

**BRITISH
SCHOOL**



WELCOME PACK

Foundation Stage & Primary

British School Alzira / Xàtiva / Gandia

Welcome

Welcome to British School Alzira, Xàtiva and Gandia. This document provides an overview of our schools together with some information about living and working in Spain.

British School Alzira is a two form entry school taking children from pre-nursery to Year 13. The school is housed in an attractive 1950's building. The school is set in magnificent grounds, approached through orange groves, with a breathtaking backdrop of mountains. There are well equipped play areas and several landscaped garden areas.



British School Alzira

British School Xàtiva is a one form entry school opened in September 2009. British School Xàtiva is a one form entry school from PN-Y13. The school is a modern, purpose built campus on the outskirts of the historic town of Xàtiva. Set below the castle of Xàtiva the school is designed to the very latest standards.



British School Xàtiva

British School Gandia opened in September 2015 and now provides education from Pre-Nursery through to Year 8. The school building and installations are all new and provide a bright and modern learning environment.



British School Gandia

Together we are a learning community providing a seamless curriculum from foundation stage to Year 13. Our schools value and nurture independence, interdependence and the human spirit.

We encourage and support creative teaching and excellent communication.

Each of our schools has excellent facilities including: indoor sports facilities, swimming pools, tennis courts, basketball courts, football pitches, climbing walls, science laboratories, ICT suites and well equipped libraries.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In Early Years we believe in offering our children the best start in their school life. We have installed new Early Years Foundation Stage units, totally unique in design and equipped with the very highest quality resources to enrich learning experiences based on neuroscience research in Education. We have a partnership established with the Early Excellence Centre which has guided us in the design of this innovative project and in the latest pedagogy in the English curriculum for Early Years.



EYFS pupils exploring our sensory area



Our Early Years staff are an experienced and committed team of professionals that care about each other, every child and their families with a common desire of giving the best of ourselves .



Students from Nursery in our outdoor learning area



Nursery pupils working collaboratively

British School Alzira / Xàtiva / Gandia

Academic standards - Primary

Educational standards in our schools are excellent. Through the foundation stage and Key Stage 1 an emphasis on synthetic phonics provides pupils with the early reading skills they need. Supported by our levelled reading books, predominantly Oxford Reading Tree, pupils leave Key Stage 1 as confident readers achieving in line with United Kingdom age related expectations.

Throughout Key Stage 2 we maintain a focus on core skills. Pupils study the full British National Curriculum alongside studies in Spanish, Valencian and Social Sciences. Class teachers are responsible for planning and delivering the full British National Curriculum. Spanish, Valencian and Social Sciences are delivered by our Spanish department staff.



Students from Year 2 reading in the library



Students from Nursery in role playing area



Reception pupils working in class

British School Alzira, Xativa and Gandia enter pupils for standardised tests at the end of Key Stage 2. Our objective is always to support children in fulfilling their own potential and a solid start in primary ensures our pupils are well prepared for beginning their secondary education



Year 6 students preparing for standardised tests

British School Alzira / Xàtiva / Gandia

The school day

Teaching staff work from 9.15am to 5.15pm with one hour free at lunchtime. Teaching assistants share a similar working day but begin at 9am. All members of staff carry out playground duties on a rota basis.

Our students arrive at school from 9.15am with most pupils arriving on the school bus services between 9.15 and 9.30am. The school day for pupils finishes at 5pm.

Teaching staff are provided with a generous allocation of preparation and marking time throughout the week. This varies dependent on the age of pupils taught and the teacher's responsibilities. Primary teaching staff receive five hours of preparation time each week.



Students from Reception working in class



Extra-curricular activities take place during the lunchtime and are led by a team of professional staff from outside the school.

Activities provided include ballet, funky dance, Chinese, German, chess, skating, tennis, and Cooking.



Alongside these activities teachers from our primary team provide a complementary activity program that enriches the curriculum.

Primary students playing tennis and learning chess



Mediterranean diet prepared daily in the school

All food is prepared in school. We have an excellent dining service with some of our dishes designed by Michelin starred chefs. Food quality is excellent and all teachers eat for free each day.



In addition we provide fruit and sandwiches as a breakfast for teachers each morning.

British School Alzira / Xàtiva / Gandia



Our most valuable asset – our staff

We realize our most valuable asset is our staff and we work hard to employ and retain the very best teachers and support staff available.

A dedicated staff member is available specifically to assist teachers with any aspects of relocation and settling in Spain.



EYFS Playground



Primary Playground

Contract

All teaching staff in our schools are offered a full time permanent contract from their first day of work. Teachers are salaried over twelve months including holiday pay throughout all school holidays including August. Our salary is regularly reviewed and we are proud to offer a salary above the local salary for teachers.

Personal and professional development

Our schools are members of NABSS (National Association of British Schools in Spain) and as a result we have access to workshops and INSET events offered by this organisation. We have in the past year sponsored our teachers to attend training events throughout Spain and the United Kingdom. We also have an online training platform available to all staff, offering free courses with certificates from a reputable UK training provider.

On a personal level we offer free Spanish lessons to all members of staff interested in learning or improving.

Social security

On beginning work with us we immediately register you with the Spanish social security system where you will be covered for health, unemployment and state pensions. The school supports staff in completing the necessary paperwork and ensuring that your transition into the Spanish social security system is quick and trouble free.

Health

A private health scheme is provided by the school. This covers any injuries incurred whilst at work or travelling to and from work.

Staff Benefits Scheme

As large employers in the area we are pleased to offer a considerable package of staff benefits. By providing the highest levels of benefit within school and negotiating collective agreements with other businesses we demonstrate our commitment to the staff that work with us.

Within school staff are entitled to a tuition free education for their own children from Reception age through to Year 13. In addition to this we offer all items from the school uniform store at a discount of 20%. We also sponsor the Spanish textbooks for children of our staff meaning all textbooks from the Spanish publisher are provided free of charge.

In addition to salary, all teachers are entitled to an annual flight allowance.

Financial Services



Financial benefits

We have financial benefits in place for all of our employees with some of the most reputable financial institutions. Our staff collective has agreements with Barclays Bank, BBVA and Catalunya Caixa. These companies offer a package of benefits exclusive to our staff including cash back on purchases, guaranteed overdraft arrangements and preferential rates on mortgages, account transfers and credit cards or loans.

Health benefits

In addition to the private health insurance covering the working day our staff collective has preferential rates with a number of local and national health providers. Adeslas, Avisa, BBVA and MAPRE all offer our collective preferential monthly rates on full private health cover.

We have an arrangement with a local dentistry practice offering a 15% discount on all dentistry.

We also have an agreement with a local optician that provides significant discounts to our members of staff together with additional benefits such as free insurance on spectacles.



British School Alzira / Xàtiva / Gandia

Accommodation

Accommodation within travelling distance of our schools is plentiful and of a reasonable price. Sharing the valley with British School Alzira are a number of attractive urbanizations with mountain views. Chalet style housing, usually with a private swimming pool and terrace or garden starts from around 550€ per month. Alternatively the towns of Alzira, Xativa and Gandia provide three bedroom modern apartments from slightly less, starting at approximately 450€ per month



*The orange groves of La Barraca D'Aigües Vives
with British School Alzira in the background*

Many of our teachers choose to live in Valencia which is about 40km to the north. Alzira, Xativa and Gandia are served by a rail service from Valencia. Apartments in Valencia usually cost between 500 and 700€ per month. Teachers living in Valencia often opt to share accommodation.

Equivalent houses and apartments in the town of Xativa tend to be slightly cheaper than those found in Alzira and Gandia with prices starting around 350€ for well apportioned apartments. Chalet style housing can be found in the countryside surrounding Xativa. Again, the price is slightly below that found in Alzira and chalets with private swimming pools in Xativa are available from around 500€.



Gandia offers modern town houses and apartments from around 500€ per month. Often this will have shared facilities such as gymnasium or swimming pool.

British School Xativa and Gandia are easily accessed by train from Valencia.

British School Alzira, located out of town in a valley, is not accessible by either bus or train. For this reason the school provides free transfers between the train station and school for all those teachers relying on the train for their commute to school.

Our children and their parents

Around 80% of our students are Spanish with the remaining 20% coming from a variety of other countries.

Our pupils and their parents place a high value on the British education we offer, which is delivered by our team of highly professional and dedicated staff. Our pupils are motivated, respectful and a pleasure to teach. Both behaviour in school and academic achievement are of an exceptionally high standard. Parents who choose our schools for their children are supportive of the school and the teachers. They take an active interest in the education their children receive



Pupils from Nursery learning phonics

Our schools are British schools and the parents expect their children to achieve a native fluency in English together with high grades in both English and Spanish qualifications. As an education, parents know that this provides a greater variety of options for their children when they reach school leaving age. Many parents have multi-national businesses in the area and want their children to be well equipped to take a leading role in the family business. Whatever their background the common factor in selecting British School Alzira, Xàtiva or Gandia is the standard of education and the reputation built up over the years. Our schools feature in the list of the one hundred best schools in Spain and consistently we achieve the highest grades in the whole of the Valencian Community when pupils reach 18 years old.



Pupils from Reception painting with hands

British School Alzira / Xàtiva / Gandia

Salary

Our schools operate an internal pay structure as shown below:

Completed years of service	Annual pay
In first year service	Base pay - 24,850€
1 academic year complete	24,850€ + 600€ = 25,450€
2 academic years complete	24,850€ + 900€ = 25,850€
3 academic years complete	24,850€ + 1200€ = 26,050€
5 academic years complete	24,850€ + 1500€ = 26,350€

Saturday school

Saturday school runs 10am-1pm from October through to May, offering English tuition to children in our local community who would not otherwise attend the school. Teachers have the choice to work this if they wish and those who do are compensated with an additional 275€ per month on top of their basic salary.

Additional classes

Where support classes are needed these are always offered first to our own teachers. These classes are usually from 5pm-6pm on a weekday and an additional payment is made to teachers who take these classes.

Our academic year

Our school academic year starts on the first working day of September and ends around the third week of June. We have holidays for Christmas, Fallas (a regional fiesta in March) and Easter. In addition we take national and regional holidays as they occur in the calendar. The school operates a four week summer school after the end of the school term. Teachers are contracted to work for 50% of this summer school.

Your future career

We always look to recognise and reward excellence within our staff team. All positions of responsibility are first offered as internal promotions. We are always happy to discuss your career aspirations with the intention of rewarding our best teachers with management responsibilities within our schools.

Our salary structure allows for a separate coordinator pay spine providing considerable opportunities for teachers that wish to develop their careers within our family of schools.

A move to work with us at British School Alzira/Xàtiva/Gandia is a positive move in terms of well being and your professional career. If you want the opportunity to excel whilst working in a beautiful educational environment then we would love to work with you.

British School Alzira / Xàtiva / Gandia

New teacher induction

We are aware that moving to Spain, if a new experience, can be a considerable commitment. We recognise this and we pride ourselves on providing a high level of both professional and pastoral care.

Routinely we support teachers with opening bank accounts, registering with a doctor and obtaining any paperwork necessary. We also support teachers finding accommodation and the school owners maintain links with a number of local estate agency companies to ensure we secure the very best accommodation at the best possible prices.

Professionally our primary management team supports teachers in adapting to their new role within the school. We have staff dedicated to supporting our teachers and are able to offer assistance with any aspect of professional or personal life. On starting at our schools you will be appointed a mentor. Your mentor will be a person not connected with your own area of school who is able to offer a friendly ear to any issues that may be causing you concern. Our aim is always that our teachers enjoy their work and find a healthy work-life balance in their time working with us



Our three schools each have their own swimming pools