Mathematics) to study AS Levels, however pupils should achieve a minimum of a grade 6 (equivalent to a grade B) in the subjects chosen for AS Level (unless other entry requirements are stated). For Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics we ask for a minimum grade 7 (grade A/ A*) at I/GCSE, but may consider pupils that have consistently performed at least to a grade 6 (equivalent to a grade B) standard (throughout Year 11, including in the mock examinations) and have been endorsed by their previous subject teacher(s) as having the ability to cope with the rigour of the AS/A Level course. I/GCSE results are a good indicator of likely success at AS Level and A Level, and therefore we consider them very important before pupils are admitted onto courses. Any external applications are welcomed and reviewed individually.

Only in exceptional cases will an applicant be admitted to Year 11 or the Year 13, because i/GCSE and A Level courses span two years and the requirements of various examination specifications do not

always match. However, if subjects and examination specifications do align we will look carefully at the application.

In addition to the assessments, we require a full set of supporting evidence from applicants, including the previous year's and the most recent school reports, and a written reference from the current school. Reports and references must include information about attendance and behaviour.

Sherborne Senior School reserves the right to exclude pupils whose behaviour is unacceptable or whose educational needs cannot be met.

Please note that the results of assessment test are not published to applicants or to their parents and no correspondence about results can be entered into.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

SHERBORNE QATAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Sherborne Qatar School for Girls is a British School in an international setting. It is a gently selective, all-girls day school. It provides a British education for children from Qatari and British families, as well as those from the wider international community.

Sherborne Qatar School for Girls is divided into three sections: Pre-Prep (Pre-School to Year 3), Juniors (Years 4 – 8) and Seniors (Years 9-13). Entrance to various year groups in these sections have slightly different entrance requirements, these are set out below.

All prospective pupils must demonstrate that they have the ability, skills and knowledge to access the age-appropriate curriculum successfully. English is the language of communication throughout the school and in all academic lessons, except Arabic and Islamic Studies. Consequently, prospective pupils must demonstrate that they are sufficiently fluent in English (written and spoken) to be able to communicate effectively.

As a fully inclusive family of schools, during the admissions process, if your child is assessed as having a learning need our specialist team will define the bespoke intervention required to support his or her learning journey. There may be an additional charge for this learning support which will be discussed with you (please see the fees policy for details).

Admission into Pre-School (Pre-Prep)

Parents should note that our Pre-School is not a nursery, but a class where the children will start to develop and practise the basic skills required in the earliest stages of their school lives. Therefore, it is desirable that all prospective pupils are currently attending an English-speaking Nursery in preparation for this next stage in their development.

Places are offered based on the evidence gained from a report and a reference obtained from the nursery as we believe they are in a far better position to make a realistic assessment of the child. However, if a child is not attending an English-speaking nursery it may be possible to arrange an assessment in school to establish if the child is ready for our Pre-School. We look at a variety of factors, including whether the child is happy to separate from his or her parent/carer, listens to and responds to instructions given in English, is growing in independence with respect to toileting, washing hands, eating and getting dressed.

It is also important to state that, although we hope the children in the Pre-School will progress through Reception and on into Year 1, this is **not guaranteed**. All pupils who start their schooling in Pre-School will be required to demonstrate sufficient progress to ensure that they will be able to access the full British curriculum delivered in Key Stage 1 (Year 1). Parents of pupils who have not reached this level will be contacted in the second term of their Reception year. Pupils will also be expected to attend

every day that the school is in session and pupils with a poor attendance record will not be able to continue into Key Stage 1. Please note that the school expects 90% attendance or above from all pupils across all year groups.

Admission into Reception (Pre-Prep)

Children applying for Reception must ideally, be attending an English-speaking nursery or Pre-school to be considered for a place. They must be able to understand and communicate in English. This is because Reception is an all-day, structured school environment. All Reception children must be fully toilet trained before starting school and be growing in independence, such as washing their own hands, eating independently and getting dressed. They must also demonstrate early reading and writing skills. We will invite applicants to Reception for an informal assessment (between January and March) prior to the September start. Applicants after this date will be invited to come into school for an assessment if there is a place available.

Admission to Key Stage 1(Pre-Prep)

Children applying for Years 1 and 2 are invited to spend a few hours in the school. They are welcomed and we ensure that they feel safe, so that their parent/carer can leave them and allow the classroom teacher to look after them. Girls must have an acceptable level of and comprehension of English and be able to use it suitably. This is because the curriculum is taught in English. Children need to be able to understand instructions and be able to make their needs known to others. There will also be a number of short activities involving number recognition, practical mathematics and writing. If it is appropriate, children's reading levels will be assessed and children will be asked to sit a computer-adaptive test (CEM Assessment) that covers English, Mathematics and non-verbal reasoning (a test of their potential). We will also consider how children interact with others. Parents are asked to provide a drink and a snack for their children during the assessment period.

Admission to Key Stage 2 (Upper Pre-Prep and Lower Juniors)

Girls applying for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are expected to take a computer-adaptive test in English, Mathematics and non-verbal skills. This test gives age-equivalent levels to determine strengths and weaknesses and is administered via a computer with headphones to ensure that the instructions and questions are read out loud. The assessment includes reading (word recognition, decoding and comprehension), general mathematics, mental arithmetic, and developed ability (picture vocabulary and non-verbal ability). The pupil's school reports from the previous academic year are also taken into consideration.

If a child is accepted, the information from the test is given to class teachers, so that they can determine what he or she already knows and what his or her potential might be, allowing them to put in place any interventions (G&T, EAL or Learning Support) that may be required, as well as determining, for example, in which Mathematics set the child should be placed.

Admission to the Senior School: Years 7 – 10 (Upper Juniors and Lower Seniors)

We teach an enhanced version of the National Curriculum for England in Years 7 – 9, with some IGCSE material beginning to be introduced in Year 9. In Years 10 and 11, pupils are taught a full range of subjects leading to examinations at I/GCSE level.

All of our UK teachers are specialists in their curriculum area and are well-qualified and trained. They are fully conversant with the requirements of the National Curriculum, I/GCSE, AS Level and A Level.

Admission to the Senior School is subject to passing entrance assessments. Applicants are assessed using a computer adaptive cognitive ability assessment that enable the girls to demonstrate their academic potential. If the test shows a weakness, the appropriate Deputy Head of section or the Headmistress may choose to interview the applicant. The tests comprise sections on vocabulary, mathematics, non-verbal ability and a range of other cognitive skills. All sections of the tests contribute to an overall measure of cognitive ability that strongly suggests likely subsequent achievement. If a child is accepted to the school, the test results are used to identify strengths and weaknesses, to inform teaching and learning, and to assist in target setting and the monitoring of academic performance.

Admission to Sixth Form (Year 12)

In the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13), pupils are taught a broad range of subjects leading to examinations at AS Level at the end of Year 12 or A Level at the end of the Year 13.

As a rule, a minimum of 5 I/GCSE passes at grade 4 (equivalent to a grade C) or above is required (including English Language and Mathematics) to study AS Levels. It is advised that pupils should achieve a minimum of a grade 6 (equivalent to a grade B) in the subject/s they have chosen for AS Level studies, if they expect and desire to achieve high grades in their advanced level qualifications. For Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics, due to the difficulty of the subject material, we ask for a minimum of a grade 7 (grade A/ A*) at I/GCSE. In some cases we will consider pupils who have consistently performed at least to a grade 6 (equivalent to a grade B) standard throughout Year 11, including in their mock examinations and have been endorsed by their previous subject teacher(s) as having the ability to cope with the rigour of the AS/A Level course. I/GCSE results are a good indicator of likely success at AS Level and A Level, and therefore we consider them very important before pupils are admitted onto courses. Any external applications are welcomed and reviewed individually.

Only in exceptional cases will an applicant be admitted to Year 11 or the Upper Sixth, because I/GCSE and A Level courses span two years and the requirements of different examination specifications do not always match. However, if subjects and examination specifications do align, we will look carefully at the pupil's application.

In addition to the assessments, we require a full set of supporting evidence from applicants, including the previous year's and the most recent school reports, together with a written reference from the current school. Reports and references must include information about attendance and behaviour.

Sherborne Qatar School for Girls reserves the right to exclude girls whose behaviour is unacceptable or whose educational needs cannot be met.

Please note that the results of assessment tests are not published to applicants or to their parents and no correspondence about results can be entered into.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Our online application forms can be accessed at the Sherborne Qatar website. The form must be completed accurately and in full. All necessary documentation must be submitted with the completed application form.

The following documents are required to be submitted in pdf format with the application:

- the child's most recent full school report
- a copy of the child's passport (identification pages only)
- a copy of the child's Qatar ID card (if it is not available at the time of application it must be provided as soon as it is acquired)
- a copy of the parents' passport
- a copy of the parents' Qatar ID card (if it is not available at the time of application it must be provided as soon as it is acquired)
- a copy of the child's immunisation record
- EYFS Questionnaire for EYFS applications
- Learning Support Needs Form if applicable

Please note, Qatari pupils should also submit a copy of their birth certificate if they intend to apply for the MOE vouchers scheme.

The following summarises the admissions process:

1. Parents submit the application form online together with all the required documents and pay the non-refundable application fee of QAR 544 (Years 1 to 6) and QAR 560 (Years 7 to 13).
2. The application is reviewed by the Head and then, if appropriate, the Admissions Team will contact parents to arrange an assessment date and time.
3. After the child has sat the assessment and the results of the tests have been reviewed, the Registrar will contact parents with news of the results and, if applicable, of the availability of places.
4. If applicable, an offer letter will be sent to parents. If the place is accepted (and in order to secure it), parents must respond within one week, must pay the full registration fee and must sign and return the Fees Policy. The Finance Department will send an invoice for the first term's fees. The invoice must be settled in full prior to the child starting at Sherborne Qatar.

For enquiries about the availability of places or any other queries relating to admissions, please contact the Registrar at registrar@sherborneqatar.org.

