



Al Noor International School



2 – 5 February 2025



Location
Sitra



School Type
Private



No. of Students
7357



Grade Levels
1-12

Overall effectiveness
Outstanding

Students' Academic
Achievement

Students' Personal
Development and
Wellbeing

Teaching, Learning
and Assessment

Leadership,
Management and
Governance

Review Summary

The school has secured an 'outstanding' judgement. Students' achievement in both internal and external examinations is excellent, and their progress is exceptional across all stages. Moreover, they are among the top performing students. They excel in inquiry-based learning, particularly in science and mathematics, though there is a need to improve Arabic writing skills in the British section. Students demonstrate exemplary attitudes toward learning, characterized by strong self-confidence and notable independence in learning. Teachers create a highly positive learning environment, ensuring motivation. Highly effective teaching techniques and academic support programmes adeptly cater to students' needs and interests. The school leadership effectively encourages innovation and sustainable learning practices. All stakeholders experience a positive and collaborative work environment.

Key Positive Features

- The high level of awareness demonstrated by the Board of Directors and the school's leadership team which effectively target the schoolwork priorities.
- Students' exceptional performance in both internal and external examinations that is reflected in their excellent standards across the school.
- Highly effective teaching and learning strategies and academic support programmes that successfully address the needs and interests of students.
- The school's comprehensive approach to students' wellbeing fostered by various projects which enhance 21st Century skills and promote academic growth and personal development.

Recommendations

- Enhancing Arabic language skills: Further develop students' standards on the Arabic writing skills in the British Senior Section.
- Sharing best practices: Spread excellent practices, especially in teaching science, mathematics and class-teaching within the school and learning communities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Students' Academic Achievement

Outstanding

- Over the past three years, students have consistently achieved high pass rates in internal and external examinations across the school. Internal examinations are authentic, with a diverse range of challenging questions, and a well-balanced distribution of marks.
- In the year 2023-2024, proficiency rates are generally high in internal examinations in the academic year 2023-2024 in the vast majority of grades and subjects across three sections.
- The 2024 external examinations results indicate high pass rates with students scoring highly in Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and (A) Levels for Grades 10 and 12 in International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). Moreover, they are among the top performing students. In Secondary School Examinations (SSE) and Senior School Certificate Examinations (SSCE) as well as in Ministry of Education examinations in Grades 10 to 12. However, Students' rates are inconsistent in the commerce subjects.
- Students' learning skills are well-developed through inquiry-based learning, especially in science and mathematics. In science, students describe changes of state of matter in Grade 3, and analyse mass spectra in Grade 11. In mathematics, students solve problems related to finding areas in Grade 8. Students' writing and reading comprehension skills are strong across grades in English while their writing in Arabic in British high school needs improvement.

Students' Personal Development and Wellbeing

Outstanding

- Students demonstrate exceptional attitudes toward learning, marked by strong self-confidence and a remarkable sense of independence in their learning. This is nurtured through the implementation of diverse instructional approaches across most lessons. In addition, students exhibit exceptional leadership and competitive abilities by actively engaging in various school events, such as the 'AlNoor Holy Quran Recitation & Memorization Contest', 'Talent Competition', 'Horticulture Club', and 'Garden Club' where they achieve remarkable success, including securing second place and third place in the 'World Robot Olympiad Competition- WRO' for two consecutive years.
- The school offers comprehensive induction and transition programmes that support students in adjusting to their new programmes and preparing for future academic and career opportunities. These initiatives include multiple career fairs and visits to institutions like Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) – the Medical University of Bahrain, and to "Bahrain Bourse: for events like 'TradeQuest'
- Students' behaviour is exemplary, having respectful relationships with each other in a multicultural school community, demonstrating acceptance and self-discipline. Students feel comfortable, and safe at school, as they are aware of their rights, responsibilities, and the school's behavioural policies, and effective programmes like 'We Care for You' and 'Little Social Workers'.
- Students display a strong awareness of Bahrain's culture and heritage, which they express by enthusiastically participating in national events. The school diversity nurtures global citizenship and plays crucial roles in creating a vibrant learning experience, fostering multi nationalities with different languages. The school is highlighting the awareness of global issues Sustainable Development Goals "SDG" during morning assemblies like 'Climate change'. School diversity is accepted by all and fostered by 'The Buddy Programme'. Additionally, students take on social responsibility by contributing to local community initiatives, such as 'The Bake Sale' with profit dedicated to Royal Humanitarian Foundation.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Outstanding

- Teachers implement exceptional student-centred teaching and learning strategies across the school, effectively engaging students. Strategies such as brainstorming, role-play, and innovative techniques like the 'light bulb' and 'one minute' are utilised alongside dynamic resources, including virtual labs and interactive maps. Tools like 'ActivInspire' further enhance engagement in interactive learning tasks for most students.
- A highly positive learning environment is cultivated by teachers. Lessons are well-planned and teachers ensure students' engagement through linking new concepts to students' past experiences and Islamic values in addition to effectively managing the lesson's proceedings and activities. However, in a few less effective lessons, time management was inconsistent.
- Teachers employ differentiated and highly effective verbal and written assessments that align seamlessly with curriculum competencies, challenging students to develop higher-order skills. These skills include analysing scientific concepts, solving complex mathematical problems, and engaging in higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) by projects like 'Al Noor Students Towards the 21st Century'.
- Constructive and detailed feedback is provided by teachers during lessons and through a buddy system, where high-achieving students offer valuable support to their peers. However, in a few less effective lessons, feedback has been minimal, which has impacted the support given to a few students, particularly in the Bahraini section.
- The school utilizes a systematic approach to identify students' educational needs through various tools, including diagnostic tests enabling the implementation of highly effective academic support programmes for all students, such as scheduled support lessons provided during homeroom periods, on Saturdays, and throughout spring breaks.

Leadership, Management and Governance

Outstanding

- The school's self-evaluation is rigorous in identifying its strengths and areas for growth, using different means such as (SWOT) analysis and forming a 'Consistency Committee' to ensure the implementation of its strategic plan. Students' attainment in international examinations such as 'IGCSE' International General Certificate Examinations, AS, A level and Central Board of Secondary Education 'CBSE', are embedded in the school's strategic and operational plans with focus on improvement areas.
- The curriculum is frequently reviewed and updated to ensure its alignment with international standards.
- The school makes effective use of its facilities to enrich students' learning and experiences, such as the laboratories and libraries.
- The school accurately identifies teachers' training needs based on lessons observation analysis and provides innovative professional development workshops accordingly, such as 'AI Tools for Teachers'. Feedback and follow up is rigorously and continuously offered for teachers through 'Express Mentoring' programme which is reflected in their outstanding and good performance in most lessons though the impact is less evident in the less effective lessons, particularly in Arabic.
- The school has a positive and collaborative work environment, where teachers are appreciated through inhouse promotions, certificates, and social gatherings. The school leadership is agile in overcoming challenges and introducing innovative practices, such as readiness to shift to online mode in case of unexpected events.
- The school effectively communicates with stakeholders, through 'Friends of Al Noor', as well as their active involvement with the local community, such as with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation. Members of the Board are well aware of school's performance and are effectively involved in strategic planning.

Next Actions

The school must submit an Action Plan to implement the review recommendations four weeks after receiving the draft report.