



RYDE SCHOOL
WITH UPPER CHINE

BOARDING - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the school located?

Ryde School is located on the Isle of Wight which is a small island off the south coast of England. Central London is 120 minutes away, the mainland is a 10 minute crossing on the hovercraft, and airports, London Gatwick and London Heathrow, are only 90 minutes from Portsmouth. The Island is 44 x 20km and has a population of 140,000. The Isle of Wight is picturesque and safe with bustling harbours, high chalk cliffs, lush countryside, sleepy villages, ancient castles and manor houses.

Ryde town, where the main school is located, is the gateway to the Island. A thriving seaside town with fine Georgian and Victorian buildings, restaurants, seafront promenade and a broad sweep of gently sloping sands overlooking the Solent.

The main boarding campus is located in nearby Bembridge, a quintessential English village set around a natural harbour which is always full of colourful small boats. There is also an additional, smaller Sixth Form house (Spinnaker House) located close to the main school in Ryde.

How many day pupils and boarders are there?

743 in total (boys 390, girls 353), 56 of whom are boarders from the UK and overseas. The school is 90% British.

How many boarding places do you have?

Maximum 75

How many boarding houses are there?

Currently there are four boarding houses: White House Galleries (girls), New House (boys) and Cool House (6th form boys) all at the Bembridge Campus, and Spinnaker House (Sixth Form Co-Ed) in Ryde.

What is the boarding accommodation like?

Set in a stunning location, the Arts and Crafts Grade II Listed Bembridge boarding accommodation is very homely. Spinnaker House (Ryde) is a recently refurbished Georgian property situated a two minute walk from school. All who visit the boarding houses remark on the warm, inviting and friendly atmosphere and that they are "home from home".

How many pupils share a bedroom?

The majority of our rooms are single but there are also some shared rooms available, these are twins and there are a couple of triple rooms for younger pupils.

Can you cater for individual and cultural dietary requirements?

Yes we are able to accommodate specific dietary requirements for medical, cultural and religious requirements. All houses have well-equipped kitchens where pupils can prepare snacks and light meals in addition to the meals provided. The houses provide a plentiful supply of fresh fruit, store cupboard staples, tea, coffee, milk, bread and cereal.

When exactly should the pupils arrive? Is there a special time?

Following all holiday periods, the boarding houses usually re-open at 5pm the day before term begins. Unless advised otherwise by boarding staff, pupils should arrive as detailed on the published schedule. Prior to the new academic year beginning in September, pupils may be required to attend induction sessions before the term officially begins. All boarding parents must inform the boarding houses of their sons' or daughters' travel details and estimated arrival times.

When can pupils leave for the holidays?

Term dates are published at least a year in advance and pupils are expected to remain until the final day of each term. Parents are asked to book all flights in accordance with the term dates, and to complete and return the flight information form on a termly basis.

Does the school close during mid-term breaks?

The school is closed during the mid-term breaks, however, all boarders needing to be able to remain at the Bembridge Boarding Campus for an additional charge. Boarders follow a programme of activities, relaxation and study during this time.

All our boarding houses are closed during the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays.

Does the school have exeat weekends? Do the pupils have to leave the campus?

No, we no longer have exeat weekends. Full boarders may leave any weekend they wish to stay with friends and family or visit home.

Are pupils allowed to leave the boarding campus?

Pupils must obtain permission from staff before leaving the house/campus. Staff discuss any plans with the pupil to ensure their continued safety and wellbeing. Once they leave the campus pupils keep in touch with the boarding staff by contacting the duty mobile.

Pupils may visit friends and stay with other Ryde School pupils, permission for such visits should be sought in advance.

Are pupils allowed visitors?

With prior permission from the House Staff, guests are welcome to visit the boarding houses. Visits should be at appropriate times so as not to cause disruption to the daily routine. All visitors are required to report to a member of staff and sign in and out.

Can transport be arranged to/from airports? How much does it cost?

Yes, boarding staff can arrange transport. The cost is dependent on the method of travel, and which airport is involved. Transfers at the beginning and end of term to a London airport are included in the fees.

What happens if a pupil is unwell?

Boarding pupils with routine medical problems may seek treatment at any time from their house staff and Matron. If taken ill during the school day, pupils should report to the School Nurse.

Boarders at the Bembridge Campus are registered at St Helens Medical Centre and boarders in Spinnaker are registered with the Argyll Surgery in Ryde.

Does the school have a sick bay?

Yes, a sick bay/isolation room is available in the boarding houses as well as the main school site.

Is Dental/Optical care available?

Yes, this can be arranged with local practitioners. There may, however, be cost implications. Parents would be notified of this prior to any treatment.

Can pupils bring their own medication?

Pupils with their own medication, prescribed, herbal or otherwise, should declare it to their House staff upon arrival. Medication will be retained by House staff and dispensed as required.

Do pupils have to wear a school uniform? When and where can they buy it?

Yes, pupils do have to wear a school uniform during the school day. This may be purchased online, from www.schoolblazer.com and delivered direct to the boarding campus address prior to the pupils' arrival. Pupils need to ascertain which school house they will be in prior to placing their first order.

Guidelines for Sixth Form uniform can be found in the Senior School handbook. Sixth Form are required to wear business dress of dark colours. Suits may be purchased from independent stores.

Pupils staying for one term are not required to purchase large quantities of uniform. Boarding staff will discuss which items are necessary prior to arrival.

Pupils wear their own clothes when not at school, a full kit list is sent prior to your arrival.

How is the laundry done?

The boarding houses have their own in-house laundry which operates on a daily basis, negating the need to bring large amounts of clothing.

ALL items of clothing, both uniform and home clothes, **must be clearly named.**

Items requiring special care in the laundry should be brought to the notice of the Housekeeping staff and not just put into the laundry baskets.

Do pupils need to bring pillows and blankets, bed linen and towels?

We encourage pupils to bring their own pillows, duvets, bed linen and towels. It helps make their bedrooms more personal and adds to the homely feel of the houses. We are able to provide bedding packs if need be, please ask for further details. Don't forget to bring pictures of family, pets and friends, as well as posters and your favourite teddy.

Do pupils have access to the internet?

Yes, the boarding houses have WiFi

Should pupils bring a laptop?

Laptops are useful, and many pupils do bring their own. Personal items such as lap-tops and phones should be covered by the parent's insurance policies.

At the Bembridge Campus, PCs are available in the prep room for all boarders to use. To ensure online security, computer use is subject to the school filtering system. Internet use is controlled by a time system.

Should pupils bring a mobile telephone?

Pupils are welcome to bring a mobile telephone. They provide an additional and very convenient means of communication. As above these should be covered by the parent's insurance policies. Year 11 and below hand their phones and laptops in at night as part of their bedtime routine, they can collect them again in the morning.

Are pupils able to bring valuable items of equipment?

Pupils may bring items of value but these should be covered by the parent's insurance policies. They should be clearly named and kept in the pupil's combination safe when not in use. The School cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to any items.

Can pupils bring their own electrical appliances?

All electrical equipment brought to the boarding houses must meet stringent UK safety requirements and will be tested for safety at the boarding house. No kitchen appliances such as kettles, rice cookers etc are allowed in bedrooms.

Can pupils bring a pet?

It is not usual to bring a pet to the boarding houses, and it is usually not possible for various health and safety reasons. However, if you would like to bring a pet you should discuss the matter with the Director of Boarding.

Can pupils bring a bicycle?

It is possible to bring a bicycle. Pupils must wear an approved cycle helmet, and all bicycles must be locked when not in use. Should boarders wish to ride on the roads, they will be checked for road awareness and permission from parents/guardians must be given.

Can pupils bring skateboards, roller blades and longboards?

It is possible to bring the above items. However, at no time must you skate in the buildings or the car park and drive at the Bembridge Campus. Appropriate safety wear, helmets, kneepads etc should be provided by parents. At Bembridge, pupils may use the go-kart track which is a large tarmac area, and there are skate parks in Ryde and Bembridge, as well as other local towns.

Do you offer after-school clubs?

A vast array of adventurous and exciting after-school clubs and activities are offered at school. The Bembridge Boarding Campus also offers a diverse selection of activities for pupils to participate in. An extremely wide range of interests are catered for and all pupils are expected to participate in the School's extra-curricular programme.

Which sports are available during the school day?

Dependent on year group there are many sports available including: rugby, hockey, cricket, athletics, tennis, basketball, badminton, table tennis, swimming, yoga, weight training, walking, sailing, squash, golf and horse riding.

When and where do pupils complete their prep?

Supervised prep is held each evening Sunday to Thursday. Older pupils have study bedrooms where they can work independently and younger pupils at Bembridge have supervised study in the Prep room.

Do you have Saturday school?

There are no formal lessons on Saturday, however, many sports fixtures take place on a Saturday, and there are also some occasional school functions, drama or music rehearsals which you may be required to attend.

Do you offer activities on the weekends; how much do they cost?

A wide variety of activities are available at the Bembridge boarding campus: abseiling, aeroball, archery, caving, climbing, fencing, go karts, quad bikes, 3G swing and laser quest are just some of the choices available – all at no extra cost.

Specialist sports activities such as horse riding, tennis, sailing and most other water sports can be arranged locally on request, at a small extra charge.

Trips to local towns, the cinema, and bowling alley are amongst the activities arranged as part of the weekend programme.

Are pupils expected to attend Sunday Church services?

Sunday Church attendance is optional. Those who wish to attend may do so and transport is provided.

How can pupils access their pocket money? Do you offer bank accounts at school? Should they open a bank account at a local bank?

There are several options available to pupils:

Most pupils (dependent upon their length of stay) choose to open their own bank account, and we can assist pupils with this process. For younger pupils whose parents do not wish them to have direct access to their funds it is possible to deposit money with the house staff for distribution throughout the term.

Are the pupils able to go on any field trips?

Many trips are offered, both in the UK and overseas, as part of the curriculum. There are further trips and activities offered to boarders as part of the boarders' activities programme.

How are parents kept informed of their child's well-being and progress?

We believe close communication is of great importance; therefore the boarding staff at both Bembridge and Ryde liaise regularly with parents, guardians, form tutors and other staff to ensure the well-being of each pupil. Regular written reports are sent to parents throughout the year. There are also regular grade cards which help to track and monitor academic progress. A newsletter, which includes specific pages regarding the boarders, is emailed to parents on a weekly basis.

Is it possible to make contact with current or previous pupils and their parents?

Yes, our pupils and their parents are always happy to talk to prospective pupils about life as a boarder at Ryde. Please contact the Director of Boarding who will be happy to arrange this.

How does the school take care of newcomers - boarders' induction?

An excellent induction programme is in place, boarders receive a pupil handbook providing more information about boarding at Ryde. Current pupils will also get in touch via email so that friendships can start and questions can be answered.

How are new pupils supported?

Ryde School and its boarding community is very welcoming and accepting of new pupils, and it is not unusual for pupils to join in various year groups. The house staff will ensure that boarders are settled and each new boarder will be set up with a "buddy" to help support them. In school "buddies" are also given and tutors have regular contact with pupils to help support and guide them when they first start and beyond. The Heads of Year also keep a close eye on pupils to ensure they are quickly immersed into school life. Overseas pupils have EAL lessons included in the academic programme and included in the fees from Years 7 to 11, this helps support language acquisition.

Do you have a summer school?

Yes, we operate our own summer school programme during July and August. Further information is available upon request.

Contact Details

Director of Boarding

Mrs Lexie Nestor-Powell
+44 (0)1983 562 229 Ext. 296
anp@rydeschool.net

Bembridge Boarding Campus

Duty phone +44 (0) 7932 748 946
Office +44 (0)1983 872 101
bembridgecampus@rydeschool.net

Housemaster at Bembridge

Mr Lee Ilott
li@rydeschool.net

Assistant Housemaster

Mr Carlos Carubia
cc@rydeschool.net

Spinnaker Boarding Campus

Duty phone +44 (0) 7398 218 981
Office +44 (0)1983 611 638
spinnakerhouse@rydeschool.net

Housemistress of Spinnaker

Mrs Nicola Wilson
nw@rydeschool.net

What is the postal address of the Bembridge Boarding Campus?

Ryde School
Bembridge Boarding Campus
Hillway Road
Bembridge
Isle of Wight
PO35 5PH

What is the postal address of the Ryde Boarding House?

Spinnaker House,
16 – 17 Lind Street
Ryde
Isle of Wight
PO33 2NQ

Do the boarding houses have telephones? Can parents call pupils on these telephones?

At the Bembridge Campus there are payphones which the pupils can use, and parents can call in on these as well.

Girls' Payphone: +44 (0)1983 872394

Boys' Payphone: +44 (0)1983 873750

At Spinnaker please use the office number +44 (0)1983 611 638 to contact pupils

Travel Information



A high speed hovercraft service operates between Southsea and Ryde (10 minutes)

In addition, there are fast catamaran services between:
Portsmouth and Ryde (20 minutes)
Southampton and COWES (25 minutes)

Red Funnel and Wightlink operate car ferry services between:

Portsmouth and Fishbourne	(40 minutes)
Southampton and COWES	(60 minutes)
Lymington and Yarmouth	(35 minutes)

Excellent rail and coach links between airports and ferry terminals ensure travelling time is kept to a minimum.

Useful contacts:

Tourist Information: www.isleofwighttouristguide.com

Hovertravel: www.hovertravel.co.uk

Red Funnel Ferries: www.redfunnel.co.uk

Wightlink Ferries: www.wightlink.co.uk

National Rail Enquiries: www.nationalrailenquiries.co.uk