

SCHOOL, STAFF AND FACILITIES

The Bordeaux International School was founded in 1987 to provide high-quality formal education for international pupils between the ages of 2½ and 18. The school's reputation for professionalism is indisputable as verified by its full accreditation by the Council of International Schools (www.cois.org) and its contract with the French Education Nationale (contract of association since September 2010).

The bilingual environment is a cornerstone of school life, which pupils find both stimulating and rewarding. All pupils, regardless of age, know each other due to our programme of full integration across the school. The whole school comes together at lunchtime and the social education of sharing a meal with friends is of great benefit to all pupils.

Parents are encouraged to become involved with all aspects of their child's education. For example, when the school relocated to its current address, parents were asked for their views on the choice of location. The unanimous opinion was that the school should remain part of the local community. In response to this, we chose our city centre location, from which we organise many trips to local sites of cultural, historic and scientific interest.

SCHOOL FACILITIES AND LOCATION

Conveniently located close to the centre of historic Bordeaux, the school is purpose-built around a secure, enclosed and partially covered courtyard, which provides a space for pupils across the school to socialise with each other.

The Primary and Secondary areas of the school are housed in individual self-contained buildings, adjacent to the school hall. The hall is used regularly for clubs, music lessons and drama lessons, as well as our school shows which take place twice a year.

Our facilities include a science laboratory, private study areas, and an expanding library for all ages with materials in French and English. Students also have access to a nearby olympic-size swimming pool, gymnasium and sports fields.

The school's central location makes it easily accessible: an important consideration given the school's international make-up. There are excellent train, bus and tram links, as well as the international airport less than 15 kilometres away.

TEACHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Our teachers are fully qualified in specialist subject areas and have many years of experience teaching in their own country. They are attracted to working at the school by its excellent reputation, and share the same enthusiasm, energy and passion for this unique school.

Our multinational staff include French, English and Spanish native speakers. All teachers teach in their mother tongue and are fluent in a second language.

CLASS SIZE, TEACHING METHOD AND FLEXIBILITY

A unique feature of the school is that classes are kept to a maximum of 12 pupils, with actual classes often being smaller. This ensures individual attention and scope for personal development in differentiated teaching groups. To encourage enquiring minds lessons are interactive. Frequently, there are discussions around a particular topic, with pupils learning to formulate their own opinions while the teacher maintains focus on the subject.

Timetables are organised so that pupils sometimes pursue activities in ability groups rather than strictly by age groups. Children learn at different speeds and have different aptitudes. By occasionally mixing age groups, pupils can interact with others of similar ability, even though they might be years apart. This develops self-confidence, self-discipline, autonomy and social skills.