

Aloha College

Marbella, Spain



Founded in 1982 by six teachers as a parent-run, not-for-profit trust, among the first in Spain to teach the IB Diploma.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	66/100
University placement	64/100
Prestige & heritage	66/100
Alumni network	65/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	56/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Aloha College has a structure that still matters: it was founded in 1982 by six teachers and it remains a parent-run, not-for-profit foundation, with surplus reinvested into the school rather than extracted for owners. In an international market crowded with corporate operators, that gives it a **distinctly different proposition**. The school teaches children aged 3 to 18, delivers a British education and was among the first in Spain to introduce the IB Diploma in English. That combination matters for parents who want a British route without closing off the IB at sixth form. It is also a sizeable school, with over ***900 students*** and ***57 nationalities***, which puts it in the camp of established international schools rather than boutique outfits trading on intimacy.

What sets Aloha apart is not novelty but durability. It has been doing this for a long time, and the offer is clear: British international schooling, serious academic intent, strong pastoral infrastructure and a broad enough co-curricular programme to keep the school from becoming a results factory. The school makes heavy claims for academic outcomes in IGCSE, A-Level and IB Diploma, but it does not publish aggregate results figures in the information here, so parents will need to ask for hard numbers rather than settle for adjectives. Even so, the route to university reads credibly, with recent destinations including Oxford, Manchester and Edinburgh. ISI accreditation adds a layer of external scrutiny, and the scale of the campus provision — science laboratories, art studios, sports fields and performance spaces — points to a school built for a full 3-18 operation, not an improvised villa-school model.

At an average annual day fee of **€15,000**, Aloha sits in an *interesting middle ground*: expensive by local standards, but not at the top of the international-school market for a school with this age range, governance model and scale. That makes it a strong shortlist school for families in Marbella who want an English-medium education with both local and international reach, and who value *substance over polish*. The right child for Aloha is not one who needs a tiny, highly curated environment. This is better for students who thrive in a *busy, internationally mixed* school, can make use of a broad activity programme, and want either the British route or the IB kept open deep into the senior years. For families who prize transparency, one caveat stands out: the school talks confidently about standards and care, but it needs to publish more hard outcome data to match that confidence.

STRENGTHS

- Not-for-profit school, established 1982
- British curriculum plus Spanish Bachillerato
- English and Spanish instruction
- 10:1 student-teacher ratio

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only, no boarding
- Annual day fees: 15,000 EUR
- Average class size: 18

ADMISSIONS

Aloha College is a day school in Marbella for pupils aged 3 to 18, so the obvious admissions entry points are likely to be the start of Primary, the beginning of Secondary, and sixth-form age, though the school does not publish a formal list in the material provided here. It offers British education alongside the Spanish Bachillerato, with teaching in English and Spanish. The available sources confirm only the broad structure — Primary School and Secondary School — rather than a detailed admissions route by year group.

The school does not publish, in the sources supplied, its assessment format, application deadlines, or any distinctive selection process such as interviews, reference requirements, or entrance tests. Likewise, no bursary or financial-aid scheme is mentioned in the material provided. Parents should therefore expect availability to depend on places in the relevant year group and should seek current admissions criteria directly from the school. What is clear is that this is a not-for-profit, non-religious school established in 1982, operating as a day school rather than boarding.

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_a4a2ff2891.