



الهيئة الوطنية  
للمؤهلات وضمان جودة التعليم والتدريب  
National Authority for Qualifications &  
Quality Assurance of Education & Training

# **Directorate of Government Schools Reviews Short Review Report**

**Balqees Primary Girls School  
Dumistan - Northern Governorate  
Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Date of Review: 27-29 October 2015**  
SG098-C3-R031

## Introduction

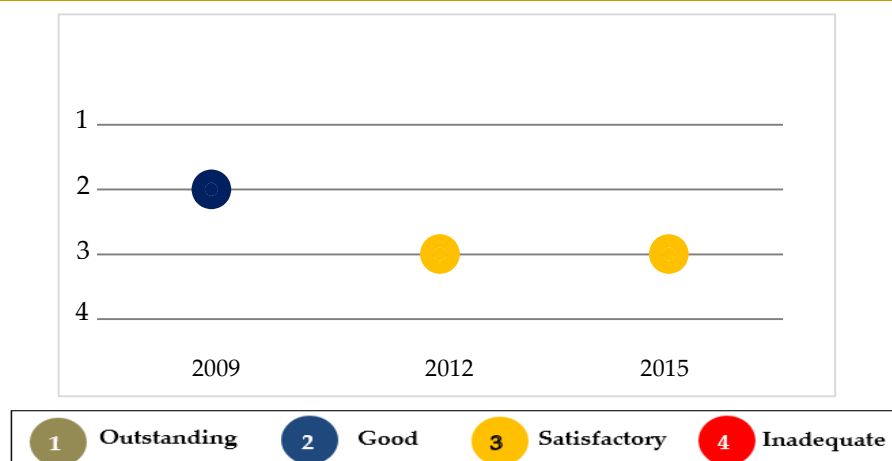
The Directorate of Government Schools Reviews (DGS), which is a part of the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education and Training (QQA), conducted this review over three days by a team of seven reviewers. During the review, reviewers observed lessons and other activities, scrutinised students' written works and analysed the school's performance data and other documents. They spoke to the staff, students and parents. This report summarises their findings and recommendations.

### Summary of review judgements

<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>	<b>4</b>
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Aspect		Grade			
		Elementary / Primary	Middle / Intermediate	High / Secondary	Overall
Quality of outcomes	Students' academic achievement	3	-	-	3
	Students' personal development	2	-	-	2
Quality of processes	Teaching and learning	3	-	-	3
	Students' support and guidance	2	-	-	2
Quality assurance of outcomes and processes	Leadership, management and governance	3	-	-	3
Capacity to improve		3			
The school's overall effectiveness		3			

The chart demonstrates the school's overall effectiveness throughout the review cycles.



## School Summary Report

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### Percentile words used in relation to different judgements

Grade	Relative words used	Interpretation
Outstanding	All / Almost all	Indicates completeness and comprehensiveness/about to reach completeness and comprehensiveness.
	The vast majority	Indicates an amount that exceeds most.
Good	Most	Indicates an amount that exceeds majority.
Satisfactory	Majority / Adequate / Suitable / Variable	Indicates more than average.
Inadequate	Minority / Few	Indicates less than average.
	Limited	Indicates less than minority.
	Very limited	Indicates scarcity/rarity.
	None	Indicates unavailability/nothing.

### ☐ School's overall effectiveness 'Satisfactory'

#### Judgement justifications

- The school remains satisfactory in the aspects of students' academic achievement, teaching and learning and leadership, management and governance, and achieved good progress in students' personal development and support and guidance.
- Students perform well in internal and external examinations in most core subjects, which reflect their actual levels in most class-teaching, standards and science lessons in Cycle 2.
- Clear self-evaluation mechanisms, with variable use of the results to prioritise areas of improvement and development, to be embedded when setting specific targets in departments' plans.
- The majority of teachers manage lessons in an orderly and productive manner and use varied teaching and learning strategies. However, the effectiveness of assessment techniques for learning, differentiation and the support provided for the different categories of students, especially the low achievers, varies.
- The students' good behaviour, their effective communication with each other and their positive participation

in school life, is supported by diverse guidance programmes and extra-curricular activities which help develop the experiences and different interests of most students.

- Diverse partnerships with parents and the community enrich and enhance students' experiences. Students and parents are satisfied with the school's provision.

## **Main positive features**

- The students' standards in core subjects, particularly in Cycle 1, and in science in Cycle 2.
- Students' good behaviour, harmony when they work together, and their active participation in school life.
- Support and guidance programmes as well as the extra-curricular activities which develop students' experiences and interests.

## **Recommendations**

- Better use of self-evaluation results to prioritise school work and develop action planning in academic departments.
- Develop the students' basic skills in English in both cycles, as well as in Arabic and mathematics in Cycle 2.
- Monitor the impact of professional development programmes in order to benefit from the good teaching practices in school and implement effective teaching and learning strategies, with a focus on:
  - assessment for learning
  - educational support for low achieving students
  - considering differentiation and challenging students' abilities in activities and homework assignments.
- Address the shortage in human resources, namely senior teachers for class teaching, science, Arabic and English.

## **□ Capacity to improve 'Satisfactory'**

### **Judgement justifications**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic planning is adequate and based on rigorous and comprehensive self-evaluation, however with inconsistent focus on improvement</li> </ul> | <p>and development priorities across school departments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school's capacity to address challenges is adequate, with a</li> </ul> |
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shortage in middle leadership in the main departments, variable implication of the school's vision across departments, and the building's limited capacity in light of growing number of students.

- Implementation of action plans is inconsistent, particularly those related to professional development and training plans, and monitoring of their

impact on teaching practices in lessons.

- The school takes good care of students, supports them when they face problems, and effectively builds up their personal and leadership skills through extra-curricular activities and events which develop their experiences and interests.

## Appendix: Characteristics of the school

Name of the school (Arabic)	بلقيس الابتدائية للبنات												
Name of the school (English)	Balqees Primary Girls												
Year of establishment	1981												
Address	Building 505 – Road 2225 – Block 1022												
Town /Village / Governorate	Dumistan / Northern												
School’s Contacts	17600615			17602074			Fax		17601655				
School’s e-mail	balqees.pr.g@moe.gov.bh												
School’s website	https://webmail.moe.gov.bh/owa												
Age range of students	6-12 years												
Grades (e.g. 1 to 12)	Primary				Middle				High				
	1-6				-				-				
Number of students	Boys		-		Girls		893		Total		893		
Students’ social background	Most students come from average income families												
Classes per grade	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Classes	5	5	5	5	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of administrative staff	6 administrative and 11 technicians												
Number of teaching staff	61												
Curriculum	Ministry of Education (MoE)												
Main language(s) of instruction	Arabic												
Principal’s tenure in the school	4 years												
External assessment and examinations	MoE's Examinations for Cycle 2 in mathematics and Grade 6 English, and QQA's National Examinations												
Accreditation (if applicable)	-												
Major recent changes in the school	• A new Assistant Principal was appointed in the academic year 2014-2015.												