



Understanding How Dulwich Works

Questions and Answers

What is the Ethos at Dulwich College Beijing?

Our ethos and culture at Dulwich College Beijing are clear and strong. Our motto 'Detur Pons Mundo' or 'Building Bridges to the World' refers to our global mindedness and our mission to send well rounded and caring students into the world as philanthropic leaders of the future. We have a set of philosophies, objectives and values on which we place great importance. Please take the time to look at them.

Everyone at Dulwich is treated with respect, whether they are a student, a parent, an ayi, a driver or a teacher. All at Dulwich add to the richness of our community and all have the same rights and the same care. If we see anyone not respecting this, we will say something to them.

What is Pastoral Care?

It means caring for the happiness, success, safety and wellbeing of every child.

How does discipline come into Pastoral Care?

We attach great importance to courtesy, integrity, good manners, good discipline and respect for the needs and property of others. Parents accept the authority of the Headmaster and of other members of staff on the Headmaster's behalf to take all reasonable disciplinary or preventative action necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of each student and the College community as a whole.

What does the College mean by 'students taking risks'?

We believe that in order to develop students' independence, responsibility and resilience, which will prepare them for life at university and beyond, activities may take place which contain an element of risk. We shall do our utmost through the implementation of policies, health and safety, and risk assessment to mitigate the likelihood of accidents. We shall mitigate this risks and allow for 'failure' and 'lessons to be learned' in a safe environment. While on trips, staff will use their professional judgement to balance the requirement for supervision with age-appropriate freedom, which we believe is a fundamental part of development.

How is the curriculum of the College organised and chosen?

We organise the curriculum and its delivery in a way which, in the professional judgement of the Headmaster, is most appropriate to the College community as a whole. Our policy on setting and class sizes may change from year to year and from time to time and may take into consideration among other things the mixture of abilities and aptitudes among the Students and management of friendship groups. Reasonable changes may be made from time to time to the pastoral and disciplinary framework, the College day (school times) and academic terms, the public examinations offered and the subjects for such examinations, the sports provision and the premises. If you have specific requirements or concerns about any aspect of the your child's education or progress you may contact the Form Tutor/Class Teacher, Head of Key Stage or Head of School.

Who decides in which set/class a student is placed and if extra support is needed?

Final decisions on subject choices, setting, class/form group and House placement will be determined by the College. In any decisions regarding extra support for a student or in matters regarding which year group a student is placed we will consult with parents but we reserve the right to make the final decision.



How are decisions about English as Additional Language (EAL) placement made?

All decisions on EAL placement, entry and exit from EAL programmes are within the discretion of the EAL teams in each School and ultimately rest with the Heads of each School and the Headmaster of the College. You will be informed and you may ask Heads of EAL in each School for information on EAL decisions and the criteria on which they are based.

What about if we would like to take our child out of school before the end of term or return late for the start of term?

This is not permissible. Absence from school disrupts the education of the absent child and his/her peers. If there is a truly exceptional circumstance (not a holiday), the child's Head of School must receive the request in advance. Unauthorised absence will be recorded on your child's file

What do I do if I have to go out of town?

Tell us your plans. Appoint a guardian who you trust for your child to live with, and tell us who they are. Children left not properly supervised often end up in trouble.

Do you give information about my child to anyone else?

We only give information to the people who signed the application form. If we want to share information with others, we will ask you first.

What do I do if I have a complaint or a problem?

Contact the Form Tutor/teacher or Head of School. A copy of the Complaints Policy is available on the parent portal.

Are there any other important points that parents should know?

Yes, the following are treated as very important and we ask that you:

- (i) do all you reasonably can to ensure your child participates in full in the activities of the College;
- (ii) do all that you reasonably can to ensure your child attends each College day, is punctual and appropriately dressed;
- (iii) do all that you reasonably can to ensure that your child works diligently, is well-behaved and complies with the College Rules;
- (iv) encourage your child in his/her studies and give him/her appropriate support at home;
- (v) keep us informed of matters affecting your child of which we ought reasonably to be aware;
- (vi) tell us about your child's medical conditions, health, allergies; anything that affects a child's welfare, safety or happiness; any physical or learning needs and previous tests for these. The more you tell us, the more we can help your child;
- (vii) maintain a courteous and constructive relationship with College staff. For the purpose of this document, staff includes our contracted partners such as, but not limited to, Guards and Ais.
- (viii) provide cooperation and assistance to the College as reasonably necessary to enable the Student to participate and benefit from the College's provision of education (including where the College wishes to provide such education remotely);
- (ix) attend meetings with relevant staff in so far as reasonably practicable and maintain communication with the College.

Thank you and please remember that we are always most willing to speak to you in person if you have any question, query or concern. We look forward to working with you to ensure the best and happiest education for your child.