

## Points to Remember

- U.K. children with statements must contact the school and BATUS prior to considering a posting in Canada.
- We provide individual programs for all students but special needs children have individual programs prepared for them by our resource/classroom teacher.
- Alberta schools write yearly achievement tests in grades 3, 6 & 9 and grade 12 students write semester diplomas in January and June. Our results are among the highest in the province.
- Typically, Alberta schools rank among the highest in all jurisdictions in the world in Math.
- Medical, speech or physical/occupational therapy support may vary between the U.K. and Canada. Please investigate this fully before considering a posting here.

## Sports Programs

- We have a cross country program which has been very successful. We had the best Junior teams statistics two years in a row.
- We have a basketball program as student numbers and interest warrant.
- We also offer a badminton program.
- We run a full intramural program as well to develop skills from the Primary Level onwards.



## U.K. Parent Assistance

- Kindergarten SCE exchange teacher is here to help all U.K. parents.
- The BATUS Education office is available at 544-4020 or the BATUS Welfare office can be reached at 544-2572.
- All of the above can help with specific issues for U.K. families.
- Please email us at [brad.kyle@prrd.ab.ca](mailto:brad.kyle@prrd.ab.ca) or call the school if you have any questions.



Box 59

Ralston, Alberta

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1-(403) 544-3535



ALBERTA/  
CANADIAN  
SCHOOLS

Ralston School serves children from Reception to Grade 9. It currently has approximately 170 pupils of which 70% are from the U.K., the other 30% of our students are from the Canadian Military, local villages and farms. The school is well resourced, it has a computer lab, well stocked library, purpose built gym and a large playground with new equipment.

### Similarities and Differences

There are some minor differences between the British and Canadian educational systems, but with the Primary aged children, the differences are not great.

The school is a Canadian school teaching the Alberta curriculum, but the main learning objectives in Math, English, History are similar. Canadian children have provincial exams in grades 3, 6 and 9 as a check on the education system. (These tests are similar to SATS).

In Canadian schools the Canadian national anthem is sung every morning. At our assemblies we sing the national anthem along with God Save the Queen.

A major difference is in the ages children start school. British children start school at age 4 and Canadian children start at age 5 in Kindergarten.

British children starting at Ralston school are placed by age in a grade which is suited to their academic needs and maturity.

Ralston School believes in maximizing the potential of its unique blend of pupils and promoting the best opportunities it can for all children.

### YOU WILL SEE

-Maths, Science, English, Modern Foreign Languages (as available), Social Studies (History, Geography, Social Sciences)

-Fine Arts such as drama, music and art.

-Technology Instruction is both infused and separate.

-Extra-curricular sports like track and badminton.

### Learning About Our Schools

-Our Division web site is <http://prrd.net> which has most pertinent information about the school and school division. Our school web site can also be accessed at [www.ralstonschool.ca](http://www.ralstonschool.ca)

-Alberta Learning has complete descriptions of school curriculum and other useful information for parents at <http://education.gov.ab.ca>.

### Grade Levels/Years

- Years in U.K. Schools and Grade levels in Alberta schools are not the same.
- For example, U.K. students will not generally go from Year 1 to Grade 2 since they will be much younger than average Canadian students in that grade. Usually, a considerable gap in math abilities also exists due to curriculum differences because of the age difference.
- U.K. students start in Reception when our students start in Pre-Schools, both Government and Private, in Alberta at age 4. Our regular Canadian Kindergarten students start at Ralston School at age 5. They attend the village pre-school at age 4.
- Student placement by grade in Canada does not affect which year U.K. students will return to in the U.K. Students will be placed by age when they return to the U.K. Students may be in grade 2 but be working on grade 3 math, so grade level placement really means very little in terms of student placement in the U.K.

### GRADE LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT

#### IN ALBERTA

- Means that students can be in Grade 2 and working on Grade 3 or 4 Math's or English.
- Means that teachers must report the grade level students are really working at in Math's and English at year's end.
- Means that which grade your child is in does not matter since they will be challenged at their own level.



### High School Students

- If you have a child of high school age, Eagle Butte High School is our nearest High School.
- It offers typical high school programming and has two full time student counselors to assist students and parents in setting up programs.
- The Eagle Butte web site can also be accessed through the PRSD website and their telephone number is 1-403-528-1996.