



**The**

**Riverside**

**Czech for Czechs Programme**

**Handbook**

## CZECH FOR CZECHS PROGRAMME RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

### STATUS OF RIVERSIDE SCHOOL WITHIN THE CZECH SYSTEM

Riverside School is an international school recognised by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (*Ministerstvo školství mládeže a tělovýchovy*), and it is found on the **List of international schools with a valid permit for fulfilling compulsory attendance in the Czech Republic** (*Seznam zahraničních škol s platným povolením plnění povinné školní docházky na území České republiky*).

<http://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/zakladni-vzdelavani/seznam-zahranicnich-skol-s-vydanym-povolenim-k-plneni-1-1>

### OBLIGATION TO REGISTER IN A CZECH SCHOOL

The following information regarding the obligation to register in the Czech education system applies to students with **Czech citizenship** or **permanent residency** (*trvalý pobyt*) in the Czech Republic as required by the Education Act N° 561/2004.

Students with Czech citizenship or permanent residency in the Czech Republic who attend international schools **must also be registered in a Czech school**. This applies to children of obligatory school age, commencing at the age of 5 (nursery) and continuing to the age of 15 (basic school).

In addition to their attendance at Riverside School, these students from **the age of 6 to the age of 15** have to sit exams in selected subjects (Czech, Vlastivěda, History and Geography).

It is the responsibility of the legal representative (parent) of the child to whom this applies to arrange registration in a Czech school for their children and to let the Riverside administration know at which school their child is registered.

For further information regarding the Education Act and in the case of specific questions regarding their residency situation, parents are advised to consult the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (*Ministerstvo školství mládeže a tělovýchovy*) <http://www.msmt.cz>.

## CZECH PROGRAMME AT RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Riverside School fully understands the demands that the above mentioned obligations place on Czech families, and provides them with an additional service in the form of Czech, Vlastivěda, History and Geography lessons.

Please note that although the course is free of charge, there is a required level of Czech language needed in order for students to be accepted in the Riverside Czech programme. Riverside School reserves the right to decline any application(s) for the programme depending on **entry-assessment results** and/or capacity limitations.

Those students entering Riverside School and seeking entry into the Czech programme, during the middle of the academic year, will also be held to the same entry-assessment and capacity considerations.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- The student has **Czech citizenship** or **Czech permanent residency** (official documents will be required).
- The student is a Czech **native speaker** or is **fluent in Czech language**. If the language level of the student is in doubt, a **placement test** will be used to assess the student's **language readiness** to be eligible to participate in the Czech for Czechs programme.
- The student **attends Czech lessons regularly**.

### ADDITIONAL YEAR 1 REQUIREMENTS:

- The student **understands spoken "nursery" Czech with ease** and can **express herself/himself fluently**. The student doesn't need to know how to read and write.

### ADDITIONAL YEAR 2 - 6 REQUIREMENTS:

- The student **understands spoken Czech with ease** and can **express herself/himself fluently**. The student **can read and write** Czech sentences (in proportion to their age) and **understands the meaning** of the written text.

- The student is supported by a **native or fluent Czech speaker** at home and completes the **assigned homework on a regular basis 3-4 times a week.**
- The student is available to participate in Czech lessons starting **at 8 am.**

#### **ADDITIONAL YEAR 7 - 9 REQUIREMENTS:**

- The student **understands spoken and written Czech with ease** and can **express herself/himself fluently** (in proportion to their age and year group).
- The student is supported by a **native or fluent Czech speaker** at home and completes the **assigned homework on a lesson by lesson basis.**
- The student is available to participate in Czech lessons, 2 times per week, starting **before school at 7.30 am.**
- In addition, the Year 8 and 9 students are available to participate in one History/Geography lesson per week starting **after school at 3.30 pm.**

#### **ADDITIONAL YEAR 10 REQUIREMENTS:**

- The student **understands spoken and written Czech with ease** and can **express herself/himself fluently** (in proportion to their age and year group).
- The student is supported by a **native or fluent Czech speaker** at home and completes the **assigned homework on a lesson by lesson basis.**
- The student selects Czech as a subject option in the Year 10 programme.
- The student is available to participate in one History/Geography lesson per week starting **after school at 3.30 pm.**

## 1. CZECH PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMME (PRIMARY YEAR 1)

The programme is based on the **Framework Educational Programme for Pre-School Education** (*Rámcový vzdělávací program pro předškolní vzdělávání RVP PV*) and primarily focuses on the educational area **(Czech) Language and Speech**.

The aim of the programme is to develop the skills and competencies required for the commencement of Czech basic education. Year 1 students **do not learn to read and write**. The programme places emphasis on vocabulary enhancement and the development of graphomotor skills.

Year 1 Czech lessons start at the beginning of September and take place twice a week. One session lasts 30 minutes and is held at the same time as Czech for Foreigners lessons, i.e. within the Riverside Primary curriculum.

There is **no regular homework**.

There is **no official testing**.

### OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY A NURSERY SCHOOL IN THE CATCHMENT ZONE

Since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, **the last year of pre-school education has become compulsory** for children aged 5. A child can be educated in an international school located in the Czech Republic which has a valid permit for fulfilling compulsory attendance. However, the legal representative of the child (parent) is **obliged to notify the director of the nursery school in the catchment zone (“spádová” školka)** to which their child is officially assigned that their child is attending Riverside Primary School. This has to be done 3 months before the start of the school year at the latest, **i.e. by the end of May**.

We recommend contacting the director of the nursery school by phone and then sending a recommended letter; this way the legal obligation will be fulfilled.

## 2. CZECH BASIC SCHOOL PROGRAMME (PRIMARY YEAR 2 - 6)

The programme is based on the **Framework Educational Programme for Basic Education** (*Rámcový vzdělávací program pro základní vzdělávání RVP ZV*) and primarily focuses on the educational area **Czech Language and Literature**. The aim of the programme is to develop the skills and competences required to succeed in official testing within the Czech system.

Year 2 - 6 lessons start at the beginning of September and usually take place three times a week. Morning sessions last 60 minutes, lunch sessions take 30 minutes. The final schedule is sent to parents at the end of August/beginning of September.

**Regular homework** is assigned after every lesson, i.e. 3 times a week.

**Official testing** takes place four times a year (Year 3 - 6). Year 2 students are tested twice a year.

### OBLIGATION TO REGISTER IN A CZECH SCHOOL

The Czech basic school programme at Riverside School is tied to Czech school enrollment.

For many years, Riverside School has been cooperating with **ZŠ Jáchyma - Lysolaje** (Prague 6) <http://www.zs-lysolaje.net/>. The benefit of this mutual cooperation is the possibility for students to sit all official tests at Riverside School.

**If ZŠ Lysolaje is unable to accept a student due to limited capacity, the legal representative of the child (parent) must register their child in another Czech school in their catchment zone.** In this case, the student can also attend Czech lessons at Riverside School, however, they may not be able to be officially tested there.

During official **April enrolments**, a 6-year-old student is enrolled by the legal representative (parent) **in ZŠ Lysolaje or their catchment zone school** to commence their compulsory attendance at Riverside School in September.

The Czech school issues an official report (*vysvědčení*) at the end of June that needs to be collected at the Czech school by the legal representative of the student (parent).

### 3. CZECH BASIC SCHOOL PROGRAMME (JUNIOR HIGH YEAR 7 - 10)

The programme is based on the **Framework Educational Programme for Basic Education** (*Rámcový vzdělávací program pro základní vzdělávání RVP ZV*) and primarily focuses on the educational area **(Czech) Language and Literature**.

The aim of the programme is to develop the skills and competencies required to succeed in official testing within the Czech system.

Year 7 lessons start at the beginning of September and take place during 2 morning sessions per week of 40 minutes each. The final schedule is sent to parents at the end of August/beginning of September.

Year 8 - 9 lessons start at the beginning of September and take place 3 times per week. 2 morning sessions of 40 minutes each and 1 after school session of 60 minutes. The final schedule is sent to parents at the end of August/beginning of September.

Year 10 lessons start at the beginning of September and take place during curriculum time. 1 after school session of 60 minutes will take place to cover the History / Geography content. The final schedule is sent to parents at the end of August/beginning of September.

**Regular homework** is assigned after every lesson.

**Official testing** takes place four times a year.

#### **OBLIGATION TO REGISTER IN A CZECH SCHOOL**

The Czech basic school programme at Riverside School is tied to Czech school enrolment.

For many years, Riverside School has been cooperating with **ZŠ Jáchymova - Lysolaje** (Prague 6) <http://www.zs-lysolaje.net/>. The benefit of this mutual cooperation is the possibility for students to sit **all official tests at Riverside School**.

If ZŠ Lysolaje is unable to accept a student due to limited capacity, the legal representative of the child (parent) must register their child (children) in another Czech school in their catchment zone. In this case, the student can also attend Czech lessons at Riverside School, however, they may not be able to be officially tested there.

The Czech school issues an official report (*vysvědčení*) at the end of June that needs to be collected at the Czech school by the legal representative of the student (parent).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### LIST OF COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

Year 1 (školka) - Czech (no formal testing, language assessment in February/March)

Year 2 (1. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing twice a year)

Year 3 (2. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing four times a year)

Year 4 (3. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing four times a year)

Year 5 (4. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing four times a year), Vlastivěda (testing twice a year)

Year 6 (5. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing four times a year), Vlastivěda (testing twice a year)

Year 7 (6. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing four times a year)

Year 8 (7. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing four times a year), History (testing twice a year)

Year 9 (8. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing four times a year), Geography/History (testing twice a year)

Year 10 (9. ročník ZŠ) - Czech (testing four times a year), History (testing twice a year)

In addition to tests, book records and essays are mandatory for completion. Requirements for each year group are specified at the beginning of each term.

**Vlastivěda** is taught in PRIMARY. Lessons usually take place twice a week during the school day.

**History and Geography** are taught as a club in JUNIOR HIGH. Lessons take place once a week after school (3.30pm - 4.30pm).

### READING AND WRITING

In the Czech programme at Riverside School, students learn to read and write in Year 2 (*1. ročník ZŠ*). They don't use the traditional Czech cursive handwriting and learn to read and write letters which are similar to block letters (print writing). This handwriting is more suitable for bilingual children and easier to use for students with learning difficulties. By the end of Year 4, however, Czech children have to learn to read the traditional Czech cursive.

### STUDY MATERIAL

Riverside School provides students with the necessary resources (including textbooks where possible), while students bring their own pencils and pens to school.

- Recommended pencils for Year 2: Stabilo Easy Graph
- Recommended pen for Year 3 - 10: Stabilo Easy Original (non-erasable pen)



Parents are asked to provide Czech books for home reading.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- ❑ For questions regarding the Czech for Czechs programme at PRIMARY please contact the Primary Czech programme coordinator Lucie Velek  
[lucievelek@riversideschool.cz](mailto:lucievelek@riversideschool.cz)

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- ❑ For questions regarding the Czech for Czechs programme at JUNIOR HIGH please contact the Junior High Czech programme coordinator Zuzana Kocourkova  
[zuzanakocourkova@riversideschool.cz](mailto:zuzanakocourkova@riversideschool.cz)

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