



# Frequently Asked Admissions Questions

May 2022

## **How many pupils attend Strathallan and where do they come from?**

Currently Strathallan has 560 pupils who join us from both the UK and overseas. Around 75% of pupils attending Strathallan are from all parts of the UK with the remaining 25% from overseas. Around 7% of the overseas are UK families living abroad the rest are overseas. It's not unusual for us to have pupils from 40 or more different countries giving us a diverse and balanced school across the year groups.

## **What happens at weekends?**

Strathallan has Saturday schooling with the morning set aside for lessons. In the afternoon there are sporting activities or matches may take place. Saturday evenings in the boarding houses are a chance to have some fun and time to relax with often pizzas and films. Sunday mornings have a later rising time with brunch often followed by the opportunity to join a trip outside of school for shopping or some culture. Chapel will take place a couple of times a month on a Sunday morning.

## **How do you allocate houses?**

Senior houses are allocated in the Summer Term prior to joining the senior school, and the allocation of houses is a serious business. Unlike some schools, we do not allocate houses based on particular activities and instead focus on creating a balance of interests and talents across all houses. Sibling or family connections can sometimes influence preference to a particular house, but otherwise the process of matching students to houses is meticulously planned to achieve a broad mix of abilities, interests and previous schools in each house.

## **How many students share a room?**

All girl boarders in the Senior School have their own single study bedroom and boys are allocated single rooms from Fourth Form onwards. Day pupils are assigned a study bedroom, which they share with another day pupil or share day rooms with a small group of pupils in the same year. Pupils are encouraged to decorate their rooms to help them feel at home.

Bedrooms are arranged along corridors with toilets, showers and/or baths too.

## **Are day pupils integrated with boarders?**

Yes, it is very hard at Strathallan to tell a boarder apart from a day pupil. Our day pupils have rooms in the boarding houses and the day buses don't leave until 7.20pm so many pupils are here for the majority of the day.

## **What is your mobile phone policy?**

The School has an education-based policy on the use of mobile phones and we would be most grateful for parental support to assist us in implementing the following rules:

- Phones should not be used during the school day in line with when the pupils are expected to be in school uniform, including when walking between lessons
- Phones must be kept out of sight in lessons unless given express permission by the teacher
- International pupils, identified by the EAL department, will be able to use their phones when needed to translate with permission from the teacher
- If the teacher gives permission for phones to be used in class, they are to be set to 'do not disturb'

- No phones to be used in ‘Phone Free Zones’ (The Dining Hall, Foyers of Boarding Houses, Chapel)
  - In the case of an emergency, phones may be used in reception. Should parents need to contact a pupil in an emergency, they can do so via reception or the boarding house.
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- **Third and Fourth Form**
    - No phones during the school day as above
    - Boarders to hand in devices at bedtime except on Saturday night (3rd form at 9.30pm, 4th form at 9.45pm)
  - **Fifth and Sixth Form**
    - No phones during the school day as above
    - Discussion to be had with tutor to agree how to manage screen time and the option to hand in devices at bedtime

## **Can children call home?**

Yes our students are welcome to call friends and family. Many pupils have their own phones but houses also have payphones if required. We realise that time differences mean that for some that call home may take place earlier in the day or later at night. The Housemaster or Housemistress are happy to assist pupils with that.

## **How do I contact my child?**

You are welcome to call your child at a suitable time that fits within their timetable. However, if you need to speak to

your child urgently, your Housemaster/ Housemistress or the house matron will be able to ensure a message to call home is delivered to your child.

### **What if I have concerns for my child?**

Your main contacts will always be your Housemistress/Housemaster or their Academic Tutor – you will be given all those contact details once they have been allocated a house.

### **Who looks after their pocket money and how much should they bring?**

Each house has a house bank where pocket money is looked after and can be withdrawn as required. The amount is completely up to each family but if more is required, money can be sent to our accounts department and transferred to the house.

### **How can they open a bank account?**

If a pupil needs to open a bank account, an appointment would need to be made with a local bank and passport/BRP and a letter from the school are required. The school can arrange that for the pupil if required.

### **Can I send parcels to my child?**

Yes, please mark any parcel for their attention and make sure their House is included on the address – sometimes we get pupils with similar names!

### **What happens if they need items such as stationary or shampoo?**

We have a well-stocked school shop that is happy to sell many items needed in the term including stationary, toiletries

and uniform. Pupils would require at “chit” from matron for the item to be added to the pupil’s school bill or permission sought be from a parent before purchase.

### **What is the food like?**

With a varied menu on offer at every meal and regular ‘theme days’, there is always something to look forward to. Vegetarian options are available at all times, and bespoke options are created for pupils with specific dietary requirements. All meals are included for all pupils, and day pupils often join us for breakfast and stay on in the evening for dinner. With fresh fruit and bread available daily in-house, there’s always a healthy snack for when daytime hunger strikes.

### **What do they need to bring?**

A full list of what is required is on our uniform list – any questions about this should be directed to either the Housemaster/Mistress or admissions department who will be happy to assist.

### **Where do I buy school uniform?**

Uniform can be purchased from our online school retailer [www.schoolblazer.com](http://www.schoolblazer.com); however, our school shop also will sell lots of nearly new items and may well be worth a visit or a call.

### **Can you assist with travel to/from airports?**

Yes, we will assist all pupils arriving with our own taxi service. If a family needs transportation to and from an airport we can also assist with that at an additional charge.

## **What is a guardian?**

We ask that all international students inform us of a guardian based in the UK before joining. We also ask all UK students to do the same. We need to contact a guardian in case of an emergency should the pupil need to leave the school. They do not have to be based in Scotland but it can be easier. If the family is unable to provide a guardian, we can provide details of agencies who provide this service. Many use guardians for the short half-term holidays if travelling home takes too long. More information on guardianship can be obtained from the Admissions Department.

## **What is the Parent Portal app?**

The Parent Portal app can be downloaded and used to access school reports, calendars and important information. You will be given access to this once your child is enrolled.

## **What is Classlist?**

Classlist allows you to connect with other parents in your child's year group. Classlist is a simple-to-use, secure, digital platform that helps parents connect with each other. The system has been created to allow parents to register, share and update only the details they feel comfortable with. Classlist provides a private group for each class and year group. Access to each year group's data is restricted to other parents in the same year group at Strathallan. This means users can only view information relating to their year group, making it easier to communicate on a personal level. With Classlist, you enter your own information through a fully managed secure platform, you can choose what information to share, who to share it with and change it whenever you want. If any parent is found not respecting another's privacy, they will be removed from the site.

## **What is in a bedroom?**

There is a UK single bed (90cm and 190cm long) with storage below and one pillow, mattress protector and fitted sheet supplied. There is also a desk & chair, waste bin, shelves, wardrobe, sink unit with mirror above, notice board, and curtains.

Linen packs can be purchased from our school shop, which consists of 1 duvet, 1 pillow, 2 duvet covers & matching pillow cases.

**Towels are NOT provided and should be sourced separately.**

### **Bed sizes**

The beds in the boarding houses are UK single beds, which measure 90cm and 190cm long.

## **Do I need a school trunk?**

A school trunk is not required; however, if a pupil wishes to bring a trunk, they can.