



**British School
Overseas**
Inspected by Penta International

Inspection report

**English International
School Baghdad**

Iraq

Date **27th – 30th March 2023**
Inspection number **20230327**

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1. Purpose and scope of the inspection

The Department for Education has put in place a voluntary scheme for the inspection of British schools overseas, whereby schools are inspected against a common set of standards that British schools overseas can choose to adopt.

The inspection and this report follow the Department for Education (DFE) schedule for the inspection of British Schools overseas.

The purpose of the inspection is to provide information to parents, teachers, senior managers and the school's management on the overall effectiveness of the school, the standard of education it provides and its compatibility with independent schools in the United Kingdom. The inspection and report will cover the key areas of quality of the curriculum; quality of teaching and learning; the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students; their welfare, health and safety; the suitability of the proprietor and staff; the school's premises and accommodation (including boarding, if appropriate); and the school's complaints procedures. An essential part of the inspection is considering the extent to which the British character of the school is evident in its ethos, curriculum, teaching, care for students and students' achievements.

This inspection was completed by Penta International. Penta International is approved by the British Government for the purpose of inspecting schools overseas. As one of the leading inspection providers, Penta International reports to the English Department for Education (DFE) on the extent to which schools meet the standards for British Schools Overseas.

During the inspection visit, all year groups were observed and 16 lessons visited. School documentation and policies were analysed and data reviewed. Students' workbooks were scrutinised, and discussions were held with the senior staff, the management team, and a range of other stakeholders, including students. The inspection took place over three days.

The lead inspector in school was Dr Mark Evans. The team member was Colin Dyson, working online.

2. Compliance with regulatory requirements

This was a compliance inspection, in which standards are judged as *met* or *not met*: no other grades are given. As a result of the inspection, the school has shown that it meets the standards for British Schools Overseas, except for those that cannot be achieved legally in the host country. These pertain to aspects of the UK Equality Act 2010. The school actively promotes tolerance and a respect for all human differences, within the confines of the law. This is embedded in the culture and ethos of the school. This judgement is endorsed by the British Government and is valid for three years. The inspection process is quality assured by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED).

3. Overall effectiveness of the school

The English International School Baghdad (EISB) meets the standards required to be an accredited British school overseas.

4. The context of the school

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Full name of school | English International School Baghdad | | | | |
| Address | Qatar Nada Street, Saidiya, Baghdad, Iraq | | | | |
| Telephone Number/s | +964 771 111 9887 | | | | |
| Website Address | www.eis.edu.iq | | | | |
| Key Email Address/s | info@eis.edu.iq | | | | |
| Head of curriculum | Timothy Paul Shanahan | | | | |
| Chair of Board of Governors/ Proprietor | Maitham Al Faisal | | | | |
| Age Range | 3 - 17 years | | | | |
| Total number of students | 479 | Boys | 269 | Girls | 210 |
| Numbers by age | <i>0-2 years</i> | 0 | <i>12-16 years</i> | 204 | |
| | <i>3-5 years</i> | 59 | <i>17-18 years</i> | 0 | |
| | <i>6-11 years</i> | 216 | <i>18+ years</i> | 0 | |
| Total number of part-time children | 0 | | | | |

4.1 British nature of the school

EISB follows the Pearson Edexcel curriculum for the subjects of English, mathematics, science and citizenship, thus closely mirroring the English national curriculum. The school is an IGCSE and IAL examination centre, so students can take British examinations on campus. There are many British teachers and many British students. The goal is to prepare students for future education in the UK.

5. *Standard 1* The quality of education provided by the school

The quality of education meets the BSO standard.

5.1 Curriculum

The curriculum meets the requirements of the BSO standards.

The National curriculum of England provides the framework for teaching and learning. The curriculum provides for the academic, moral, physical, creative and social development of students. The school has a curriculum policy and departments have produced schemes of work. The subject matter is appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of students, including those with learning difficulties. All students are provided with a range of opportunities to learn and make progress. A range of curriculum experiences help prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern day Britain. The curriculum on offer takes account of the curricula and external examination accreditation commonly used in schools in the UK.

The curriculum supports fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The policy and written schemes of work aim ensure that the ages and aptitudes of nearly all students are met. The principal language of instruction is English and teachers insist that English is spoken in lessons and around the school. The schemes of work are adapted to meet the needs of EAL students. The curriculum is modified at an individual level for the few students who have more complex special educational needs.

5.2 Teaching and assessment

Teaching and assessment meets the requirements of the BSO standards.

Teaching at EISB enables students to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability, so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught. There is often laughter in lessons, which helps learning, such as during the 'Conjunction Junction' video and during a discussion on the fable of Llyn Cwm Lluch. Teachers foster self-motivation in students. They encourage students' application of intellectual, physical and creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves. Teaching generally involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, suitable activities and sound management of class time.

Teachers show good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the students, and mostly ensure that these are taken into account in the planning and delivery of lessons. They demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught. Most utilise classroom resources effectively; the resources are of a good quality, quantity and range.

Teachers utilise effective strategies for managing behaviour. They encourage students to act responsibly; and does not undermine the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. There is no evidence of discrimination against students because of their individual characteristics

5.3 Standards

EISB aims to expose every child, every day, to experiences that will help them understand the need for mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding of people from different cultures and faiths. One student said 'EISB helps us become the best version of ourselves'.

The school assess students formally twice per term to monitor their progress. The primary units are divided into various research and recording activities, the recording activities are used as formative assessments which aim to enable the teachers to assess their students and plan their future lessons accordingly. The secondary units are similar with regular reflective tasks that aim to work as formative assessments.

The school tracks the progress and attainment of individual students over three terms annually and retains and shares this data with staff each year as children progress. Moderation and monitoring are being developed to ensure a consistent approach across the school and it is clear that in recent years the school has made progress in developing assessment procedures. As a result of this the process has become more robust.

Standards of social and personal development are good: students are respectful of each other and their teachers and enjoy their learning. The school is successful in helping all students to develop their personal skills and qualities. Nearly all students are thoughtful and well behaved. They are acquiring the personal and social skills needed to move successfully to the next stage of their lives.

6. *Standard 2* Spiritual, moral, social & cultural development of students

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students meets the BSO standards.

Students across all phases of the school show confidence. They enjoy learning and talk excitedly about the projects, events and work they have been involved with and even in the past. The school's curriculum includes personal learning goals that help pupils with self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.

The global citizenship curriculum which is provided, helps students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England and the host country. Students have been to nursing homes and orphanages, to help begin to take responsibility for the society. There are donation boxes for money and clothes around the school: EISB is also doing pioneering work on recycling.

The school's curriculum addresses political views, which are taught in an unbiased manner. The host country is sensitive to local politics, so EISB teachers teach British and American politics.

7. *Standard 3* The welfare, health and safety of the students

The standard of provision for welfare, health and safety of students at EISB meets the BSO standard.

The school has all the required policies in place such as health and safety, behaviour and safeguarding. These are effectively understood, implemented and reviewed annually to ensure the school is drawing upon current UK and International best practices. Visitors and staff are required to wear identification badges and access to the building is limited and monitored.

A central digital record logs behavioural incidents along with key medical and attendance data. When students are absent, the school makes contact with parents directly on the first day of absence.

8. *Standard 4* The suitability of the proprietor and staff

The suitability of the proprietor and staff meets the standard for BSO.

The proprietor has a clear vision for the school and supported it enormously through recent turbulent and challenging times for Iraq. The school holds and regularly updates its single central record, demonstrating that all safeguarding checks on staff have been completed. Identity, and fitness to work at school are verified before appointment. Qualifications are verified by scrutiny of university and other agency certificates.

9. *Standard 5* The premises and accommodation

The premises and accommodation of the school are good because the site is safe, well-maintained, clean and tidy.

The perimeter is secure and access is monitored and restricted by security guards. Internal lighting, cooling and ventilation are sufficient, and the premises overall provide a safe and pleasant learning environment. The school uses its specialist facilities well to enhance the students' learning experiences.

Outdoor spaces are mainly maintained well, including the swimming pool.

10. Standard 6

The provision of information for parents, carers and others

The provision of information provided by the school to parents, carers and its wider community meets the standard for BSO.

The school works hard to engage at many levels with parents. Its efforts and provision therefore meet the standard required. The school's address and phone number are provided on the school's website and repeated in all newsletters sent to parents

There is an ethos policy on the website that is referred to when communicating with parents. The admission policy and others are all available on the website to clarify and explain many scenarios. Parents suggest that they are happy with the information offered.

11. Standard 7

The school's procedure for handling complaints

EISB meets the BSO standard.

The school implements a clear policy for handling complaints which meets host country requirements and reflects good practices from the UK. It is made available for the parents and sets out clear time scales for the management of a complaint following informal and formal stages.

12. Standard 8

Leadership and management of the school

The leadership and management of the school meet the BSO standard. Students make progress, enjoy good academic success and are well prepared to move on confidently to universities in the UK and around the world.

Leadership is effective, because the senior leadership team demonstrate through self-evaluation a sound grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. They know the key priorities for improvement. It is unclear why there is no principal's position, instead the role is fulfilled by the head of curriculum.

The school is appropriately resourced to deliver the school's curriculum. The managing director ensures good facilities management and the school benefits from her expert oversight and management of the school's finances.