



The English School Admission Policy

The English School

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Introduction

Founded by a British cleric, Canon Frank Darvall Newham, during the colonial rule of Cyprus, in 1900, The English School has a distinguished legacy of 126 years as the top independent secondary school in Cyprus. It is proud to have nurtured a large number of exceptional graduates who have become professional and community leaders in a wide range of fields, at a local and international level. Its students' outstanding academic performance in external exams and university placements, combined with its exceptional cocurricular program, would place it in the thirty top-ranked UK independent schools. The English School broadly follows the British national curriculum with students sitting I/GCSEs at the end of Year 5 and A levels at the end of Year 7. It is co-educational and welcomes students from all communities, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or faith, from Cyprus and overseas.

School Mission

The English School exists to promote academic excellence through high-quality processes of teaching and learning. The school seeks to maximize individual potential by providing rich and engaging educational experiences and challenges, supported by talented and trained staff, in a safe and caring environment, and using modern pedagogical techniques and new technologies.

The English School student is an articulate, autonomous, lifelong learner who is developing the cognitive skills to think critically and creatively, evaluate information, and collaborate with staff and other students in order to assess his/her own attainment and progress.

The school is committed to the principle of equal opportunities for all and seeks to uphold the rights of every individual within the school community. It celebrates diversity and its ethos is one of trust, mutual respect, and understanding of each other's culture, ethnicity, religion, gender, and individual needs.

The English School's main goal is to prepare students to access the highest quality tertiary education and to become global and democratic citizens, empowered to adopt key leadership roles in their adult lives.

The school motto is *Non-Sibi Sed Scholae* which means that students should be proud to be a member of the school and put the school community and other people before their own needs.

Admission Criteria

The English School accepts applications from students who wish to enter Years 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

Please note that The English School year nomenclature corresponds to the UK national curriculum as follows: Year 1 (Year 7), Year 2 (Year 8), Year 3 (Year 9), Year 4 (Year 10), Year 5 (Year 11), Year 6 (Year 12), Year 7 (Year 13.) Thus, our students would normally follow a thirteen-year primary and secondary school program, graduating and sitting GCE A levels at the end of Year 7 (Year13.)

Admission criteria for entry into Year 1

Most of our Year 1 applicants will be in their last year of primary school (Year 6 primary), and approximately 11 years old. It is essential that Year 1 students have completed their primary education, whether they come from schools in Cyprus or overseas. There is one point of entry into Year 1, through the Entrance Examinations sat during the spring term of the preceding academic year. The Cyprus Ministry of Education decides the date but in recent years the examinations have taken place in early to mid-February.

Students are required to sit an examination in three subjects: English/Greek/Turkish (depending on their language background); Mathematics (sat in English/Greek/Turkish); and Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) which does not require specific language skills.

The English School has by tradition, designated one class of English speakers, one class of Turkish speakers, and four classes of Greek speakers, for Year 1 entry. However, all Year 1 classes are now fully integrated thus creating an inclusive identity from the beginning.

Entry into the school is competitive and based on the prospective student's performance in the three components of the entrance examination. All students are ranked based on their total performance in the three components and places are offered on a strict numerically ranking basis. Priority is not given to children due to other factors such as sibling enrolment, geographical area, or feeder school.

Key admissions dates:

These dates change year by year information is always published on our website. Link: <https://englishschool.ac.cy/entrance-key-dates>

Children with Special Educational Needs

Parents are asked to inform the school if their child has any special educational needs, at the time of application. This is necessary, so the school can give the appropriate access arrangements when the child sits the entrance examinations. Places are offered on the applicant's ranked performance.

Admission Criteria for entry into Years 2, 3, and 4 (Mid-Programme Entries)

As the school is usually fully subscribed, there are only a very limited number of places available for these year groups. Applications are open in May each year and the examinations run on the first Saturday in June. This is the only point of entry for students into these year groups.

Students are required to sit an examination in English, Mathematics, and NVR. They are also required to submit their school reports for the previous two years and attend a short interview with the Headteacher and Senior Assistant Head i/c of Admissions. The applicants are ranked numerically based on their exam performance in the three subjects and places offered accordingly. The school is highly sensitive to its responsibility to the school community in terms of safeguarding. Thus, on rare occasions, the school may be unable to offer a student a place based on his/her past school record and ethic.

Key Admission dates for Years 2-4

- Applications accepted: May (always announced on our website. Link: <https://englishschool.ac.cy/entrance-key-dates>)
- Entrance examinations take place: the first Saturday in June
- Places are offered: the second week in June

Admission Criteria for entry into Year 6

Applications open in May each year. This is the only point of entry for Sixth form entry. Year 6 applicants meet with the relevant Heads of Department, (based on their A Level options) on the last Friday of May. They will be interviewed and/or tested to establish their background in the subject and suitability for the corresponding A Level study. The Headteacher and Senior Assistant Head i/c Admissions also interview the applicants. Based on students' previous school performance, individual reports, and assessments from The English School Heads of the department, applicants are given a conditional offer into Year 6. Applicants receive an offer based on required I/GCSE performance and possibly other conditions such as covering preparatory syllabus content during the summer vacation.

Key admissions dates for Year 6

- Applications accepted: May (always announced on our website. Link: <https://englishschool.ac.cy/entrance-key-dates>)
- Tests/interviews take place: last Friday in May /first Friday in June
- Conditional Places are offered: the first/second week in June
- Places are confirmed: late August after I/GCSE results are published

Measures in place to ensure fairness and transparency in the examination process

- The Heads of English, Greek and Turkish work together to ensure a common approach through their papers
- No teacher or Head of Department who has a child applying for entry to the school is permitted to be part of the exam setting process or have access to this material
- All students' exam papers are bar-coded and thus the markers are unaware of each candidate's identity
- All papers are marked on site under the supervision of the relevant SMT members
- All papers are marked by at least two teachers
- All papers of applicants in the grey/ borderline zone are triple/quadruple marked
- Teachers who assist in preparing applicants for the entrance examinations are not permitted to have any role in setting, marking or otherwise accessing the papers
- Past exam papers are made available on the school website, after the entry period, for future applicant practice

Diplomat Children

Where a child of a member of the Diplomatic Corps is unable to attend the entrance assessments on the published date due to official duties, the School may, by prior arrangement with the Admissions Office, be offered an alternative date. Such arrangements will be conducted under normal examination conditions with appropriate invigilation and supervision in place. All admission criteria apply.

Tuition Fees

These are published on the school website. Bursaries are available for children whose parental income is below a certain threshold. Further information about fees and bursaries can be obtained from the school accounts office.

Staff Children

The children of current members of staff are entitled to reduced school fees, at school, in line with their parents' contract. All applicants must take the appropriate entrance examinations. If a child's performance indicates that The English School will not give him/her the appropriate learning environment, due to significant learning difficulties, and consequently, he/she is likely to be unhappy in the school, and unable to achieve their potential, the Headteacher may advise the parent to seek an alternative educational pathway.

Withdrawals

We trust that children will be very happy at The English School but if it is necessary to withdraw a child, for example, due to family relocation, the procedure is as follows:

Parents should email the Headteacher outlining the reasons for withdrawing the child and the timeline: head@englishschool.ac.cy copied to maria.koutsoudi@englishschool.ac.cy

The Admissions Office will subsequently arrange an exit interview with parents.