

Questions International Parents Ask us



Admissions

What age can my child join the school?

Children can join from Nursery through to Year 8.

What are the most common entry years for international pupils?

Years 4, 6 and 7 are the most common entry points for international boarders.

Does my child need to visit the school before applying?

Not necessarily. Online assessments and virtual meetings can be arranged.

What assessments are required for international pupils?

Typically English and maths assessments, plus a reference from the current school.

Do you accept pupils mid-year?

Yes, depending on availability.

How long does the admissions process take?

Usually between 2–6 weeks once all documents are received.

Can siblings apply together?

Yes, and the admissions team will support families through this process.

Is there a waiting list?

Some year groups may operate a waiting list.

Questions International Parents Ask us



English Language & EAL

Does my child need fluent English?

Pupils should ideally have a working level of English, but additional support is available.

What EAL support is provided?

Specialist teachers support pupils individually or in small groups, and we work towards the Cambridge PET exams for all EAL pupils.

How long does it take for pupils to become fluent?

This varies but most pupils gain confidence within their first year.

Boarding Life

How many pupils board at the school?

Boarders form an important part of the school community; we typically have a boarding total of around 70% of the school.

What ages can board?

Typically from Year 3 upwards; younger pupils can be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Are boys and girls housed separately?

Yes, boys and girls have separate boarding accommodation on different floors of the Mansion.

Are boarders supervised overnight?

Yes, house parents live within the boarding houses, and pupils can get help if they are unwell overnight.

Questions International Parents Ask us



How often can children call home?

Children can contact parents regularly using phones or video calls.

What happens during weekends?

Boarders enjoy activities, trips and social events.

Can my child stay at school during half term?

Usually pupils travel home or to their guardian.

Guardianship

Do international pupils need a guardian?

Yes, all overseas pupils must have a UK-based guardian.

Can the school help find a guardian?

The admissions team can guide parents to guardianship organisations.

What does a guardian do?

Guardians typically:

- Provide accommodation during school holidays
- Attend school meetings if parents cannot
- Act as an emergency contact

Questions International Parents Ask us

Travel

Which airports are closest to the school?

Common airports include:

- London Stansted
- London Heathrow
- London Gatwick

Does the school arrange airport transfers?

Yes, transfers can be arranged for international pupils.

Can older pupils travel alone?

Travel arrangements must be approved by the school and guardians.

Academic Life

What curriculum does the school follow?

The English National Curriculum with additional enrichment.

Do pupils take exams?

Pupils complete internal assessments and may prepare for senior school entrance exams.

Which senior schools do pupils move on to?

Pupils progress to a range of leading UK independent senior schools.

Does the school prepare pupils for scholarships?

Yes, including academic, sport, music and other scholarships.

Questions International Parents Ask us

Daily Life

What time does the school day start?

Around 8:00am.

What happens after lessons finish?

Pupils take part in sports, activities and clubs.

Wellbeing

Who supports my child emotionally?

Support includes:

- Tutors
- House parents
- Pastoral staff

How do you help new international pupils settle in?

Support includes:

- Buddy systems
- Orientation
- EAL support

Uniform & Equipment

Can uniform be purchased online?

Yes, uniform is available through the school supplier.

Questions International Parents Ask us

Do pupils need sports equipment?

Yes, including sports kit and swimming equipment.

Food

What food is provided?

Healthy meals are prepared daily by the school catering team.

Can dietary restrictions be accommodated?

Yes.

Communication

How will parents receive updates?

Parents receive updates through:

- Email
- School newsletters
- Parent portals

Can parents speak with teachers?

Yes, through scheduled meetings or by contacting the school.

Questions International Parents Ask us

Safety

Is the campus secure?

Yes, the school has safeguarding procedures and controlled access.

Are pupils supervised during activities?

Yes, by qualified staff.

Technology

Do pupils use computers in lessons?

Yes, technology is used to support learning.

Are mobile phones allowed?

Policies vary by age group.

Practical Questions

What happens if my child loses uniform?

Labelled clothing can usually be returned via the lost property system.

Can my child bring personal items?

Yes, within boarding guidelines.

Cultural Integration

Do pupils celebrate international cultures?

Yes, diversity is welcomed and celebrated.

Questions International Parents Ask us

Are international friendships encouraged?

Yes, pupils mix across nationalities and year groups.

Parents Visiting

Can parents visit the school?

Yes, by appointment or for school events.

Are parents invited to performances and sports events?

Yes.

Leaving the School

How are pupils prepared for senior school?

The school provides guidance on applications, assessments and scholarships.

Does the school help with senior school placements?

Yes, staff guide families through the process.