

## **BISAK Admissions policy**

BISAK welcomes applications for admission from all in the community whose children can benefit from the education offered at the school. It is important before applying for admission for their children that parents read, understand and are supportive of the schools mission, philosophy and objectives. These statements underpin all that goes on in the school and are a clear indication to parents as to our approach to education.

As a British community school designated by the Ministry of Education our priority for admission must be given to those who, by virtue of their previous education experience, have no choice but to attend an English-speaking international school. Children should, however, be fluent in English or be at a stage where they can achieve fluency given specialist support.

We also invite applications for admission from children who will benefit from our educational provision but who are not fluent English speakers. In this case the child will be assessed for language competence before admission. Should the school assess the need for language support then an offer will only be made subject only to agreement from parents that the child receives language support, if available. This may, at the request of the Principal, be subject to review.

Acceptance into BISAK and allocation to a particular year or class can only be authorised by the Principal. For those in the Saudi community wishing to apply for admission please see below for special conditions.

The school has limited ability to offer support for children with learning difficulties and will therefore assess children before admission in order to be sure that we are able to provide appropriately for the needs of the individual. Where the school feels it cannot provide support, then the student will not be offered a place. Where possible, the Principal will refer the student to schools or advisers which can possibly help.

Available places in certain age groups are regularly oversubscribed and parents are advised to make an early application or to contact the Registrar to avoid disappointment.

### **Saudi students**

BISAK welcomes applications from Saudi students. We value having Saudis as members of the school community believing that mutual understanding between our host nation and the International community will be strengthened by the presence of Saudi students in the school and by having Saudi families as part of the school community.

BISAK is committed to applying the National Policies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the enrolment of Saudi students. At present we can only admit those Saudi students who have been granted permission to attend the British International School of Al Khobar by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry has provided BISAK with clear guidance on this.

In addition to having Ministry permission, Saudi students must also satisfy the same criteria for admission as students of all other nationalities. Admissions screening takes place in Lower, Middle and Upper School and students must be deemed to be able to access the curriculum to

be offered a place in the school. An assessment can be arranged prior to obtaining the permission from the Ministry. Registration fees are payable on submission of the application form however no tuition fees will be accepted and children cannot be accepted onto the school roll until the school has received the Saudi permission. If the student does not obtain permission, then registration fees cannot be refunded.

Unfortunately places cannot be reserved for Saudi students waiting for permission and passing the assessment does not guarantee a place. Consideration of the final offer of a place will only be made after the permission is granted by the Ministry and the original permission document received by the school.

### **Assessments**

Students are tested in English and Mathematics. These assessments are just one stage in the admissions process. We also take into account previous school reports and parents should provide evidence of previous school records when families first visit the school. No child will be accepted into school unless copies of the most recent school reports are provided. For students with learning difficulties, a psychological report should also be provided.

Pupils seeking to enter the Foundation Stage or Key Stage One (children aged 3-6 years) are not formally tested. Whenever practicable we will invite prospective pupils into the age-appropriate class for a morning to ascertain the level at which the pupil is operating. Class teachers in Foundation and Key Stage One will carry out an in-house assessment to gain evidence to inform the admissions process. This will be referred to the Principal for a final decision on admittance.

Students entering the IGCSE will be assessed on their ability to obtain a pass grade at IGCSE. At this stage of our development, we do not offer vocational alternatives, for students who are not able to obtain a pass grade. Students entering in the middle of the GCSE programme will be assessed according to previous subjects covered. This will usually involve an interview with the Principal before an offer can be made.

The school always places children in age-appropriate year groups unless there are mitigating Circumstances.

Our policy on twins is that we prefer to teach them in separate classes. However, if the rationale is appropriate, we will consider individual cases on individual merits.