



Burlington VTest English for Schools: Ages 7–10 and Ages 11–15

Frequently Asked Questions



About these FAQs

These FAQs apply to the revised Burlington VTest English for Schools: Ages 7–10 and Ages 11–15 exams available from September 2026.

The information in these FAQs is correct at the time of publication. Burlington VTest may update exam content, procedures, platform features or supporting materials from time to time. For the most up-to-date information, always refer to the latest online version of these FAQs and the information available on the VTest website, or contact your VTest representative.

About Burlington VTest

Burlington VTest is the assessment division of the Burlington Group, an organization with over 40 years of experience in English language education, teacher training, and educational research. The Burlington Group operates internationally, supporting learners, teachers, and educational institutions around the world.

VTest develops and delivers digital language assessments for educational, academic, and professional contexts. Its assessment portfolio includes general English proficiency, assessments for school-aged learners, academic English, and professional and workplace communication.

In addition, the VTest Custom Platform enables partner institutions to develop and administer their own assessments within a controlled digital environment. The platform supports item development, test assembly, scoring configuration, and results reporting.

VTest is a member of professional organizations relevant to language assessment, including the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE), the Association of Test Publishers (ATP), and the International Language Testing Association (ILTA).



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More than an exam

Burlington VTest for Schools is not just another English exam for young learners and teenagers. It provides an integrated assessment experience for the whole school community: students, teachers, school leaders, and parents.

It has three key elements:

 The VTest for Schools assessment portfolio	 VTest Analytics	 The VTest Teacher Academy
A range of age-appropriate English assessments that provide meaningful information about students' abilities in Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.	A flexible platform for organizing, filtering, comparing, and analyzing assessment data according to each school's or organization's structure and priorities.	Customized training and pedagogical support for teachers and school leaders before, during, and after implementation.

For details about test structure, duration, technical requirements, administration, special accommodations, and familiarization materials, please see the relevant Teacher's Guides or product pages on the VTest website.



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Understanding VTest for Schools

1 What is VTest for Schools and what makes it different?

VTest for Schools is an adaptive English assessment for young learners and teenagers. It assesses Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking, with results aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, or CEFR.

Unlike a traditional exam based on one fixed level, VTest uses adaptive assessment technology, which adjusts the difficulty of the exam according to each student's performance. This allows students of different abilities to take the same assessment while following a pathway suited to their level.

VTest also goes beyond reporting a score. Together with VTest Analytics and the VTest Teacher Academy, it helps schools understand performance, identify strengths and needs, set learning goals, monitor progress, and make informed teaching and planning decisions.

VTest helps schools turn results into meaningful action.

2 Why are there separate assessments for ages 7–10 and 11–15?

Children's language, cognitive development, interests, and assessment needs change as they grow.

VTest for Schools therefore offers two age-appropriate assessment ranges:

- VTest English for Schools: Ages 7–10
- VTest English for Schools: Ages 11–15

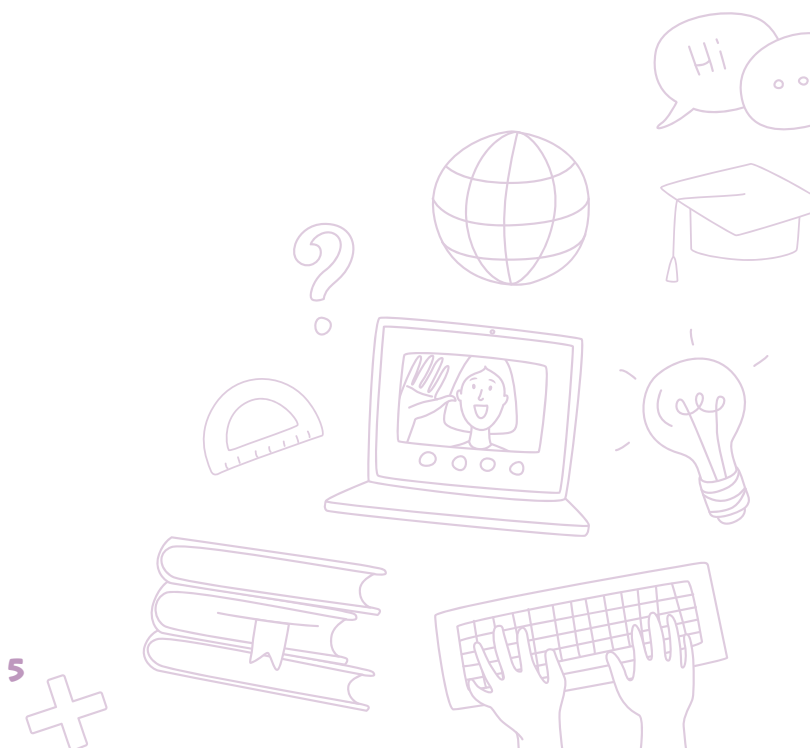
These age groups reflect the age groupings used in the CEFR's young learner descriptors.

This separation allows the content, instructions, task design, and overall assessment experience to be suited to each stage of development.

3 How does VTest create a positive assessment experience?

VTest for Schools has been designed specifically for young learners and teenagers, with age-appropriate content, tasks, instructions, and an interface that helps students focus on showing what they can do.

The adaptive format also helps avoid giving students an exam that is too easy or too difficult. Some questions will naturally be challenging as the assessment explores the upper range of each student's current ability. But by matching the level of challenge to each student's performance, VTest creates a more balanced and encouraging assessment experience while providing a clearer picture of what each student can do.



Benefits for the School Community

4 How can VTest benefit students?

During the assessment, VTest gives every student the opportunity to demonstrate their English ability through questions that adapt to their performance.

After the assessment, students receive clear information about the skills assessed, together with CEFR-aligned Can Do statements that describe their abilities in practical language.

This helps them understand what they can already do, where their strengths lie, which areas they can improve, and what their next learning goals may be. The results also provide meaningful feedback and recognition of each student's achievement.

5 How can teachers use VTest results?

VTest provides teachers with an objective snapshot of each student's English ability at the time of the assessment.

Because results are reported by skill, teachers can identify differences between Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking, and use this information to:

- plan lessons around real student needs;
- provide more focused support;
- set individual or class learning goals;
- group students more effectively;
- monitor progress;
- communicate clearly with students and parents.

Teachers know their students best, so VTest results should be interpreted alongside classroom performance, participation, effort, confidence, educational background, and wellbeing.

6 How can school leaders use VTest results?

VTest gives school leaders a clear, objective view of English performance across their organization.

With VTest Analytics, they can compare results across classes, grades, programs, schools, or other relevant groups. This makes it easier to spot patterns, evaluate what is working, identify where support is needed, and set priorities with confidence.

School leaders can use these insights for student placement, curriculum planning, program evaluation, teaching priorities, professional development, progress monitoring, and communication with teachers and parents.



7 How can VTest support communication with parents?

VTest gives schools clear, internationally understood information that can support meaningful conversations with parents.

Results help schools explain what a student can currently do in English, where their strengths lie, which areas need further development, and what their next learning goals may be, all in relation to the CEFR.

VTest also provides parent-facing resources to help schools explain the purpose of the assessment and the meaning of the results.

This allows conversations with parents to move beyond scores and focus on progress, achievement, and next steps.

8 Can VTest help schools monitor progress over time?

Yes. VTest can be used at different points in the learning journey.

A school may use it:

- at the beginning of the school year to understand students' starting points;
- during the year to assess changes in students' abilities;
- at the end of a course or program to evaluate overall progress.

Because results are aligned to the CEFR and reported by skill, schools can build a clearer picture of how student performance develops over time.



Assessment, Results, and Educational Use

9 What information will students receive?

Students receive results aligned to the CEFR.

Depending on the combination of skills taken, results may include:

- an overall result;
- separate results for Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking;
- detailed CEFR sublevels;
- Can Do statements describing practical language abilities;
- a certificate and score report.

This gives students and schools a clear view of overall performance and any differences between individual skills.

10 Can VTest be used for student placement?

Yes. VTest can provide useful evidence when placing students into classes or programs.

Because it assesses a wide range of ability and reports performance by skill, it can give schools a broader picture than age, previous course level, or a short placement activity alone.

However, placement decisions should not depend on one score alone. Schools should also consider classroom needs, maturity, and teachers' professional judgment.

11 Can each skill be taken individually?

Yes. VTest for Schools is modular, with separate sections for Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

These can be taken individually or in any combination, depending on the assessment package selected by the school.

This allows schools to focus on the skills most relevant to their curriculum, student needs, and assessment goals.

12 Do students need special preparation?

VTest is designed to assess students' English ability, not how well they have prepared for a particular exam.

Students do not need extensive exam preparation or memorized test techniques. They should, however, be familiar with the format and understand what they will be expected to do.

VTest provides sample activities, candidate guidance, and familiarization materials to help students feel comfortable before the assessment. Teachers can also help by reviewing the instructions and making sure students know how to complete each type of task.

13 How reliable are the results?

VTest results are supported by several layers of assessment quality.

Test items are developed by language assessment specialists and checked through review, piloting, scoring checks, and ongoing performance monitoring. This helps ensure that tasks are appropriate for the target age group, CEFR level, and skill being assessed.

The adaptive design adjusts the level of challenge according to each student's performance, allowing the assessment to gather evidence that is relevant to their ability.

Results are aligned to the CEFR and reported by individual skill, giving schools a clear and detailed picture of performance in Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

Together, these features help ensure that VTest results are consistent, meaningful, and useful for educational decision-making.

VTest Analytics

14 What is VTest Analytics?

VTest Analytics is a platform that brings individual and group assessment results together in one place.

It allows schools to organize, filter, compare, and analyze results across their organization, making it easier to move beyond separate score reports and build a broader picture of student performance.

15 How can schools organize and explore their data?

Different schools need to look at assessment data in different ways.

A single school may want to compare classes or grades. A larger organization may need to examine results across campuses, programs, regions, or academic years. Other users may want to focus on individual skills, CEFR levels, or student groups.

VTest Analytics allows schools to create groupings that reflect their own priorities. They can filter results, compare selected groups, and reorganize the data according to the questions they want to investigate, rather than being limited to one fixed report.

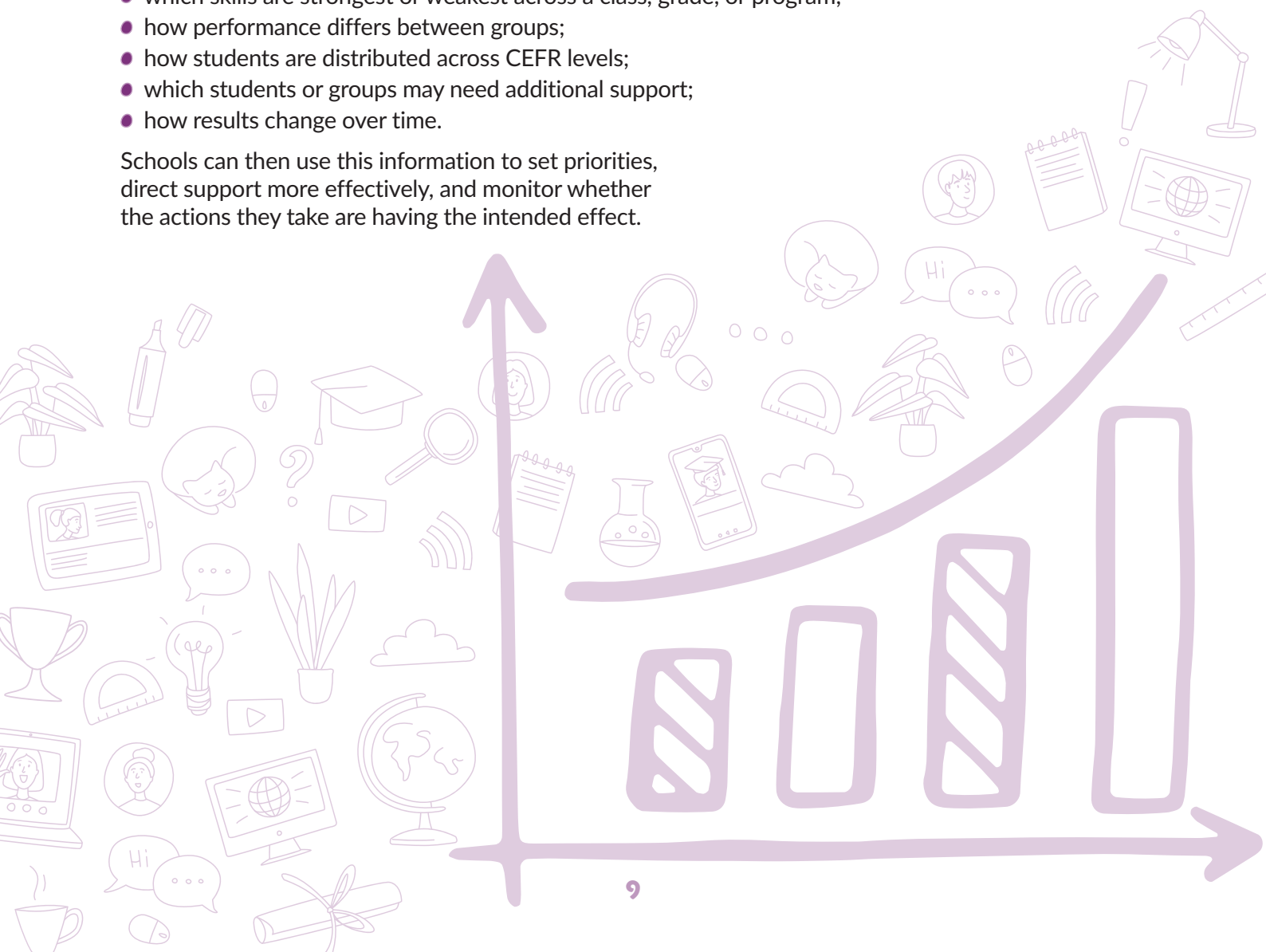
16 What can schools learn from VTest Analytics?

By exploring results from different perspectives, schools can identify patterns that may not be visible in individual student reports.

For example, they can see:

- which skills are strongest or weakest across a class, grade, or program;
- how performance differs between groups;
- how students are distributed across CEFR levels;
- which students or groups may need additional support;
- how results change over time.

Schools can then use this information to set priorities, direct support more effectively, and monitor whether the actions they take are having the intended effect.



Administration and School Responsibility

17 Can schools choose how and when to use VTest?

Yes. VTest is designed to give schools flexibility in how they use the assessment.

Schools can decide:

- which students or groups will take it;
- which skills they need to assess;
- when during the school year it will be used;
- whether the purpose is placement, progress monitoring, or end-of-program evaluation;
- how the results support teaching and school planning.

The VTest team and the VTest Teacher Academy can help schools choose an approach that fits their educational goals.

18 How do schools administer VTest fairly and consistently?

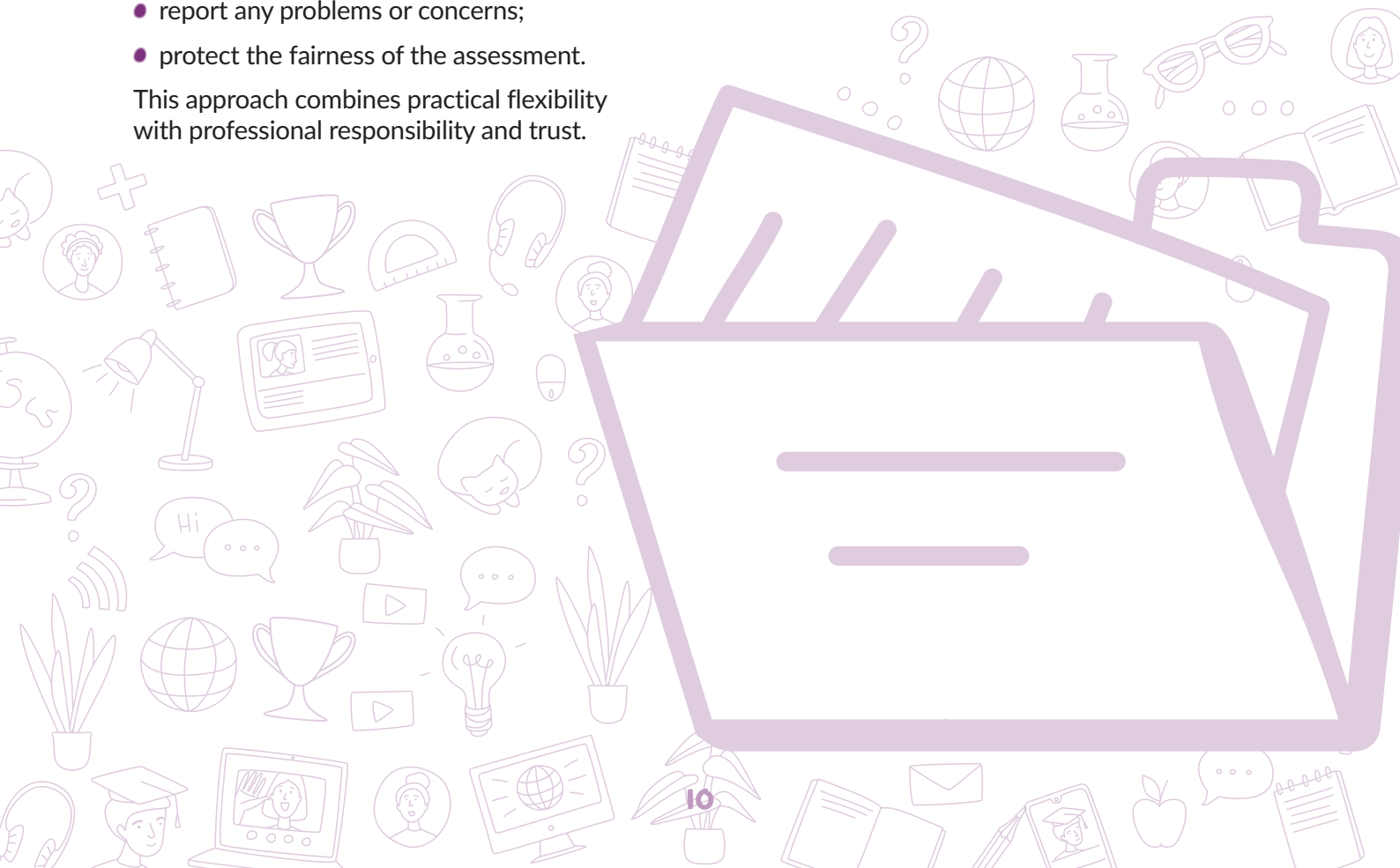
VTest for Schools is designed to operate within the school community, and schools may manage and proctor their own assessment sessions.

To help schools do this fairly and consistently, VTest provides guidance on preparing the assessment environment, checking equipment, supervising sessions, and responding to technical or security issues.

Schools and proctors are expected to:

- follow the administration instructions;
- explain the rules clearly;
- create suitable testing conditions;
- confirm that students work independently;
- report any problems or concerns;
- protect the fairness of the assessment.

This approach combines practical flexibility with professional responsibility and trust.



VTest Teacher Academy and Support

19 What practical support is available to schools?

Schools receive practical support before, during, and after the assessment process.

This may include:

- help planning and administering the assessment;
- familiarization materials for students;
- advice on communicating with students and parents;
- help understanding score reports and results;
- support using VTest Analytics.

The aim is to make implementation clear and manageable at every stage.

20 What is the VTest Teacher Academy?

The VTest Teacher Academy is a team of experienced teacher trainers who provide training and pedagogical support for schools using VTest.

They work directly with teachers and school leaders through training sessions, dedicated meetings, and ongoing discussion.

21 How can support be customized to our school?

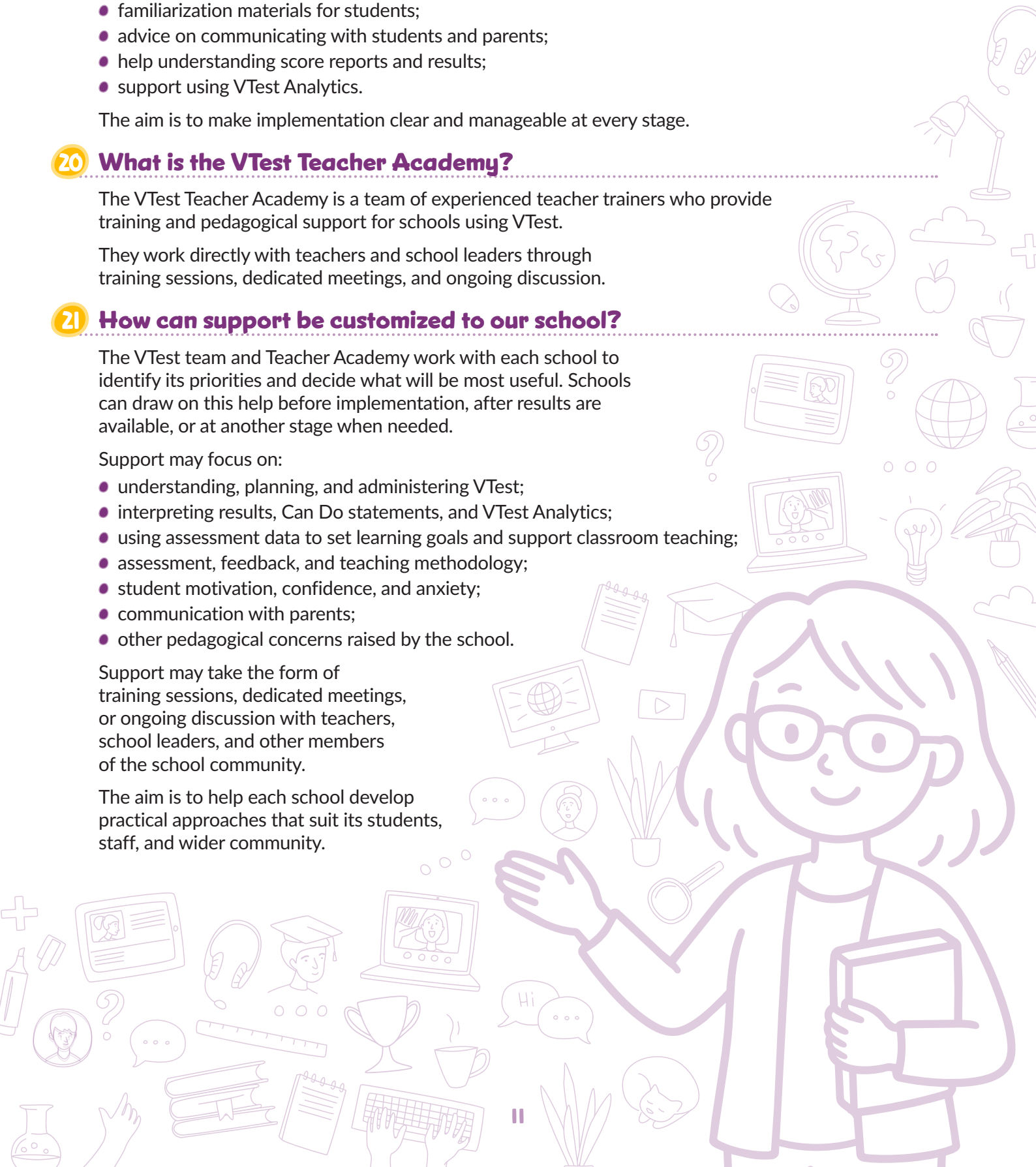
The VTest team and Teacher Academy work with each school to identify its priorities and decide what will be most useful. Schools can draw on this help before implementation, after results are available, or at another stage when needed.

Support may focus on:

- understanding, planning, and administering VTest;
 - interpreting results, Can Do statements, and VTest Analytics;
 - using assessment data to set learning goals and support classroom teaching;
 - assessment, feedback, and teaching methodology;
 - student motivation, confidence, and anxiety;
 - communication with parents;
 - other pedagogical concerns raised by the school.
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Support may take the form of training sessions, dedicated meetings, or ongoing discussion with teachers, school leaders, and other members of the school community.

The aim is to help each school develop practical approaches that suit its students, staff, and wider community.





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