

The British International School of Jeddah

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



Born in a British Embassy room in 1977, this Jeddah 'Conti' became the first British-style school worldwide to earn ECIS accreditation.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	66/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	67/100
Alumni network	66/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	59/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The British International School of Jeddah has an origin story few schools can match: it began in a British Embassy room in 1977 and grew into Jeddah’s long-established “Conti”, a school with real local memory and a durable expatriate reputation. That history matters. In a market full of newer entrants, BISJ offers continuity, recognisable British-style schooling and a co-educational day-school model for ages 3 to 18. It also carries two concrete external markers that parents should take seriously: COBIS membership and BSO accreditation. Those badges do not guarantee brilliance, but they do place the school inside a framework of British international-school norms and scrutiny.

What makes BISJ shortlist material is less novelty than *institutional ballast*. This is not a flash new campus selling a concept; it is an established English-medium school that has served Jeddah families for decades. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **SAR 72,158**, which places it in the city’s premium international bracket without pushing into the ultra-luxury end of the market. For parents who want a British curriculum in a non-religious setting, that mix of age range, heritage and accreditation gives BISJ a *serious market position*. It is also a school with at least some verified alumni footprint beyond Saudi Arabia, with **3** notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata. That is not a league table metric, but it does indicate reach.

The caveat is straightforward: the school does not publish, in the information we have seen, the hard outcome data that would sharpen a verdict further. No public aggregate exam results are here; no destination pattern is published here; no class-size or pupil-teacher-ratio data is in view. That leaves BISJ stronger on profile than on disclosed performance metrics. Parents who prize *hard academic evidence* will want those figures before signing. Parents who care first about stability, British educational culture and a school with deep roots in Jeddah will keep it firmly on the list.

The pupil who fits BISJ is the one who wants a *settled, full-range* British-style education rather than a niche specialist environment or an aggressively branded newcomer. It suits expatriate and internationally minded local families who value English as the language of instruction, a co-educational peer group and a school community old enough to have traditions rather than slogans. It is less attractive for families who need published data at every turn or who want a cheaper mid-market option. BISJ’s appeal rests on longevity, structure and trust built over **1977** to the present, not on marketing noise.

STRENGTHS

- Founded 1978; long-established in Jeddah.
- British curriculum throughout ages 3–18.
- English-medium teaching suits internationally mobile families.
- COBIS and BSO accreditation provide external oversight.

TRADE - OFFS

- Day school only; no boarding option.
- British curriculum may limit non-British pathway choice.
- English-only instruction may not suit all families.

ADMISSIONS

British International School Jeddah is a day school for ages 3 to 18, so the obvious entry points are likely to be the early years, primary, secondary and sixth form transitions within its British curriculum. Beyond that, the school context provided does not set out published intake windows by year group, nor does it specify whether places are mainly offered at the start of the academic year or as vacancies arise. Families should therefore assume entry is capacity-dependent rather than guaranteed at any stage.

The school does not publicly publish, in the material supplied here, the detail of its admissions assessment format, interview process or annual deadlines. Nor is there evidence in the source material provided of bursaries, scholarships or means-tested financial aid, so parents should not assume these are available. In practical terms, applicants should expect a standard independent-school admissions sequence of enquiry, application and age-appropriate assessment in English, but the precise selection process appears to be handled directly by the school rather than explained in full publicly.

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_abb17a8a03.