

The British School of Cordoba

School's regional authorisation number: 14000173

Date of Inspection: 4th September 2024

Type of Inspection:
Buildings Inspection

Inspector: Gill Kaye

Reason for the Inspection:

To evaluate the suitability of the relocation of early years foundation stage (pre-nursery to reception) classrooms to the main school site.

The total capacity of the school is 600 from pre-nursery to year 13.

Overall Recommendation:

It is recommended that the two new classrooms for early years children are authorised for a maximum capacity of 55 pupils from ages one to five years.

The next inspection is due in March 2027

This building inspection does not imply a postponement of the educational inspection.

History and Context of the School:

The British School of Córdoba was founded in 1998 and the school moved to the present purpose-built site in 2003. There are currently 410 pupils on roll, 92 per cent of whom are Spanish, three per cent are British and the rest is made up of a range of other nationalities.

The school was last inspected in 2023 and was granted authorisation to teach pupils from pre-nursery age to year 13. The purpose of this inspection is to evaluate the

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suitability of the relocation of the early years foundation (EYFS) classes into the main campus.

Accommodation and Resources:

There are three purpose-built buildings, one has one floor and is for the early years foundation children and year one. A second building is for both primary and secondary children and in addition, houses the science laboratories and has two floors. The third building has three floors and is for secondary pupils and houses the other specialist classrooms.

Resourcing throughout the school is excellent. There are two spacious, very well equipped computer suites, twenty-six digital smartboards helping teaching staff to deliver lessons in a creative way and two very well-stocked libraries.

The school has four very well equipped, spacious laboratories, preparation rooms, fume cupboards and chemical showers, two art rooms and a music room with an extensive range of musical instruments,

The outdoor area is spacious and used for recreation and physical education lessons and there is a gymnasium for indoor sports activities. An attractive area for table tennis is well used by students and all the surrounding outdoor space is utilised creatively.

The new area redesigned for the early years foundation stage has two classrooms. One is for the reception children and the second is a very large, bright classroom which will house 28 pre-nursery and nursery children very comfortably. The classrooms are safe, spacious and have plenty of natural light. The rooms are suitably furnished and very well equipped. Each has its own toilets which are at an appropriate height for the children, changing facilities and sinks suitable for the age range. The pre-nursery area has nappy changing facilities and a specific area designated for beds.

Children have direct access to, and make regular use of, a very attractively designed and well-resourced area for outdoor learning. Full advantage is taken of this area, both for the delivery of the EYFS outdoor curriculum and for recreation. The outside flooring is safe and made of a soft material and a tree provides suitable shade.

There is storage space for resources both inside and outside the classrooms.

Food is cooked on site for pupils and staff in a large dining room and pupils eat at staggered lunch times.

Health and Safety:

The pre-nursery area has its own entrance and is easily and safely accessible from the school's main entrance.

The buildings are within a secure site. Entrances are staffed at the beginning and end of the school day and gates are locked during the school day.

The building complies with local authority requirements for fire regulations and safety and has been issued with local authority licences. Emergency evacuation plans are in place and assembly areas are clearly indicated.

The school has an effective safeguarding policy and a designated safeguarding lead. Staff are aware of the procedures to follow if there are any concerns. All members of staff are required to undergo appropriate police checks.

Conclusion:

The new classrooms have been renovated and upgraded to a high standard and provide attractive, spacious accommodation, which is highly suitable for purpose.

It is recommended that the new classrooms be given authorisation for 55 children.