



# DOHA ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL

Learning Together • High Expectations • Celebrating Success

## Doha English Speaking School Assessment Charter

Doha English Speaking School (DESS) is a high achieving British school which is committed to ensuring that all children who are admitted to the school will thrive in an environment of high academic expectation and are happy within the school community, whilst benefiting from the rounded education provided.

Applications for placements at DESS must meet eligibility, assessment and weighting criteria before a child is offered a place.

DESS is a selective entry school and, as part of the school's admission's process, applicants may be requested to sit an assessment for entry.

Our assessments are designed to ensure that pupils joining DESS are equipped to cope with the curriculum that is delivered within our classrooms. Entry levels for each Year Group will depend on the average English and Welsh National Curriculum levels achieved by the current cohort of DESS pupils; this will vary by academic term as progress is made throughout the year.

**Foundation Stage 1** – Foundation Stage 1 entrance assessments will be carried out by Foundation Stage 1 staff, overseen by the Foundation Stage 1 Year Group Leader, through a range of play based activities and children will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Communication in English at a level appropriate to their age.
- An interest and curiosity in the environment.
- Social skills appropriate for their age.

Through this process our staff are able to ascertain if the child is able, and ready, to join our Early Years environment.

**Foundation Stage 2** – Foundation Stage 2 entrance assessments will be carried out by Foundation Stage 2 staff, overseen by the Foundation Stage 2 Year Group Leader. The assessment will consist of simple social activities, basic writing/ pencil control, phonics and number work. All lessons at DESS are conducted in English therefore children must demonstrate a clear understanding of English (speaking and listening). All assessments are age appropriate specifically adapted to relate to the children's stage of development appropriate to the point within the academic year that the assessment takes place.

**Year 1 Assessments** – Year 1 entrance assessments will be carried out by the Year 1 Group Leader. The assessment will consist of reading, writing, and number work. All assessments are age appropriate specifically adapted to relate to the children's stage of development appropriate to the point within the academic year that the assessment takes place.

**Year 2 - 6 Assessments** – Year 2 to 6 entrance assessments are conducted in English, Maths and writing; all assessments are age appropriate. On completion of the formal assessment children join their Year Group class for the remainder of the school day.

## **Assessment Outcome**

Depending on availability of seats in any given Year Group, applicants who pass our assessment criteria will either be offered a place or will remain on their individual Year Group Waitlist (according to the date of completion of their application). If a place does not become available for a period of six months or longer, children may receive a further assessment.

Assessment papers will not be shared with parents as this would compromise our assessment process. Applicants who are unsuccessful will be removed from our database and waitlist.

Provided the required Year Group Waitlist is open for applications, unsuccessful applicants may reapply after a 12 month period has lapsed.

Re-assessments – a second, final assessment is by **invitation only**. Our assessors will offer a second, final assessment based on the levels presented at the initial assessment, this assessment will take place after a designated period determined by our assessors (normally after a **minimum period** of six months).

**Second, final assessments are not offered in Foundation Stage 1.**

**Due to the volume of applicants for each Year Group, our assessors cannot meet with parents to give individual feedback on an assessment outcome.**

All assessment outcomes are carefully considered by our assessors and Senior Leadership Team. DESS is proud of the integrity of its admission process and related policies and would respectfully inform parents that our assessors and Senior Leadership Team's decision regarding entry is final.

**DESS Admissions Department**

