

## VISION

To create an outstanding British international school which empowers all students to embrace learning, achieve their best, and promote their intellectual, emotional, social and physical wellbeing.



PEARLING SEASON INTERNATIONAL

## Admissions Policy

To create a community of learning within a safe, secure and happy environment where our children are motivated, challenged and supported in all they do. Our passion for learning and teaching will inspire our students, as will our warmth, humanity and transparency. Student achievement will be limitless, and they will leave with the confidence and capability that will equip them for every facet of adult life as a global citizen.

MISSION

Policy Date: January 2021  
Revised: Mr Ahmed Al-Talib / Mr Clive Shepherd  
Review Date: May 2021  
Person Responsible:



## Introduction

The Pearling Season International School provides an international education and focus to students from the international and local communities residing in Qatar.

As an 'Internationally British' school, PSI is enriched by a hugely diverse community composed of many nationalities. We welcome children and young people from all corners of the globe - encouraging cultural connections both in and outside our classrooms.

PSI is an inclusive, non-selective school and welcomes applications all year round from students of all abilities. PSI is open to all students, irrespective of race, ethnicity, culture, nationality, gender, disability or religion/belief, whose learning needs can be met effectively.

## Criteria for Admission

The age of the applicant is an important factor in determining year group placement. The minimum age for pre-school admission is three years old prior to the end of September. The end of September is also the cut-off date for all year groups in the school.

**Pre-School:** Students enrolling in Pre-School shall be 3 years old on or before the end of September as per MOEHE admission guidelines of the year of admission. Children will need to be toilet trained. Children still using training pants will not be accepted for admission.

**Reception:** Students enrolling into Reception shall be 4 years old on or before the end of September.

After Pre-School and Reception, year placement and age on or before the end of September of the year of admission, should normally be as follows.

| Age | Birthdate between |             | PSI SCHOOL Curriculum<br>(International Curriculum) | British curriculum<br>(UK) | American Curriculum<br>(US) |
|-----|-------------------|-------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|     | From              | To          |   |                            |                             |
| 3   | 01 Oct 2017       | 30 Sep 2018 | Preschool*  | Nursery                    | Prek-3                      |
| 4   | 01 Oct 2016       | 30 Sep 2017 | Reception*  | Reception                  | Prek-4                      |

|    |             |             |          |         |              |
|----|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|--------------|
| 5  | 01 Oct 2015 | 30 Sep 2016 | Year 1*  | Year 1  | Kindergarten |
| 6  | 01 Oct 2014 | 30 Sep 2015 | Year 2*  | Year 2  | Grade 1      |
| 7  | 01 Oct 2013 | 30 Sep 2014 | Year 3*  | Year 3  | Grade 2      |
| 8  | 01 Oct 2012 | 30 Sep 2013 | Year 4*  | Year 4  | Grade 3      |
| 9  | 01 Oct 2011 | 30 Sep 2012 | Year 5*  | Year 5  | Grade 4      |
| 10 | 01 Oct 2010 | 30 Sep 2011 | Year 6*  | Year 6  | Grade 5      |
| 11 | 01 Oct 2009 | 30 Sep 2010 | Year 7*  | Year 7  | Grade 6      |
| 12 | 01 Oct 2008 | 30 Sep 2009 | Year 8*  | Year 8  | Grade 7      |
| 13 | 01 Oct 2007 | 30 Sep 2008 | Year 9*  | Year 9  | Grade 8      |
| 14 | 01 Oct 2006 | 30 Sep 2007 | Year 10* | Year 10 | Grade 9      |
| 15 | 01 Oct 2005 | 30 Sep 2006 | Year 11* | Year 11 | Grade 10     |
| 16 | 01 Oct 2004 | 30 Sep 2005 | Year 12  | Year 12 | Grade 11     |
| 17 | 01 Oct 2003 | 30 Sep 2004 | Year 13  | Year 13 | Grade 12     |

- **Primary School (Year 1 – Year 6)**

Students will be able to join PSI till End of February if they are coming from a British system and till end of January if they are coming from a different educational system. For students coming from abroad, admission will be opened till end of February as per MOEHE recommendations. PSI offers the same, high quality education and curriculum across all the Primary School campuses. The Admissions Team will place students where there are spaces available in the relevant year group. We always endeavour to place Primary School siblings at the same campus.

- **Secondary School (Year 7-Year 11)**

PSI offers the same, high quality education and curriculum across both Secondary School campuses. PSI will place students where there are spaces available in the relevant year group. We always endeavour to place Secondary School siblings at the same campus.

As a 3-18 campus, students in Year 6 Primary School will automatically progress into Year 7 Secondary School (unless there are extenuating circumstances).

- **Sixth Form (Year 12 - Year 13)**

Admission to Year 12 closes at the end of September. In exceptional circumstances, students may join until early in the Spring Term (January). However, the progress of students in this situation is closely monitored and it may be appropriate for them to repeat Year 12 the following year.

In addition to the criteria above, there are some academic measures considered for entry to the Sixth Form (see Appendix 2 for subject specific details):

A-Levels requires five IGCSE passes between Grade 4-9, with at least Grade 6 in the subjects chosen to study or an average of 6 for the MYP.

### **Admission of Students with English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

- **Primary School including EYFS**

Upon admission, the teachers will identify the level of support required and plan accordingly within the classroom. All class teachers are experienced in teaching multilingual students and work closely with the EAL teaching team to ensure all students make progress.

- **Secondary School (Year 7 – Year 11)**

An international CAT4 GL assessment is carried out prior to admission to ensure students can access the curriculum. A programme of support in EAL is provided according to the individual needs of the student (this may come at an additional cost – refer to the Fees Policy).

- **Sixth Form (Year 12 and 13)**

Students must have the appropriate level of English to be able to access their subject choices at AS/A2 Level. Students without a IGCSE pass in English (or equivalent qualification) will sit a placement test and, if appropriate, will be assessed by the English department.

Please note, for all admissions, if a student's English level is a significant barrier to attest average progress, we will request a meeting to explore our agreed support service we offer.

## **Admission of Students with Additional Educational Needs (ALN)**

PSI will accept students with additional learning needs if the school can support and provide a meaningful education for them. At the Senior School, this may mean being able to access the curriculum for IGCSE examinations. Admission is on a case-by-case basis and may include the recommendation for a Shadow Teacher, for which additional fees are applicable (please refer to the Fees Policy). The final decision rests with the Principal.

Parents are required to inform the school, when making an application, of any known and pre-existing Additional Learning Need including physical or medical needs that may affect the school's ability to provide a safe and appropriate educational experience for the student.

Failure to provide such information may result in any offer of a place being withdrawn before entry. If such issues are disclosed after entry to the school, it may result in the immediate termination of the contract between the school and the family.

### **PSI Admission Process**

**Application:** Parents are asked to make a formal application by completing the Admissions Form on the school website.

For further assistance please contact the admissions team on [admission@psisd.sch.qa](mailto:admission@psisd.sch.qa).

**Entrance Assessment:** Children from years 1 to 12 applying for a place will be required to take the GL CAT4 entrance assessment. EYFS and ALN students will do an interview style assessment with a teacher. Following receiving the results, applicants will be offered a place after results have been checked. If a place has not been offered to a child within six months of taking the initial assessment they may be required to sit a second assessment.

An assessment fee (cash only) must be paid to the accounts department prior to the assessment date, except for Preschool and Reception as it is free of charge

**School Visit:** On receipt of the online application and further documents, parents are invited to visit the school with their child/children. PSI recommends a visit but this is not compulsory. During this visit, families will either meet with a member of the Admissions Team, a Senior Leader or the receptionist for a tour.

**Offer of a place:** Following receipt of the school reports and assessment result, the school will decide whether a place will be offered. Parents will receive a phone call, followed by an email informing them of the outcome. Where appropriate, this may include an outline of the specific conditions attached to the offer of a place.

For entry to the Senior School, the criteria for the specific year group should be met and if further information is required, the school will contact parents directly before the offer is made.

**Acceptance of the place:**

When a place is offered, and a letter of acceptance sent, parents will have 7 days to settle the payments required (non-refundable registration fee QR 4,000) or the place will be no longer available. Please refer to school fees policy.

The full process for admission to PSI as well as fees and additional information can be found on the school website:

**Re-Enrolment**

Re-enrolment process begins in March of each academic year for all students currently attending PSI School. The parents will be informed prior to the re-enrolment start via email. Parents are requested to fill a re-enrolment form available in the admission office and pay the deposit to the Accounts department.

At this point in time the automatic re-enrolment closes to current students and their places can be offered to new applicants. Re-enrolment is based on successful school performance which is monitored, assessed and reported on throughout the year. The school reserves the right to withdrawal any student at any time, if:

- School fees have not been paid.
- Educationally significant information is withheld from the school during the application process.
- The student's behaviour jeopardizes the welfare of other students or the school community.
- Attendance falls below the 95% requirement for each school year.

**Withdrawal Process**

If parents are looking to withdraw their child from PSI the following actions must be followed:

- It is necessary that parents give the Admissions office at least one month's written notice of withdrawal.
- Leaving families are requested to fill a withdrawal form available in the admission office.
- The Student must return the tablet (if provided) and all the library books before the last school day.
- PSI School reserves the right to withdraw a student regarding the student behaviour report. As per PSI School Behaviour policy, the school will determine through the report issued by the senior leadership team whether, in the interest of the school, the student should continue with PSI School.

- PSI School reserves the right to withdraw an already registered student when any or all the following conditions apply:
  - The student's learning needs cannot be met by the school.
  - The student's behaviour is determined to have a negative impact on the school community.
  - In the case that a student is due to withdraw from PSI School due to any of the above reasons, tuition will be refunded as per PSI finance policy.

## Appendix 1: **PSI Admissions Requirements**

- Four recent passport size photographs.
- A copy of the child's previous school report.
- A copy of the child's passport.
- A copy of the child's ID (when available).
- Birth Certificate
- Childhood Immunization records from Preschool to year 2.
- A copy of the ID card of the sponsor.
- A copy of any assessments relating to Additional Educational Support Needs (e.g. Educational Psychologist reports, Speech and language Therapy), if applicable
- A letter of employment from the child's sponsor workplace.
- A transfer/Leaving Certificate for student transferring school inside Qatar.

Appendix 2: PSI Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements

| Subject                 | Minimum grades for AS or A-Level  | <i>Can students' study this course without a IGCSE or equivalent qualification in the subject?</i> |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Art and Design          | Grade 6 in IGCSE Art  | A portfolio of work at a suitable standard must be presented                                       |
| Biology                 | Grade 6 in Extension Biology or Grade 6 in Additional Science and Grade 5 in Maths<br><br>Note: Grade 7 in Extension Biology or in Additional Science can result in Grade 4 in Maths being accepted     | No   |
| Business (A Level/IBDP) | At least Grade 4 in Maths   | Yes  |
| Chemistry               | Grade 6 in Extension Chemistry or Grade 6 in Additional Science and Grade 5 in Maths<br><br>Note: Grade 7 in extension Chemistry or in Additional Science can result in Grade 4 in Maths being accepted | No   |

| <b>Subject</b>                        | <b>Minimum grades for AS or A-Level</b>                     | <b><i>Can students' study this course without a IGCSE or equivalent qualification in the subject?</i></b>                             |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Computer Science                      | Grade 5 in IGCSE Computer Science                           | Yes, Grade 5 required in IGCSE Maths or equivalent qualification  |
| Design and Technology: Product Design | Grade 5 in IGCSE Design Technology                          | Yes. Grade 5 required in Additional Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics IGCSE or equivalent qualification is required |
| Drama and Theatre Studies             | Grade 6 in Drama and at least Grade 5 in English Language   | Yes, Grade 5 required in English Language and Grade 6 in English Literature IGCSE or equivalent qualification is required             |
| French                                | Grade 6 in the language concerned                           | Yes, if student demonstrates linguistic competence equivalent to Grade 6 at IGCSE   |
| Economics                             | Grade 6 in English Literature and at least Grade 5 in Maths | Yes   |

| Subject                       | Minimum grades for AS or A-Level   | <i>Can students' study this course without a IGCSE or equivalent qualification in the subject?</i>                                 |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| English Literature            | Grade 6 in English Literature or Grade 6 in Drama and at least Grade 5 in English Language | No   |
| Geography                     | Grade 6 in Geography   | Yes, but must be negotiated with the Geography department. Students will be expected to have the equivalent of Grade 6 in English. |
| Government and Politics       | Grade 6 in History.  | Yes, Grade 6 and Grade 5 are required in English Literature and English Language IGCSE or equivalent qualification                 |
| History                       | Grade 6 in History   | Yes, but this must be negotiated with the History department   |
| Further Mathematics (A Level) | Grade 7 in Higher Tier Maths   | No   |
| Mathematics – HL (IB)         | Grade 7 in Higher Tier Maths   | No   |
| Mathematics (A Level)         | Grade 6 in Higher Tier Maths   | No   |
| Mathematics – SL (IB)         | Grade 6 in Higher Tier Maths   | No   |

| Subject                 | Minimum grades for AS or A-Level                                       | <i>Can students' study this course without a IGCSE or equivalent qualification in the subject?</i>                  |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Maths Studies – SL (IB) | Grade 5 in Higher Tier Maths   | No  |
| Music                   | Grade 6 in Music   | Yes, Grade 5+ in Instrumental Performance and Theory required, plus an interview with the Head of Music             |
| Music Technology        | Grade 6 in Music   | Yes, Grade 3+ in Instrumental Performance and Grade 4+ in Theory required, plus an interview with the Head of Music |
| Physics                 | Grade 6 in Extension Physics or 6 in Additional Science and 6 in Maths | No  |
| Physical Education      | Grade 6 in Physical Education  | Yes, Grade 5 required in English Language and Maths   |
| Psychology              | Grade 6 in English Literature and at least Grade 4 in Maths            | No  |