

Cranleigh Abu Dhabi Pre-Prep 2019/20 Admissions Guidelines

	Registrations Open	Registrations Close	Taster Mornings	Offers
FS1	9am (GST), 15 th August 2018	When maximum applicant numbers are reached	All registered applicants December 2018 – January 2019	By Mid-February 2019
FS2 to Y2	9am (GST), 15 th August 2018	When maximum applicant numbers are reached ⁱ	Siblings: Early Summer Term Non-Siblings: Before Summer half term break <i>only if places available</i>	By end of May 2019

Registration and Process Online registration will open at 9am UAE time on 15th August via a link from our [website](#). For details of Equal Treatment, Disability & Special Educational Needs, please see our Admissions Policy (on the Admissions section of our website).

All applicants are required to go through the same process which is detailed below. Offers will only be extended to those who, in our professional opinion, will be able to access the Cranleigh curriculum and be happy here. Admissions priority is given to siblings and thereafter, to those pupils who are considered best suited to thrive.

Children who are well suited to Cranleigh, but are not awarded a place due to the limited number of spaces available, may be placed in a wait pool and offered a place if one becomes available. The same admission priorities apply to the wait pool.

FS1 children are, where possible, observed at school for a taster session to evaluate their school readiness. We also take each child's nursery report and a confidential nursery reference into consideration. Applications from overseas are evaluated using the nursery report and a confidential reference from the nursery. Over 90% of our cohort have attended nursery before FS1 and it is something that we recommend.

At our taster sessions, we look for the ability to: concentrate on an activity or listen to a story; play co-operatively with others; follow instructions and engage in conversation; show some self-discipline and independence.

The FS1 year at Cranleigh follows a structured, curriculum-centred approach. We find that children are generally well prepared for this if they have already been to nursery as it gives them a grounding in social and behaviour management skills. In addition to enhancing their ability to compromise, be respectful of others and problem-solve, time at a nursery helps children gain a sense of self, explore, play with their peers and build confidence. It is not about achieving academic milestones.

Due to over-demand for places, we cannot accept every child who comes for an FS1 taster morning. There is nothing you or your child can do to prepare for this session which is designed to be gentle and fun, allowing the team to observe your child's gross and fine motor skills, cognitive and language ability as well as social and emotional maturity. Taster sessions are held in December and January on Saturday mornings, with the oldest applicants invited to the December session. Decisions will be made at the end of January and parents informed by mid-February.

FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 children are invited to a taster session to see if they are at the appropriate level of literacy and numeracy skills along with social, emotional and behavioural development. For Year 1 and Year 2, parents are required to submit an academic report which shows the child's level of attainment across all subjects, but particularly in

English, Maths and Science. We review reports in depth to ensure that children have a positive attitude towards learning and their peers. In addition, we will request a confidential reference from the child's school.

Age for Year Groups We follow the UK system to determine year group:

Age on 31 st August	Year Group	American equivalent	Key Stage
3	FS1	Pre-KG1	Foundation Stage
4	FS2 <i>equivalent to Reception/first year of compulsory school in the UK</i>	KG1	Foundation Stage
5	Year 1	KG2	Key Stage 1
6	Year 2	Grade 1	Key Stage 1

As we are an international school with children coming from a variety of curricula, there are occasions when we do not place a child in his/ her age appropriate class. In most instances, this is for one or more of the following reasons:

- The child is coming from a completely different curriculum where different content and different subjects have been taught
- The child is coming from a completely different curriculum where the start/end of the academic year are different making it unclear which year a child should be placed into
- We will rarely place a child in a year above the stated age appropriate guidelines. We are often asked to consider children for year groups when they are too young, particularly for FS1.

Many believe that school readiness is about being able to read, write or count. In fact, these skills develop and are taught at school. They are not a priority for school readiness. We want children to enter our Pre-Prep ready to thrive, flourish and enjoy the challenges, rather than merely "just cope". We take the issue of school readiness seriously and carefully. Readiness is really mostly about emotional and social maturity – aspects of development that we cannot fast-track. We cannot make a child who lacks the necessary maturity become mature

- We may consider a child that is up to a month too old for FS1, ie an August birthday, for the above reasons.

For further information please email: admissions@cranleigh.ae