

Language entry requirements for JUMEIRAH ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL

As a high-achieving British curriculum school, our constitution states that one of the aims of our school is:

'To provide high quality education in a challenging, learning environment to English speaking children'.

Consequently we ask all parents and particularly those of children where more than one language is spoken, to fully take on board the language entry requirements for Jumeriah English Speaking School and their role in preparing their children.

What are the language entry requirements?

- Children have to be fluent in English at the age-appropriate level to gain entry to Jumeirah English Speaking School.
- Children have to demonstrate that they understand the English language and can respond with the minimum level of spoken English we require to gain entry.

Please ensure that you have read these statements carefully when considering Jumeirah English Speaking School as the school of your choice.

I understand that Jumeriah English Speaking School is a school for English speaking children where the curriculum is delivered in English and does not have any English as an Additional Language (EAL) facilities or support.

I am aware that in order to gain entry to Jumeirah English Speaking School my child will need to be able to demonstrate to the academic staff that they can communicate and speak in English fluently.

I am committed to developing fluency in English at home. Furthermore I will ensure this commitment continues throughout his or her time at Jumeirah English Speaking School.

I understand that it is my responsibility to have alternative plans in place for my child's education in case they do not gain entry to Jumeriah English Speaking School.

How will we determine whether your child is ready for entry at Jumeirah English Speaking School?

An opportunity will be created for us to meet your child. We will interact with your child and find out if they can engage with us and are socially and emotionally ready to comfortably adapt to the Jumeirah English Speaking School learning environment. We will ensure they can listen, process and retrieve the right words in spoken English to form **enough simple sentences/responses** to who, where, what, why style questions. This demonstrates the basic understanding and spoken fluency in English we require for entry to Jumeirah English Speaking School.

Many parents tell us that their children can understand everything but are not able to communicate this verbally yet. Whilst we adjust the amount of evidence we need to the child's age, all children must be able demonstrate the language skills described above. The vast majority of children we meet and all those who gain entry to Jumeirah English Speaking School are able to demonstrate these levels of language usage.

It is important to understand that fluency **cannot** be demonstrated by being able to count to 10, or recognising and naming shapes and colours. This is rote learning and is not an indication of your child's ability to use and apply English.

Here are some suggestions that can help to improve language skills in all children:

- Ensure you are providing clear expectations that your child should use words to communicate with you and not rely on gestures or sounds. Regularly and positively reminding your child to use their words conveys clear messages to them about ways of communicating.
- Ensure that all the key people interacting with your child are aware of your language expectations so that your child gets very clear and consistent messages. This is particularly important if your child spends a lot of time with a housemaid, nanny or individuals whose first language is not English.
- Ensure that your child has enough opportunities to talk. Children who spend a lot of time passively watching television or using electronic devices are losing valuable opportunities to practise and improve their language skills.
- Use plenty of open ended questions; who, when, where, why and what style questions.
- Regularly repeat your child's response back to them with a positive affirmation... 'that's right Clare; it is a big car isn't it?' This is a very natural process and many mums and dads do this without realising.
- Organise play dates with other English speaking children– particularly if English is not your child's first language.
- Provide experience of an English speaking play group or English speaking nursery. Even on a part-time basis, this can help enormously.
- Provide plenty of opportunities to sing nursery rhymes and interact with books, pictures and stories. Talking, and asking questions about, pictures and stories are extremely effective ways to develop early language skills.

Please sign here to show you have read and understood the nature of this document.

Name: _____

Date: _____