



**Ibn Khuldoon
National School**



17 – 19 February 2025



Location
Isa Town



School Type
Private



No. of Students
1560



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

Ibn Khuldoon National School (IKNS) consistently demonstrates 'Outstanding' performance, driven by strategic leadership and meticulous oversight. Classroom practices are exemplary, particularly in Primary Years Programme (PYP) and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) subjects, yield exceptional student achievement in both internal and IB external examinations. A holistic approach, encompassing robust extracurriculars and personalized support, cultivates outstanding personal and social skills. Committed to continuous improvement, leadership fosters staff professional growth and engages stakeholders, building a vibrant community. Ongoing refinement of Middle School learning and Arabic standards, through innovative strategies and further alignment of the school best practice, ensures sustained excellence.

Key Positive Features

- **Excellence in Administrative Operations:** The school leadership's high awareness of the school environment, based on a high-level self-evaluation with systematic strategic planning, along with continuous oversight, ensuring sustained excellence.
- **Quality of Classroom Practices:** Distinguished classroom practices in most of the core subject lessons which are aligned with the PYP and IBDP approaches.
- **Academic Excellence and Support:** Students' exceptional progress and development of learning skills in Elementary and Secondary Schools, reflected in their high attainment in internal and IB external examinations, while they are powerfully supported by dedicated tailored academic and enrichment programmes.
- **Holistic Wellbeing:** An extensive and varied selection of extracurricular activities and competitions, along with exceptional personal support, encourages students of all grades to develop outstanding personal and social skills.
- **Vibrant Community:** Leadership is committed to fostering professional growth among staff and actively engaging with all stakeholders, nurturing a dynamic and progressive school community.

Recommendations

- **Sustain and Expand Leadership Approaches:** continuing to implement outstanding practices within the school and promoting their adoption more widely across learning communities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- **Enhancing Middle School Learning & Arabic Standards:** continuing to develop and innovate teaching strategies in Arabic and enhance learning processes in Middle School in line with Elementary and Secondary School best practices.

Students' Academic Achievement

Outstanding

- Over the past three academic years, students have consistently achieved high pass rates across all grades. In the 2023-2024 academic year, proficiency rates were notably high in most subjects and grades. Internal school examinations generally align with curriculum expectations, are robust, and are marked accurately. In 2024, Grade 12 students excelled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP) examinations, surpassing world averages in most subjects. All registered students attained their IB diploma, with high percentages of students achieving scores of 5 and above in the vast majority of subjects. However, Arabic A and Physics SL showed average performance.
- In a significant number of lessons in core subjects, student progress was outstanding in both Elementary and Secondary Schools. While high achievers consistently excelled, progress in Arabic and among less-achieving students in Middle School was less evident.
- Elementary students in the Unit of Inquiry (UOI) demonstrate strong progress and excel in showing their skills in these lessons which showcase strong linkage and integration between different topics and themes. Throughout the school, students show outstanding literacy and writing skills in English. In Elementary School for example, they excel in reading aloud and speaking, while in Middle School, they analyse the structure and meaning of sonnets. By Secondary School, they expand on themes and substantiate with supporting evidence. Likewise, in Arabic, Elementary students are able to identify verb tenses, while Middle and Secondary School students can comprehend text for instance. However, their writing skills tend to be less consistent.
- In mathematics for example, students excel in basic arithmetic operations in Elementary School, solve systems of equations in Middle School, and Grade 12 IB students show strong integration skills. Students demonstrate exceptional science skills at all levels, with Middle School students excelling in experimentation and circuits, and Secondary School students developing outstanding analytical and lab skills, including radiation measurement in physics and colorimetry in solution concentration analysis.
- Students at all levels demonstrate remarkable use of technology, research, and critical thinking skills, evidenced by data analysis in Middle School, and advanced textual analysis in Secondary School English.

Students' Personal Development and Wellbeing

Outstanding

- The school provides a rich tapestry of extracurricular and competitive opportunities that cultivate leadership skills and drive students' excellence. Students actively engage in a wide array of clubs, such as 'Yearbook and Heritage' and sports teams and IB Programme Exhibitions, fostering teamwork, resilience, and personal growth. Leadership skills are developed through initiatives like 'Enta El Amal', 'Nabdha,' and participation in prestigious events such as 'INJAZ', 'TradeQuest,' and 'Mahfoodha Al Zayani,' where gifted and talented students earn numerous awards. Additionally, structured career counseling prepares secondary students for future success.
- In lessons, students are highly engaged, responsible, and confident learners. They demonstrate self-discipline through active participation in activities such as in complex science discussions and English presentations.
- Students' behaviour is exemplary, having positive relationships with teachers and peers which are consistently built through daily interactive and collaborative projects. Their dedication is reflected in the school's high attendance, rigorously monitored via 'PowerSchool'. A strong sense of citizenship and Islamic values are fostered through initiatives like 'Team Nasser', 'Yalla6 Ntawa3,' and 'Sw Khair,' which actively engage students in impactful community service, demonstrating a strong commitment to social responsibility and tangible improvement of local people.
- Students thrive as global citizens. They gain firsthand experience by travelling to Singapore to explore sustainability initiatives and to the UAE for leadership development and team-building experiences. Through partnerships with the Bahrain National Space Science Agency and UNESCO, students engage in enriching projects and workshops. They excel in diverse areas, from championship-winning sports to captivating musical performances and impactful environmental initiatives like school-wide recycling. Ultimately, students emerge as well-rounded individuals, fully prepared to navigate and contribute to a globalized world.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Outstanding

- Teachers use highly effective student-centred teaching and learning strategies in lessons, particularly in UOI in Elementary and IBDP in Secondary School, which include scientific experimentation, Socratic reasoning, and collaborative work. A remarkable use of learning and electronic resources, students' devices and digital applications like 'Schoology' and 'Google Docs' engage the participation of students in active learning. A highly positive conducive learning environment is fostered, where students are motivated through engagement in meaningful learning activities. Learning time is well-managed, apart from a few lessons in middle school and in Arabic. Logical links to concepts and real life are well-implemented.
- Teachers use highly effective verbal, digital, and written assessments, that fully match curriculum competencies and challenge students' abilities by developing higher order thinking skills, such as: prediction in UOI in Elementary School and literary analytic in languages and problem solving in mathematics. Constructive and detailed verbal feedback is provided in lessons, meeting the different educational needs of the vast majority of students. However, in a few lessons, particularly in middle school and Arabic lessons, the use of assessment results is less effective, affecting the support provided to students, especially low achieving students.
- The school uses a systematic approach to identify students' educational needs through different tools, such as Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Reading Benchmark Test (RBT) tests with regular tracking of students' progress reports. Highly effective personalised academic programmes are given by the Learning Diversity Needs Team (LDN) through scheduled visits with assigned students. Added to this, high achievers are provided with opportunities to enrich their learning experiences through participating in competitions such as World Scholar's Cup.

Leadership, Management and Governance

Outstanding

- The school demonstrates strong strategic leadership by utilizing a data-driven approach for decision-making and continuous improvement. The Senior Leadership Team has pioneered curriculum advancements, including the introduction of IB PYP, the expansion to MYP, and the expansion of DP, to ensure a cohesive learning pathway. Assessments are seamlessly integrated into school planning through data triangulation, structured analysis, and collaborative discussions that refine teaching strategies and curriculum implementation. A structured process ensures that action plans support long-term goals, with the annual development plan built around three strategic pillars. The school excels in aligning operational decisions with its vision and mission, although consistent implementation of innovative practices across departments remains a growth opportunity.
- The school maintains a robust professional development programme, offering IB training, external workshops, and school-led professional growth initiatives. The annual continuous professional development (CPD) request process empowers teachers to shape their own development, ensuring alignment with both school priorities and individual professional needs. Innovation is central to the school's educational vision, with a strong emphasis on ICT and AI integration, e-assessments, and online examinations that align with student needs and global trends. However, there is a need to ensure consistent implementation of innovative teaching practices across all departments and grade levels to maximize impact, particularly in Middle School.
- The school embodies a vibrant community through active parental engagement via the Parents, Teachers, and Students Association (PTSA) and consistent communication channels such as Schoology, forums, and meetings. The Board of Trustees maintains clear governance structures, emphasizing autonomy and strategic oversight. Their commitment to holistic development is evident in the achievements of alumni, many of whom return as staff, showcasing a nurturing and impactful educational environment. This dedication to fostering lifelong connections reinforces the school's reputation for academic excellence and lasting impact.

Next Actions

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