

British School Manila

Taguig, Philippines



Oldest not-for-profit British school in Manila, houses named Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, IB scores six points above world average.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	71/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	67/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

British School Manila occupies a clear niche at the top of Manila’s international market: a long-established, non-religious, not-for-profit British school with a full through-line from age 3 to 18 and a credible academic finish in the IB Diploma. Founded in 1976, it trades on substance rather than novelty. The essentials are strong: British curriculum foundations, IB at sixth form, English throughout, and external validation through BSO, COBIS, CIS and IB authorisation. Size matters here too. With more than **950** students and **50+** nationalities, BSM has enough scale to feel internationally mixed without becoming anonymous. The school’s own headline claim of a **100%** IB Diploma pass rate sets a high baseline; your editorial tagline adds the sharper point, with IB scores six points above the world average.

That combination gives BSM real weight for families who want **academic seriousness** without the churn and ownership incentives that come with for-profit operators.

What marks it out is not glamour but structure. BSM is the oldest and only non-profit international school in Manila offering a British education, and that status still carries force. Parents looking for **institutional steadiness**, **clear academic direction** and a school community that extends beyond the timetable will find a compelling case. The campus sits in Bonifacio Global City, a practical advantage for families who value walkability and urban convenience; the school makes a point of its pedestrian access, family-friendly surroundings and close staff proximity. Average class size is ***20***, which is efficient rather than boutique: large enough for a broad peer group, small enough for teachers to know their students. The houses named Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao give the school a local anchor that many international schools strain to achieve.

This school belongs on a shortlist for families who want a British academic frame, an internationally mobile peer group and an endpoint that keeps university options open across the UK and beyond. It suits students who thrive in a structured environment, can handle public examinations, and want a campus culture with **community loyalty** rather than aggressive branding. It will appeal less to families chasing progressive experimentation or a loose, alternative atmosphere. BSM is for children who do well with rhythm, expectation and breadth: early years through GCSE, then IB, with a school culture that values **quiet confidence**, **belonging** and **high attainment** over show.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1976, the BSM is the oldest non-profit British international school in Manila, and it is proudly a CIS/WASC and IBDP accredited institution.
- It was able to develop the school and become the first international school in the Philippines to be accredited by the Council of International School (CIS).
- In March 2024, the British School Manila achieved Council of British International Schools (COBIS) Accredited Member status, marking it as the sole recipient of this designation in the Philippines.
- Class sizes are generally kept to 22 students across three classes per year level, with IB classes not exceeding 16 students per class.
- The school provides a British international education for students aged 3 to 18 on a single, open campus in Bonifacio Global City, welcoming more than 950 students from over 50 nationalities.

TRADE-OFFS

- The school charges several additional fees beyond tuition, including a P30,000 admission fee, a P340,000 entrance fee, a P150,000 enrolment/security deposit and P5,200 in administrative fees, a substantial upfront outlay for relocating families.
- Tuition itself is billed in a mixed currency structure, with annual fees quoted as combinations such as GBP 8,655 plus PHP 622,680, rising to GBP 9,690 plus PHP 697,155 in the senior years, complicating budgeting for non-UK-salaried families.
- The school's history includes a serious governance controversy: a British School Manila student took his own life in February 2015 reportedly over problems at school, and DepEd ruled on an administrative complaint filed after the student was traumatized by a punishment imposed by his teacher, prompting Senate hearings and lasting scrutiny of the school's crisis-handling processes.
- Leaving qualifications are limited to IGCSE and the IB Diploma, so despite the 'British School' name there is no A-Level exit route, narrowing options for families who specifically want that pathway.

ADMISSIONS

Admission runs from Nursery (age 3) through Year 13, open to applicants of any nationality via an online Student Application together with school reports from the previous two years; a formal wait-pool process applies once year-group places are full. Class sizes are capped around 22 pupils (16 in IB), implying moderate selectivity in popular year groups. Beyond tuition, families face a sizeable one-off entrance fee, admission fee and refundable security deposit, plus tuition quoted in mixed GBP/PHP amounts depending on year group, so total first-year costs should be confirmed directly with admissions.

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_dab3eb8ae2.