



BRIGHTON COLLEGE
MADRID

Information for Parents 2027-28 Early Years Foundation Stage



Introduction from the Head Master

A warm welcome to our Early Years provision at Brighton College Madrid.

Children in the Nursery and Reception are introduced to an inspiring, creative and fun curriculum, enhanced by a wide variety of exciting learning opportunities which provide the firmest of foundations for future growth and development. Our caring, specialist Early Years teachers deliver this Early Years curriculum that will capture your child's imagination, while laying a solid foundation in English and Mathematics and allowing them confidently to embark on their own journey of discovery and adventure during their time with us.

Small groups allow us to really get to know your child, ensuring they receive the highest level of individual attention to encourage their learning and growth. The Early Years classrooms are purpose-built, bright and spacious, with access to an eco-friendly outdoor learning area, providing a free-flow learning space for your child to explore and discover. An integral part of our Prep School, our Early Years provides the perfect start before moving to Year 1.

This booklet aims to inform you about our unique curriculum by outlining some of the knowledge, skills and experience which your child will develop in Early Years, all based around our core values of curiosity, confidence and kindness.

If you have any questions, I shall be delighted to assist you; do not hesitate to get in touch. I am looking forward to getting to know your sons and daughters.

Mr George Hartley
Head Master



Welcome to the Brighton College Madrid Early Years Foundation Stage

This booklet has been written to introduce you to our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Brighton College Madrid. We hope it will answer many of your questions regarding your child's time in Nursery and Reception and help establish a close relationship between home and school.

Our dedicated early years teaching staff are devoted to delivering exceptional education and care for your child. They collaborate closely as a team, aiming to create stimulating opportunities and challenges for every pupil. Should you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to raise them promptly so that one of our staff members can address them effectively.

The EYFS covers our Nursery and Reception year groups. Our distinctive curriculum is presented in a rich and effective environment that enables each child to realise their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical potential and to develop his or her aesthetic awareness. It extends a child's range of learning experiences beyond that which can be easily provided within the family.

Our EYFS curriculum provides the first essential step on the unique Brighton College Madrid ladder of learning that has guided generations of pupils in the UK and around the world to fulfillment and success. Starting with the strong foundations established in EYFS, the exciting learning journey continues through the Prep and Middle Schools, where our core values of curiosity, confidence and kindness are firmly embedded. Finally, pupils will enjoy examination success at IGCSE and in their Sixth Form studies that will allow admission to the top-ranked universities of the world and happy and successful lives thereafter.

Our Nursery and Reception classes each have a class teacher and a teaching assistant. All our class teachers are native English speakers and are highly-skilled in supporting language development.

In keeping with our whole school aims, during your child's time in the EYFS, we will:

- provide a safe, secure and caring environment
- embed a culture of kindness and respect where children learn to think of and help others, becoming positive members of their school community
- stimulate pupils' curiosity, encouraging them to ask questions, explore, find ways to solve problems and enjoy achieving their goals
- build self-confidence in a variety of social and learning situations
- promote the cultivation of attention, concentration and memory alongside critical thinking and self-reflection
- provide a strong foundation in English and Spanish literacy and in numeracy through the rigorous teaching of mathematics
- develop cultural awareness and an inclusive environment, by celebrating a range of Spanish, British and international events

Educational Philosophy

The four principles of the EYFS guide the work of our early years' practitioners and form the foundation upon which our provision is based:

- A Unique Child – every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Positive Relationships – children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents
- Enabling Environments – the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning
- Learning and Development – children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected

Additionally, we nurture the characteristics of effective learning in our setting: playing and exploring (engagement), active learning (motivation), and creating and thinking critically. We believe these underpin successful learning and development in the Early Years, providing a firm foundation for progression to Key Stage 1 in the Prep School.

Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is taught in ways that build on a child's curiosity and interests, enabling them to learn through self-initiated play activities. It provides opportunities for them to explore, be imaginative, plan and reflect on experiences. Learning is based on a continuum of development from birth to the end of the Foundation Stage. It helps us as educators to plan the care and learning that is right for each child at each stage of their development.

There are three prime areas and four specific areas of learning that comprise the curriculum's framework; every aspect of the curriculum is interrelated.

These three prime areas are:

- personal, social and emotional development,
- physical development
- communication and language

The four specific areas are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

Within our provision these seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum are delivered interdependently. They are taught in ways that build on a child's curiosity and individual interests, enabling them to learn through self-initiated play activities alongside guided instruction and teaching. This means that children take part in both structured and more continuous activities covering all aspects of the curriculum, with particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy, every day and that we support them to work and play individually, in small groups and as a whole class. The daily routine provides opportunities for them to explore, be imaginative, plan and reflect on experiences in both a classroom setting and a stimulating outdoor learning environment.

Nursery

In Nursery, the educational focus is on structured play alongside the essential first steps in reading, writing and numeracy as well as laying the basic foundations for other areas of learning. In this way, Nursery plays a vital part in preparing your child for the schooling to come.

In Nursery, children are offered the opportunity to nap, according to their age. During Term 3 of Nursery, naptime is eased out of the school day in order to prepare pupils for the full school day in Reception.

Reception

In Reception, the educational focus provides a varied and stimulating balance between learning through play and increasingly structured activities covering the seven areas of learning and development.

Outdoor Learning

All classes have access to an exciting and spacious outdoor learning environment at Brighton College Madrid. Here, teaching and learning enables gross motor development, construction and the freedom to explore, use their senses and be physically engaged.

Specialist Subjects

Weekly specialist subjects are enjoyed by

children across all year groups in Early Years. This includes lessons from specialist teachers in music, drama, Spanish and physical education.



Co-curricular Activities

All children are offered the option of participating in a range of activities which take place at the end of the school day. Clubs and activities are led by teachers and some external experts. We strongly encourage involvement in these activities which are great fun and develop pupils' curiosity, confidence and collaborative skills.

Daily Routines

The school day starts at 8:30 am. Drop off time is from 8:15 am, which allows our staff to meet and greet all children and parents individually. Pick-up after the co-curricular activities begins at 4:30 pm.

To provide more options for our families, we offer extended hours for Nursery and Reception, including a breakfast club from 8:00am and an afterschool club until 6:00 pm. Our approach is always flexible, and we endeavour to adapt the school hours to meet the needs of our community.

Assessment for learning

Throughout the EYFS, we continually assess the children through both structured and independent activities. This informs our teaching and enables us to cater for each child's needs and plan the next steps in their learning and development. Observations are made throughout the year and are reported in the termly Parent Teacher Meetings and reports.

At the end of the Reception year, staff complete the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile for each child. Each child's level of development is assessed against the Early Learning Goals across all seven areas of learning. This is collated through continuous assessment and assessments which take place at specific points during the academic year. It is supported by evidence from ongoing, focused observations completed by the class teachers

Tapestry



Tapestry is the secure online Learning Journal that we use to record photos, observations and comments for your child, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This allows us to build up a record of each individual child's experiences during their time with us.

Each child has an electronic learning journal which offers us a way to record your child's special moments and to keep parents involved in a partnership as their children grow.

Your child's journal can be accessed online and we would actively encourage you to view and comment on these special moments, as well as contributing your own comments and photos about your child's life outside of school. An automatically generated email informs parents when an observation has been added.

In this way we track each individual child's progress, being responsive to their needs and interests, communicating with parents so that they can support them at home and together ensuring all children develop the confidence to succeed.



Details of how to access the journal will be shared during the 'Meet your Teacher' evening at the start of the academic year.

What should I put in my child's learning journal?

- You can reply to observations staff have made
- You can let us know if they have enjoyed a particular activity and are talking about it at home
- You can put in photos of things they have made at home or activities they have enjoyed
- You can write a quick comment about something they have said or noticed

The children love to share special home moments with their friends in school and it is a lovely way to encourage and develop their social interaction and listening skills.

Tapestry continues throughout Reception and at the end of their time in the Early Years a PDF of their Learning Journal is generated, so that a copy can be kept by you forever.

Useful Information

Uniform

Pupils wear the Brighton College uniform when in school; the EYFS garments have been selected to ensure comfort for the children and to promote their independence. Wearing the Brighton College uniform aims to instill a sense of belonging. We expect pupils to be dressed smartly and to take pride in their appearance. Full details of items required, by year group, are made available to parents prior to their child joining the school.

Snacks and Drinks

Snacks and drinks are provided by the school. Several children have serious and potentially fatal reactions to various ingredients, so we ask you to comply strictly with our guidelines about the bringing of any food and drinks to school. Your child will be able to bring a cake for their birthday, and small, healthy snacks for special activity days as per guidance provided at the time.

Lunch

Lunch is served at 11.20am. The children are served a nutritiously balanced main and dessert course and are supervised by staff. The menu is available for parents to view weekly on the school website. We encourage the children to try each item on the menu, use their cutlery and to show polite table manners. Please keep us informed of any dietary needs or food allergies by completing the forms provided and speaking to your child's teacher.

Illness at School

We have a full-time nurse and all of our EYFS staff are well-equipped to look after your child should they feel unwell. If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be informed so that they can be collected. Minor accidents may occur at school, and these will be dealt with by our nurse. These will be recorded and you will be notified when you collect your child. In the event of a more serious accident, we will contact you immediately.

Illness at Home

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell or have a temperature. Absences need to be reported on the Absence form on the morning of absence by phone or email.

Toileting

We would generally expect that by Nursery age the children no longer require nappies, and that they are mostly able to support themselves in toileting. We will work with children and families in cases where children have not quite yet reached this stage.

We ask the children to wash their hands with soap and dry their hands after visiting the toilet, as well as at frequent intervals throughout the school day.

Occasional accidents will be dealt with kindly and diplomatically. However, frequent soiling is a cause for concern which would be discussed with parents. Parents may be contacted in case of a very bad soiling accident where a child may need to go home for a shower or bath and a complete change of clothes.



Home - School Communication

As parents, your support and co-operation play a vital part in your child's education. Effective communication between teachers and parents mean that your child can be given the best support and teaching based on a fuller understanding of their needs. If there is any matter likely to affect your child, such as moving house, a parent away from home, or a bereavement, please let us know.

Please feel free to ask questions or discuss worries or concerns with staff in person or via email. If you have detailed questions or wish to discuss matters of a confidential nature, please ask for an appointment with your child's teacher. Similarly, if we feel your child is experiencing any difficulties at school, we will ask to meet you to discuss the best course of action.

During the school day, a message can be left with the Office team. The message will then be passed across to the relevant member of staff.

Behaviour

Within the EYFS, and through the embedding of the values of curiosity, confidence and kindness, we help all children to develop an understanding of each other's needs and demonstrate socially appropriate behaviour. We consistently celebrate good conduct. Teachers take the opportunity to talk with parents during pick-up times where the events of the day may be discussed, which helps to build the strong partnership of open communication between home and school.

We wish you and your child a healthy, happy and successful year, as you set out together on this exciting journey together with us. As this booklet is designed to help you, please let us know if we have omitted any information that you would have found useful.



For more information
please contact:

Phone: +34 917 181 015

Email: admissions@brightoncollegemadrid.com



BRIGHTON COLLEGE
MADRID