



The British School of Bahrain



20 - 22 May 2024



Location
Hamala



School Type
Private



No. of Students
2578



Years Levels
1 - 13

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

Students' Academic
Achievement

Students' Personal
Development and
Wellbeing

Teaching, Learning
and Assessment

Leadership,
Management and
Governance

Review Summary

The British School of Bahrain has maintained its 'Outstanding' evaluation since the previous review in March 2016. The leadership implements a rigorous and comprehensive self-evaluation which is effectively embedded into long term strategic planning. Students enjoy various extracurricular activities, with great enthusiasm and high confidence, in addition to the sensitive support and care provided to all.

Most teachers use exceptional student-centred teaching and learning strategies and establish a highly conducive learning environment that create independent learners. In most lessons and written work across the school, students exceed expectations, particularly in mathematics. They perform outstandingly well in internal and external examinations and receive effective academic support through a systematic and intervention procedures in place, however, students' standards in Arabic are still inconsistent.

Key Positive Features

- Students' high attainment and standards, their outstanding progress in lessons across most core subjects that exceeds expectations.
- The provision of the diverse range of extracurricular activities that meets students' passions, as well as their evident self-confidence, exemplary behaviour, and strong awareness of local and international citizenship values.
- The exceptional use of student-centred teaching and learning strategies, and the implementation of a systematic data driven approach to identify and meet students' learning needs through effective support programmes.
- The rigorous and comprehensive self-evaluation processes informing the ambitious school planning which aligns with its mission and vision statements.
- The school cultivating a dynamic culture of innovation through several pioneering projects that focus on sustainability and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is highly supported by the Board of Directors.

Recommendations

- Spread the school's outstanding practices and pioneering projects among the learning communities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Further improve students' standards in Arabic.

Students' Academic Achievement

Outstanding

- Students' attainment is consistently high in both internal and external examinations with 100% pass rates across a broad range of subjects over the past three years. High proficiency rates in the 2022/2023 internal assessments range from 68% in English to 92% in science for Infant School, from 71% in Year 5 English to 92% in Year 6 science in Junior School and from 41% in Year 12 biology to 100% in Year 10 Arabic and Year 12 Further Maths in Senior School, while some subjects show lower percentages, such as Year 12 English Literature. External examinations result from 2023, Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA), Pearson Edexcel and Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) for Year 11 General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and Year 13 General Certificate of Education (GCE) indicate proportions of students achieving grades (B and above) or (6 and above) are significantly above average in majority of subjects. The high percentages range between 40% in ICT and 100% in French and religious studies (GCSE), and between 40% in Arabic and 67% in advanced psychology (GCE).
- Students across all levels demonstrate a strong ability to work independently and effectively utilise technology in their learning. Their progress in lessons and written work consistently exceeds expectations in most subjects, though to a lesser extent for the lower ability students, particularly in Arabic. Year 1 & 2 students show excellent literacy and numeracy skills, linking meanings to known vocabulary and describing quantities like 'Time'. Junior and Senior Schools students demonstrate a strong command of both spoken and written English, develop strong mathematical skills by applying their geometric and algebraic understanding, like plotting points in coordinates, and scientific inquiry skills such as, researching the formation of sedimentary rocks.

Students' Personal Development and Wellbeing

Outstanding

- Students engage in a diverse range of extracurricular activities that meets their passions in sports, arts, and various clubs like Drama. As well as their participation in competitions such as the 'Instrumental Classical COBIS Music Festival' and securing high ranks in others like first place in 'Qatar Running Series' and 'Arab Cup Taekwondo Championship'. Students assume leadership roles effectively within the school council and parliament, and lead innovative initiatives such as, designing the 'EcoGarden'.
- In lessons, students are engaged and participate with high confidence, and develop a remarkable sense of independence in their learning due to the student-centred teaching approach implemented in most lessons. However, in a few lessons, such leadership roles are less evident due to the inconsistent opportunities provided. The highly effective induction and transition programmes help students settle, and then in their preparation for next stages which includes open evenings and university fairs. The school provides a caring environment and effective support for all students.
- Students' behaviour is exemplary, having respectful relationships with each other in a multicultural school community. This approach is effectively reinforced, and students are sensitively supported within the 'Support 360' programme, which results in having minimal behavioural incidents. Students have a deep understanding of Bahrain's heritage and culture, which is reinforced through the curriculum and celebration of events such as the 'National Day'. In addition, they embrace local and global citizenship values through participating in international days and events like 'International Family Fair' and take on social responsibility through donations to various charities both within Bahrain and internationally like the victims of 'Morocco Earthquake'. Moreover, the school efforts are recognised by receiving awards such as, winning the International Schools Award (ISA) for Students' Wellbeing (2023) and the Independent School of the Year (2023).

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Outstanding

- Teachers use exceptional student-centred teaching and learning strategies in most lessons, throughout the school, such as: Project Based Learning, Total Physical Response, Investigation and Collaborative Work, with effective resources like students' personal devices, tangible materials, and illustrative videos, engaging the vast majority of students in interactive learning, particularly in mathematics. A highly positive conducive learning environment is fostered by teachers, where students are self-motivated to be independent, and learning time is skilfully utilised and managed, focusing on the development of knowledge and understanding, while having cross curricular links, to students' own experiences and real life.
- Teachers use differentiated and highly effective verbal, digital, and written assessments, that are aligned with curriculum expectations and challenge students' abilities to develop higher order thinking skills, such as: problem solving in mathematics, linguistic creativity in English and critical thinking in science like food testing experiments. Constructive and detailed feedback is provided in lessons and students' work, enabling the vast majority of students to further develop. However, in a few lessons, the feedback provided is generic and the support for the less able students is inconsistent, particularly in Arabic. The school has a systematic approach to identify students' learning needs by different means, such as 'Inspired AI' and the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) assessment, and tracks students' progress rigorously through Cycle Tests and Half Term reports. Results are used in modifying lesson plans and delivery, providing students with differentiated work and assessments, and in informing the highly effective academic support programmes and intervention for all students.

Leadership, Management and Governance

Outstanding

- The school engages in rigorous self-evaluation, employing 'PESTLE' analysis and regular stakeholders' surveys to identify strengths and areas for improvement. Outcomes accurately inform the ambitious school planning which aligns with the school's mission and vision, while the spiralised curriculum ensures consistent coverage of competencies. The school cultivates a safe and healthy environment, prioritising safety measures and implementing policies like 'Healthy Eating Policy'. The school community is defined by a strong ethos of loyalty, enriched through an open-door policy and collaborative approach. A comprehensive staff appraisal system accurately identifies training needs, which are addressed through robust professional development opportunities like 'Educare' sessions on pastoral care, and the departmental moderation sessions. Teachers' performance is closely monitored through observations, walk-throughs, and peer observations, resulting in exemplary lessons from most teachers observed, though a few are yet to reach the same level.
- The school promotes a dynamic culture of innovation through pioneering projects, including the 'Inspired AI' diagnostic tool, the 'BSB Sustainability Roadmap' to drive meaningful environmental change, and the comprehensive 'Beyond BSB' enrichment programme to equip students for future career success. The schools' dedication towards educational excellence is further evidenced by the numerous awards won such as, 'Use of digital technology in the classroom' from GESS International Awards (2024). The school encourages parents to play an active role in school life through 'The Parent Community Ambassadors', who organise events that promote school spirit, and 'The Parent Advisory Group' that contributes to the school's strategic development. The school furthers its communication with parents through coffee mornings and 'Class list'. The Board of Directors' involvement is extensive as they provide strong direction and support, and rigorously follow up on school performance through meetings and weekly 'Traffic light' reports.

Next Actions

The school must submit an action plan to implement the review recommendations two weeks after receiving the draft report.