

Disability and Access Policy

Riviera English School reserves the right to assess each student's needs and make an informed judgement about the ability of the school to fully meet those needs.

The school needs to be sure, in risk assessment terms, that it is able to provide a safe and secure (learning) environment for the student, and that there is no risk to other students or homestays etc. especially as the student will be in an unfamiliar environment. The school will therefore need full information on the student's condition and how it can be managed.

During the registration process at Riviera English School, all students are asked to mention any illnesses, disabilities, impairments or medical conditions that may have a bearing on their stay at the school, in the accommodation on the activity programme, or travelling to/from school.

We consider each application on an individual basis after an open forum between the Principal, Director of Studies and Accommodation Manager (and the Activity Manager where necessary), this will be done with the intention to do everything that is reasonably possible to enable acceptance of the applicant. Where necessary, we will consult support groups (e.g. on autism) to find out more about the practicalities and resource commitments – and the advisability of taking a student with a particular condition.

After due consideration of the student requirements, a suitable action plan will be put in place, and this will be discussed with the student or in the case of under 18s, with the student's parents. Further input is invited at this stage as to how the action plan can be improved from the student's perspective, and the school will take any further points into consideration. Should the plan not be acceptable to the student after these stages, a full refund of any fees paid will be offered (minus any bank charges and other unrecoverable costs). Unless the school receives full and accurate disclosure (this will require the student's consent), we reserve the right to send the student home in exceptional circumstances if any related issues arise on or after arrival.

Medication

If the student needs medication, they should arrive with what they need – or make arrangements for their care themselves in advance (obviously the school can help to an extent).

Premises

The school has wheelchair access through the main door via a ramp. All visitors entering are visible from the main office, and office staff are instructed to assist anyone who is having difficulties accessing the building.

Anyone student with mobility difficulties will be offered assistance within the school by a nominated staff member – this may be a teacher, office staff member or activity leader. This is done not only to make access practical, but to ensure the safety of the student and others using the building.

Classes

Examples of how we can modify classes to assist:

Hard of hearing/deafness – ensure the student is seated near the teacher with a direct view to aid lip reading. Teachers will produce transcripts for any listening work.

Visual impairments – teachers will be instructed on the severity of the condition, and may need to use OCR software to convert text to electronic format, which can be converted to Braille for blind users. If suitable, large print versions of study materials may also be prepared. A nominated person will be responsible for assisting mobility around the school.

Activities

Adult activities are done on an opt-in basis: the activity programme design will be made flexible enough to enable participation in a good number of events.

On the junior /teenager activity programme, the activity leaders will be paying careful attention to the needs of any student with special needs. We will discuss with the parents/carers the scope of participation.

Accommodation

Our accommodation officer will place any students with particular needs in appropriate families, who will be informed in advance of the scope of the condition. Emergency contact details of the student's parents will be issued to the accommodation provider as well as the school's emergency number (given as standard practice).

Accommodation will be arranged with transportation links in mind, so the student is able to travel to/from school.

This Disability and Access Policy was last reviewed 11/01/17 by Alex Nicholls and will be reviewed again before 31/12/17.