

Ibn Khuldoon National School

Isa Town, Bahrain



In Isa Town, one of Bahrain's few IB Continuum schools runs its Diploma Programme alongside a parallel American track, bilingual since 1983.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	53/100
Academic outcomes	59/100
University placement	57/100
Prestige & heritage	59/100
Alumni network	19/100
Facilities	61/100
Transparency	47/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Ibn Khuldoon National School occupies a specific niche in Bahrain: a bilingual, non-profit private day school in Isa Town that has run since ****1983**** and carries both an American curriculum and IB World School status. The distinguishing point is not branding but structure. Few schools in Bahrain offer a full K-12 bilingual pathway in English and Arabic while also giving families a parallel choice between an American route and the IB Diploma Programme. That combination puts IKNS on a serious shortlist for parents who want academic flexibility without giving up Arabic or local cultural fluency. It is a school for families who value ***institutional seriousness***, ***academic range*** and ***bilingual command*** more than social gloss.

The school's strongest market advantage is that dual-track sixth form proposition. For the right student, that matters. A pupil targeting North American university admissions can stay on the American path; a pupil who wants the breadth and external discipline of the IB can take the Diploma Programme. That is a practical advantage, not a decorative one. The bilingual model also gives IKNS a sharper identity than many international schools that operate in English first and treat Arabic as an obligation. Here, bilingualism sits closer to the core. For Bahraini families in particular, that holds real weight. The trade-off is clear enough: parents seeking a fully expatriate international-school atmosphere or a British curriculum school will look elsewhere.

Who thrives here? Students who can handle a school with **clear academic expectations** and a more rooted national character than transient international campuses. It suits families who want continuity from age ***3-18***, and students who are capable of choosing between two credible senior-school pathways rather than being funnelled into one. It also suits parents who care about substance over spectacle: the recent destinations list includes Harvard, McGill and Imperial, which signals that top-end progression exists, even if the school does not publish the wider outcomes data that would let parents judge consistency across the cohort. That opacity matters. Ambitious families should ask directly about IB results, university counselling load, and the split between the American and IB tracks before enrolling.

Why shortlist it? Because IKNS offers something **hard to replicate** in Bahrain: a long-established, bilingual, non-profit school with American foundations, an IB option, and a local identity that does not dilute itself to chase the generic international market. For the student who wants **intellectual stretch**, linguistic fluency and a school anchored in Bahrain rather than floating above it, IKNS has a compelling case. For families chasing prestige packaging, it has less to offer. For families chasing a durable educational model with real choice at the top end, it has more.

STRENGTHS

- American curriculum with IB option.
- Bilingual English-Arabic instruction.
- Ages 3-18 on one campus.
- Non-profit, coeducational, non-religious school.

TRADE-OFFS

- Bilingual programme only for Bahraini students.
- Day school only; no boarding.
- American curriculum may not suit British-path families.

ADMISSIONS

Ibn Khuldoon National School is a private, coeducational, non-profit day school in Isa Town serving ages 3 to 18, so the natural admissions entry points are likely to be early years/kindergarten, primary, middle and secondary, subject to places. The school states that it follows an American curriculum with an IB option, and that it is bilingual, with English and Arabic as languages of instruction. It also specifies that its bilingual programme is offered only to Bahraini students from Kindergarten to Grade Twelve.

The school does not publish, in the material provided here, the practical detail most parents usually want: specific application deadlines, the structure of entrance assessments, interview requirements, or whether financial aid or bursaries are available. Nor is any distinctive selection process described beyond the bilingual Bahraini track. That means families should assume a standard private-school admissions process, but verify directly with the school how places are allocated, whether assessment is age-dependent, and whether applications are handled on a rolling basis or against fixed deadlines.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_3ecf4c4aa5.