



**American School of
Bahrain**



9 – 11 December 2024



Location
North Riffa



School Type
Private



No. of Students
655



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 American School of Bahrain provides an Outstanding educational experience. The school leadership has taken great strides to ensure safe navigation through the challenges of a newly established school, guided by the strong impact of the Board of Directors on the school's strategic direction. The school has a rigorous approach to personalised and data-driven academic support for students of different needs, which is evidenced in their progress in lessons and impressive attainment in internal and external examinations. Students' behaviour is exemplary and nurtured in a positive culture that encourages respect, inclusiveness, and love for learning. Reach out to the different stakeholders is a strong feature of the school that ensures collaborative efforts feed into the enhancement of its community. The school is highly committed to prioritising the learning of both Arabic and English languages to enrich students' cultural awareness and enhance their linguistic skills yet requires further focus on raising students' standards in Arabic. Teaching is highly effective in the majority of lessons, particularly in mathematics and class-teaching, with clear focus on the implementation of student-centred approaches and utilisation of impactful resources.

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Key Positive Features

- Bilingual advocacy: The school's commitment to prioritising both Arabic and English languages to enrich students' cultural awareness and enhance their linguistic skills, preparing them for a globalised world.
- Students' behaviour and personal support: Students' respectful behaviour and the comprehensive personal support provided by the school.
- Collaborative partnership: Strong communication with stakeholders to foster a collaborative partnership that supports students success and enhances the overall school community.
- Nurturing Environment: The schools' positive culture that encourages respect, inclusiveness, and love for learning among students and staff.
- Rigorous tracking and support: The school's systematic approach to personalised and data-driven academic support for students of different needs and tracking their progress.

Recommendations

- Commitment to excellence: Sustain exemplary performance in a growing school by continuing to prioritise student-centred learning, and cultivating a supportive environment, while further aligning school plans.
- Sharing of best practices: Disseminate and implement exemplary practices, especially in mathematics and class-teaching, within the school and learning communities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Students' Academic Achievement

Outstanding

- Students' attainment in internal examinations has been consistently high over the past three years with 100% pass rates in most grades and subjects. Internal examinations are rigorously implemented and fairly marked. In the academic year 2023–2024, proficiency rates are high across most subjects, ranging from 100% in Grade 2 science and most subjects in grades 11 and 12 to 46% in Grade 9 mathematics. Lower percentages are noted in lower Elementary School Arabic and grades 11 and 12 mathematics. In 2024, almost all students attempting the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) passed with an average score of 31 points. The percentages of students achieving 5 and above are high ranging from 100% in several subjects to 40% in history HL and chemistry HL, while lower results are noted in a few subjects attempted by fewer students like biology SL, history SL and physics SL.
- Students make exceptional progress in the majority of lessons, particularly in mathematics and class-teaching, demonstrating strong learning skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking. Meanwhile, lower-ability students show adequate progress in lessons due to their need for further support. Elementary School students develop excellent knowledge and skills such as understanding vibrations in solids and air and subtracting 3-digit numbers. Students across the school proficiently use English, analysing literary and non-literary texts. Progress in Arabic is adequate in Elementary School and above expectations in Middle and High Schools, such as in reading and identifying features of a story. In mathematics, students exceed expectations, solving linear equations in Middle School and mastering vector equations and velocity problems in High School. In science, while Middle School students successfully experiment with physical and chemical properties of matter, High School students excel in calculating work done by a spring system.

Students' Personal Development and Wellbeing

Outstanding

- The school actively empowers its students to embody the six school pillars and exemplify the student profile by offering diverse opportunities for exploration and challenge.
- Students across the school display high levels of self-confidence and exceptionally positive attitudes towards school life. Their creativity and leadership skills flourish through the vast range of extracurricular activities provided, such as drama, ballet and mindful drawing. Their competitive spirit is cultivated through their prominent participation in events like the 'INJAZ' competition, the 'NASA Space App Challenge' and debating at the 'World Scholars Cup' held at Yale University. In lessons, students demonstrate leadership skills by actively shaping their own educational experiences, confidently holding discussions and actively contributing to group work. Field trips to local attractions, including the aquarium at 'Marassi Mall', along with international journeys to countries like Japan, France and Spain, further enhance students' learning and broadens their horizons. The school's strong induction and transition programmes are designed to prepare students for future endeavours, while resources like the 'Uniforg' platform support them through the university application process. The school prioritises emotional well-being by implementing tools such as 'Pupils Attitude to Self-assessment' (PASS) surveys, wellness weeks and tailored advisory sessions.
- The school's comprehensive policies highly impact students' positive behaviour evidenced in their respectful interactions with others, high attendance rates and minimal behavioural issues. School programmes like the 'Digital Citizenship' initiative and the 'PowerSchool', further support students' personal development by keeping parents informed about their children's attendance and academic progress. Students actively engage with Bahrain's vibrant culture through celebrations such as 'National Day' and 'Gergaoon' and their commitment to community service is highlighted in the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) programme, in which they participated in building a local school in Zanzibar.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Outstanding

- Teachers use exceptional student-centred teaching and learning strategies in the majority of lessons, including brainstorming, play-based learning and collaborative work. This is strongly reinforced by effective resources such as personal devices, pattern blocks to demonstrate fractions and digital tools like 'G-suite', 'Padlet' and 'Beast Academy', which engage the vast majority of students in interactive tasks. Teachers excel at creating supportive learning environments that foster self-motivation among students. They effectively manage learning time, emphasising the application of knowledge and connecting concepts to students' past experiences and real-life situations. As a result, the productivity of the majority of lessons is exceptional.
- Teachers use a variety of assessment methods to gauge students understanding and support their progress. Higher order thinking skills are integral in most lessons such as problem solving in mathematics, experimentation in science and research to build up strong argumentative essays in Elementary School. Differentiation is evident in teachers' targeted questioning techniques, and progressively challenging tasks, alongside the use of adaptive digital tools like 'IXL' to ensure progress of students according to their ability. Constructive feedback is provided in a timely manner in the better lessons but is less consistent in students' written work. Likewise, in few less effective lessons, challenge to the more able students and support to the lower-achieving ones is inconsistent.
- The school employs a systematic approach to identify students' educational needs by analysing data from diagnostic tools such as: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and use that to develop individualised learning plans. Dedicated academic support is provided through the 'Student Support Services', including pull-out and push-in sessions as well as after school support. Furthermore, students with learning difficulties are closely monitored through the 'Casesload' register to ensure their progress.

Leadership, Management and Governance

Outstanding

- The school's leadership team has successfully built a vibrant school community that embodies its values by fostering happiness to drive academic excellence. The school employs a reflective and accurate self-evaluation process based on the wealth of data that informs the planning process. It articulates a value-based vision and mission demonstrated through a pragmatic strategic plan and school improvement plan (SIP) which identify its clear direction, yet further alignment between plans would be beneficial in prioritising shorter and longer term ambitions. Excellent facilities and abundant resources are systematically managed.
- Professional development is a key priority within the school. Training needs are identified through data analysis and teachers' self-assessments. Targeted professional development sessions are provided, accompanied by frequent observations and constructive feedback, the impact of which is evident on the performance of teachers with a few exceptions in the less effective lessons. Newly recruited staff benefit from a dedicated induction programme, while teachers' well-being is supported through a collaborative work environment and social events organised by the 'Social Committee'.
- The leadership team demonstrates exceptional skill in navigating the challenges of establishing a new school, particularly given its inception during Covid period. The school has a record of innovation from tackling tardiness of older students by creating a different registration process through to their pioneering adoption of the progressive 'Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Learning' (RAIL) programme to facilitate the teaching and learning process.
- The school cultivates excellent relationships with stakeholders and has earned trust of its community through transparent communication channels. The Board of Directors plays a crucial role in shaping the school's strategic direction, enabling school leadership to operate with defined responsibilities and accountability measures.

Next Actions

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