



THE BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Love of Learning Through Language



WELCOME TO THE BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Simon King, Headteacher, says:

Pioneering!

We are a pioneering state-funded primary school in the heart of Brighton and Hove where children learn through English and Spanish every day. Our unique admissions arrangements enable children from across the city to join our school, regardless of how close they live.

30 languages

We have children from English speaking homes, Spanish speaking homes and homes where other languages are spoken - over 30 languages are currently spoken by families in our community!

All welcome

All children are welcome here to learn across our broad, balanced curriculum which covers the content of the national curriculum with some content taught through each language. Children thrive in our innovative programme, developing global citizenship, enquiring minds and language skills.

Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative, and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school, and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling, purposeful lives. Learning should be fun!

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

Dedicated staff

I am also very proud of our highly-experienced, dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential, and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parents and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here to increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Contact us

We hope you can find the information you are looking for on this prospectus but if you have any further queries, please contact us at info@bilingualprimaryschool.org.uk.

Simon King, with pupils



Ali and Kelsey value the nurturing, language-rich environment at The Bilingual Primary School for their children

Ali and Kelsey live in Hove with their children, Mae, aged 10, and Orla, aged 12. Mae is currently in Year 5, while Orla has moved on to Year 7 at secondary school.

Settling into school life

Ali says both Mae and Orla settled into life at The Bilingual School well, thanks to the school's smooth transition process: "Both girls settled into school very well and have really enjoyed their time there. Knowing which teachers they are allocated and which classroom they will be moving to ahead of the new academic year has been helpful in managing change at the end and beginning of the school year. They have actively participated in all class activities, including class trips, sports events and running for various class rep roles and enjoyed being part of the wider school community."

Emphasising real-world skills

While the school is conveniently close to the family, Kelsey says that it was important to them that the children learned another language: "We were attracted to the school due to its proximity to where we live but also by the language provision. We wanted the girls to benefit from learning a second language from an early age and see this as a real-world skill that will have lasting benefits for their confidence and opportunities later in life. We are not a dual language family, so all the Spanish they have learned has been through school."

Ali notes: "The benefits for Orla moving to a secondary school and continuing Spanish have also been positive and provided confidence in a new, much bigger environment to participate actively in classroom teaching."

Diverse subjects and activities

Mae and Orla have taken advantage of the numerous activities and learning opportunities available at school. Kelsey shares: "Both girls enjoy sports and PE lessons. They also like the themed topics, which often involve working in small groups

and with their learning partners. They've also made lots of friends at school."

Mae particularly enjoys playing football, while Orla loved her Year 6 residential trip: "The girls' school football team matches have been a highlight for Mae this year. Orla really enjoyed the Year 6 residential."

Supportive and engaged teachers

Kelsey praises the teachers at The Bilingual Primary School for their excellent support and engagement with the children: "The teachers have been brilliant across all the years. They are engaged and interested in the children and, in our experience, know them well and are able to support and challenge them when needed."

She also appreciates the accessibility of the school staff: "The form teachers and senior teaching leads are visible at the beginning and end of the day to parents and children and accessible to speak to if needed."

Ali values the school's focus on the wellbeing of the children: "The approach to formal testing and the absence of homework out of school time reduces the pressure and has had no negative impact on their learning in our experience."

Children say

Orla says: "Learning Spanish at primary school has helped me a lot at secondary school and I loved being so close to the park for PE lessons."

Mae says: "I like how we do lots of different sports in PE."

SCHOOL DAY: SETTLING IN

Our school hours

Drop-off is from 8.55am and the school day ends between 3.20pm and 3.30pm depending on the year group.

Wraparound

Breakfast club

Breakfast Club provides a safe, calm environment at the start of the school day. We provide a balanced, nutritious breakfast, which children choose and help to make under adult supervision. The children can play in the indoor and outdoor areas before being taken to their classes.

After-school provision

Lingo-club runs the school's main 'after-school provision' every day of the academic year, with capacity for over 100 children attending each day until 6.00pm. This provision is bilingual and offers additional activities such as skateboarding, football and guitar lessons.

We also host Club Amigos, a more immersive bilingual after school club, as well as working alongside partners who offer regular dance, sports and outdoor nature based activities.

Lingo-Club also run holiday clubs every school holiday.

Uniform

We believe that a uniform instils a sense of identity and community belonging but should also be comfortable and practical for active learning in school. Our PTA operates a second-hand uniform sale with good quality donated items. The school colours are sapphire blue and gold.

Food in school

Innovate Services is the catering service we use for school meals. The in-school chef creates healthy meals every day, ensuring there is a range of different options for families to choose from. Parents can pre-order their children's lunch choices in advance on Innovate's easy to access on-line system.

Free school meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals under the Government's Universal Free School Meal programme. Oldts.



Hurbaani thrives in the supportive and diverse community of The Bilingual Primary School

Hurbaani, who is eight years old, lives in Brighton with her parents.

A welcoming environment

Hurbaani's family appreciate the welcoming environment among the parents and children at The Bilingual Primary School: "The other parents are lovely and easy to get on with, so are the children." One reason her mother Amrit chose the school was because of its diverse community: "We're of Indian background, and there aren't that many people of colour in Brighton. One of the reasons why we chose this school was because there are many different nationalities and backgrounds, so Hurbaani doesn't feel like she's different."

Tailored support

Hurbaani had some difficulties managing her health when she first joined the school. However, with help from the school's SENCo team, her experience was transformed. Amrit shares: "On the few occasions Hurbaani has needed support, the teachers have acted immediately. The SENCo team made a robust plan which was very helpful. They also asked her to write her own story using pictures, and we saw a positive turn after that."

Recognising strengths

Amrit appreciates the teachers' efforts in nurturing Hurbaani's strengths: "I feel her teachers recognise her strengths and encourage her to build on these. The opportunity to perform in assemblies in front of parents has improved her confidence."

Amrit is also impressed by what Hurbaani is learning and the enthusiasm she brings home: "I'm impressed with the knowledge she's gained over the years. They're clearly fed a lot of information - she can often do things I don't expect. She comes home inspired by what she's learned, especially when there are guest speakers at assemblies."

Brilliant teaching assistants

During Year 2, Hurbaani began spending time alone during breaks. The teaching assistants noticed and took action. Amrit says: "I've been super impressed with all the teaching assistants I've met at the school. There was a period in Year 2 when Hurbaani was not playing with anyone during the breaks. The teaching assistant observed her for a while, let the class teacher know who informed us, and let us know they've been supporting her with this. The pastoral care at the school has been exemplary."

Putting learning into practice

Already bilingual in Punjabi and English, Hurbaani has further embraced language learning, which she's even beginning to apply outside of school: "We were trying to decipher the menu in a café in Paris last summer. By finding similarities in the languages, Hurbaani used the Spanish she's learned to translate items we didn't recognise which was most helpful. They don't even realise they're learning the language, which I think is the best form of learning," explains Amrit.

An emphasis on wellbeing

Amrit is particularly pleased with the school's focus on student wellbeing, which has greatly benefited Hurbaani: "I like that wellbeing is considered important at the school. Hurbaani has been able to have quiet time in class when she's been under the weather. She's recently felt sensitive to noise following an ear infection, so she's been able to have playtime indoors with a friend."

Amrit also feels the school has helped develop her daughter's emotional intelligence: "My daughter has good emotional intelligence, and I think a lot of that has been helped by the language and understanding they've given her at school."

Children say

Hurbaani says: "It's cool being able to learn different languages because they can be handy when we go to different countries."

CURRICULUM: TWO LANGUAGES ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Key concepts and skills

At The Bilingual Primary School, we are committed to ensuring our curriculum covers the breadth and depth of learning across all curriculum areas in the National Curriculum, while maintaining a 50/50 balance between learning in English and Spanish. Our curriculum is carefully mapped out to ensure progression in learning of key concepts and skills in each subject area as our pupils' progress through the school.

Spanish is a core subject

Where we depart from the national curriculum is in the learning of Spanish which we treat as a core subject. We have developed our own curriculum for the learning of Spanish taught through daily Spanish literacy lessons and supported by language development through the wider curriculum and other elements of school life.

Some subjects are taught exclusively in English, such as Mathematics and the English curriculum, others are taught predominately through Spanish, such as Music, Art, Design and Technology and PE, while others are taught mostly in Spanish, with selected topics taught through English to ensure a balance in language and deep understanding of the core content.

Embrace the challenge

We have developed the curriculum and teaching of subjects immersively through Spanish to ensure that understanding and the acquisition of skills is paramount, carefully focussing on the fundamentals in each subject area and reinforcing learning through a balance of visuals, clear modelling and hands-on learning.



Hester and Chip are enjoying school life in the vibrant and inclusive environment of The Bilingual Primary School

Helen lives in Brighton with her twin children, Hester and Chip, aged 9.

Opening doors to other cultures

Being bilingual herself, Helen has always been eager to give her children the same opportunity to speak multiple languages. "I speak French, and the concept of bilingualism is really important to me. I think the gift of a second language is so much more than being able to ask for a cup of tea in Spanish. It gives children the ability to understand there is more than one way to express something and immediately opens doors to other cultures and ways of thinking."

Despite the interruption to their early education due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chip and Hester quickly regained their momentum: "COVID punched a hole in their education, but their learning after that was so immersive. They would come home and switch between different languages. I struggled to understand, so I ended up taking Spanish lessons myself. I don't think they realise they're learning, and that's the best type."

Equipped for different needs

The school's modern and accessible facilities have been fundamental for Chip, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. Helen praises the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) team for their incredible support: "The SENCo has been phenomenal, and the whole school has a fantastic attitude towards inclusion. They've made adaptations, provided a space for Chip to have his physio and occupational therapy appointments at school, meaning I don't have to take him out for those and the EHCP Annual Review process is constructive and collaborative."

The school also offers excellent pastoral support to Hester, his sibling: "They arranged for a therapy dog to visit Hester, and I like the tailored approach they take for each child," explains Helen.

A positive attitude to learning

Helen's children love attending The Bilingual Primary School, and she believes the school excels in fostering a positive attitude towards learning: "The school has engendered a really positive attitude towards learning. My kids are curious. They question things, and that's refreshing. I don't feel like they're being crammed full of information. While some schools don't always play by their core values, this one does, and they create nice humans as a result."

A vibrant and dynamic school

This school frequently hosts a variety of visitors, such as celebrated authors, inspiring Paratheletes, and other notable figures, who engage with the students, offering them unique learning experiences and motivational talks. Helen shares: "The other day, I was dropping the kids off, and they said an Olympian was coming in to visit. They also recently had a female

astronaut who's been shortlisted for a mission to Mars. They get all these inspiring people in to come and talk, and I find it incredibly interesting."

An inclusive environment

The school's positive attitude to inclusion is exceptional, and, as a parent of a child with additional needs, Helen particularly values this: "I think their attitude to inclusion is excellent. I'm a massive fan of incidental inclusion, and I don't want to make a big song and dance about Chip being in a wheelchair. He does need extra assistance for some things, but otherwise they let him carry on with everyone else. There's no judgement, and you can be your whole self."

Helen also appreciates the school's approach to her children being twins, respecting her desire to keep them together while treating them as individuals: "We have focused meetings for each child, and I really value the fact they're treated as individuals."

Helen values the school's vibrant and inclusive community: "I think it's a lovely school community. We've made friends with families from all over the world and with all sorts of different family dynamics. I think it's a real joy and a privilege for the kids to be able to take this rich and diverse community for granted."

Children say

Chip says: "I've made good friends at school and enjoy talking with them in the quiet area at break."

Hester says: "I love learning about space and black holes plus an astronaut came into our school and she talked about astronaut training and what it would be like in space."

ENRICHMENT: KEY EVENTS, TRIPS AND VISITS

Extra-curricular provision and enrichment

We recognise the vital contribution played by the wider curriculum, public performance and involvement in city-wide events to the education and development of children. We have identified key events in which children at The Bilingual Primary School will be involved.

These include:

- The Brighton Festival Children's Parade
- One Voice singing event at the Brighton Centre
- Let's Dance in the Brighton Dome
- Performances to parents singing and speaking in both English and Spanish for every year group
- Participation in a range of local competitive inter sports events and leagues.

Educational visits and Visitors

In each year group a range of trips and in school experiences are arranged to enrich the curriculum. Examples over the last year:

- Brighton Beach School at Saltdean
- The Railway Land Wildlife Trust
- Brighton Pavilion and Museum
- Pulborough brooks
- Huxley's Birds of Prey
- Anne of Cleaves house, Lewes
- Take Shelter (WW2 Shelter)
- Mobile Planetarium experience

- Countless visits to Hove park and the local area in relation to science, PE, Art and Geography learning particularly

We incorporate use of local trains and buses on some trips for older pupils adding life skills as well as reducing our carbon footprint.

Additionally, we arrange visits to the school by a range of different authors, theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists and musicians. Last year this included award winning physicist Dame Jocelyn Bell-Burnell, authors Sophy Henn and Frank Cottrell-Boyce among many others.

Residential trips

Our year 6 pupils benefit from a week-long residential trip to Windmill Hill activity centre in East Sussex. It takes place at the start of their final year in the school as it plays a crucial part in their transition programme and an excellent moment to develop teamwork, resilience and problem-solving, while having a lot of fun!



The friendly atmosphere and exceptional support at The Bilingual Primary School have been transformative for Bruno, Xavier, and Sara

Monika lives in the Whitehawk area of Brighton with twins Sara and Xavier, aged 7, and Bruno, aged 11.

Making friends

After moving schools, Bruno was nervous about making new friends. Sara and Xavier were also a little apprehensive, but they're all now very happy at The Bilingual Primary School. Monika says: "They joined the school in Year 1 and Year 5, so they were all a bit nervous at first. Bruno, especially, as he left his friends in Worthing, but he has managed to make new friends whom he really likes. Sara and Xavier made friends from the very first day and have been happy and enthusiastic about going to school ever since. They enjoy school a lot."

Enriching language skills

Monika and her family are fluent in Polish. The school presents them with a brilliant opportunity to further enrich their language skills. Monika explains: "We chose this school because my partner's children attended it before my kids started, and they were very happy and only had good things to say about it. As we are Polish and the kids already speak, read, and write in Polish, we saw this as

a great opportunity to enrich their language skills even further." She adds: "The friendly atmosphere and the great community of kids and parents were also major factors in our decision. Additionally, being fluent in two languages will open up more opportunities for our children in the future."

Diverse events and activities

The school organises a wide range of events that the children thoroughly enjoy. Monika explains: "They love the cultural events, such as Dia de los Muertos, Fiesta, and the camps. They provide them with enjoyable moments and opportunities to learn about different cultures." The school also hosts an after-school club called The Outdoor Project, where the children "enjoy playing with their classmates."

Supportive teachers

Bruno and Xavier both require additional medical support, and the teachers' help has been invaluable. Monika shares: "The teachers are very dedicated, supportive, and highly skilled. They are always approachable and ready to help in any situation. Their support has been invaluable, especially given that Bruno and Xavier have cystic fibrosis and need special care and medication during school hours." She also highlights their success in integrating Spanish: "The bilingual teachers, in particular, do a fantastic job of integrating both languages into the curriculum seamlessly."

A strong sense of community

The Bilingual Primary School offers families a strong sense of community, which has been especially important for Monika and her family given their additional medical needs. Monika explains: "It's very warm and welcoming, and the staff are always helpful and supportive. This has been especially important for us due to Bruno and Xavier

needing special care during school hours. The communication with the school is excellent, and their support has been amazing."

The school also takes additional steps to ensure Bruno doesn't miss out: "When Bruno was diagnosed with MOGAD last year and was very ill, the school was incredibly supportive. They helped create a health care plan for him, and even when he was in the hospital, the kids sent him letters. They also made sure he could take part in the residential trip by discussing and planning for his needs. This level of care and support has been a huge relief for us," says Monika.

Going above and beyond

Monika feels at ease knowing that the school provides exceptional support for her children. She says: "They have shown my kids so many interesting things and ensured they are well taken care of, especially given their medical needs. I feel at ease knowing that, despite their cystic fibrosis and Bruno's MOGAD, they are being cared for excellently. The school truly goes above and beyond, making it a wonderful place for any child."

Children say

Bruno says: "The best thing is that we can always spend some time together in the Hove Park, with my friends, after school."

Sara says: "I like the school trips because once we went to Preston manor and we were learning to be servants!"

Xavier says: "I like learning! My favourite subject in this school is definitely science but also maths and English and computing."

Clubs

Complementing the bilingual after school provision, Lingo-Club hosts a growing range of after school activities on-site, many of them run in Spanish. These currently include:

- Skateboarding club
- Guitar club
- Football
- Multi-sports
- Creative Dance
- Creative club
- Spanish Choir
- Music Workshop
- Drama

A number of providers also collect children at the end of the school day for off site activities, including:

- Outdoors project
- Flamenco Club
- Basketball

PE and Sport

Physical Education is an integral part of our curriculum and all children get 2 PE lessons a week making good use of our halls, outside spaces and Hove Park. We teach skills and rules for a wide range of activities and sports through our coherent PE curriculum, including Swimming lessons in year 4 at a local pool.

We encourage all children to take part in group and competitive sporting activities. Summer sports days in Hove Park involve all children and are an opportunity for them to showcase their skills in front of their families. Children also have the opportunity to train and compete in local leagues and events with other schools such as:

- Cricket
- Football
- Girls Football
- Netball
- Athletics
- Cross-Country

Music

Music is an important part of school life at BPS and plays a vital role in supporting bilingual learning across the curriculum. We have a dedicated specialist music teacher who takes each class for a lesson each week, teaching music through Spanish. Pupils develop a broad range of musical skills including playing the ukulele, recorder, tuned and untuned percussion as well as composing music digitally and performing. Music and singing is also a feature of sharing assemblies and shows to parents, giving each year group the chance to perform and family members the chance to enjoy their musical accomplishments.



Gabriela and Daniela are embracing heritage and diversity at The Bilingual Primary School

Claudette and Carlos live with their daughters, Gabriela, who's in Year 6, and Daniela, who's in Reception.

A smooth transition to school life

The bilingual environment at The Bilingual Primary School has provided an enriching setting for Claudette and Carlos's daughters, Gabriela and Daniela. Both girls have had a seamless transition into school life. Claudette shares: "Their transition into school life has been smooth and enjoyable. They've developed an enthusiastic attitude towards education. The staff made sure to personally welcome them and help them settle in, which made a big difference. Both girls look forward to going to school every day."

Embracing heritage and learning new languages

The family is bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish at home, which was a significant factor in choosing The Bilingual Primary School. Carlos explains: "It was an exciting opportunity for them to continue to be exposed to and develop their heritage. We have found that they've developed an open mind to people from other cultures and are confident to engage with people who speak different languages. The bilingual education at the school has equipped Gabriela and Daniela with skills and the capacity to engage in opportunities in two of the most widely spoken languages across the world".

Fostering a love for learning

Both Gabriela and Daniela look forward to attending school each day. Carlos shares: "They have developed and continue to have a positive attitude towards education and always look forward to attending school. It's wonderful to see how much they enjoy learning."

Their favourite subjects reflect their individual interests. Gabriela has a keen interest in mathematics and is continually encouraged by her teachers to strive to meet her potential. Daniela loves role-playing and learning a lot of language and phonics through the school's interactive teaching methods.

Supportive and inclusive teaching staff

One of the standout aspects of The Bilingual Primary School is the teachers' receptiveness and adaptability, especially considering Gabriela and Daniela are profoundly deaf. Claudette explains: "We have found their teachers to be extremely receptive to working with their healthcare professionals in adapting teaching methods to meet their needs and ensure they have improved accessibility to the curriculum.

The teachers have always been kind, approachable, and considerate. They go out of their way to ensure the girls are included in all activities, and they use a variety of teaching aids to support their learning."

Diversity and high standards

Both girls have benefited from the school's supportive environment. Carlos notes: "The school community is diverse, with people from such different lived experiences. This diversity has enriched our daughters' education, providing them with a broader perspective on the world."

He also notes the fantastic school facilities: "The school facilities are always maintained to high standards. They have never given us any cause for concern."

A vibrant community

As parents, Claudette and Carlos appreciate the vibrant school community and its commitment to maintaining high standards: "We've been part of the school community for many years now and have witnessed the implementation and impact of the school's bilingual vision and strategy. We will still be part of the vibrant community for many more years and are excited for the school's future."

Children say

Gabriela says: "I really enjoy learning in English and Spanish, it's lots of fun to be able to speak in different languages."

Daniela says: "I like playing with my friends and learning phonics in Español and English."

ADMISSIONS AND GETTING INVOLVED

School admission applications

Please contact Brighton and Hove School's Admissions Team for applications in all year groups including the annual September Reception admissions.

Contact details for Brighton & Hove School's Admissions Team:

- Email: SchoolAdmissions@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- Telephone: (01273) 293653
- Website: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/apply-school/apply-school-place

PTA and parent helpers

The school works closely with parents through our dedicated PTA who are invaluable in strengthening communication and supporting the school in achieving our goals, as well as raising additional funds. Among other things they organise the highly popular summer Fiesta each year in Hove Park. They are always looking for volunteers and members for a variety of roles so please get in touch if you would like to help out.

Parents are an important part of school life and support the school in a variety of ways. Regular opportunities arise for those who are able to help out with trips, reading with children, preparation for events such as the children's parade and sharing their expertise and experiences with the children.

Governors

Members of our governing body come from a range of backgrounds bringing a high level of expertise and skills to ensure the high quality of education and continued improvement of our school. Together with The Bilingual Primary School Trust and senior leadership team, they set the strategic direction for the school, acting in the interest of the children at school now and in the future. As well as regular governing body meetings, they form various committees and working groups to oversee all areas of school life. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please watch out for any vacancies should they arise, or contact the school.



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Our Vision and values

Our vision for The Bilingual Primary School, Brighton & Hove, is to be at the leading edge of bilingual education in the UK

We aim to immerse children in a second language to stimulate and promote dual language communication, and in doing so enrich and expand their academic, cultural and social worlds.

We will do this by:

- offering the opportunity to all children to learn with us through an exciting program of English and Spanish
- providing the very best of British education through a distinctive inquiry-based curriculum that has two fundamental dimensions- a global perspective and challenge
- underpinning the curriculum and all areas of school life with the principles of curiosity, collaboration, perseverance and autonomy
- situating the teaching and learning within the National Curriculum
- encouraging ambition and confidence in all our children

We have a set of 10 core values developed consultation with pupils, staff, parents and governors which run through all we do at BPS:

Diversity, Respect, Curiosity, Kindness, PERSEVERANCE,
Collaboration, RESPONSIBILITY, Honesty, Creativity
and Courage

In Spanish:

Diversidad, Respeto, Curiosidad, Amabilidad,
PERSEVERANCIA, Colaboración, RESPONSABILIDAD,
Honestidad, Creatividad y Coraje