



Guide to languages case study Cambridge House Community College, Spain

Cambridge House in Valencia is part of the NABSS group (the National Association of British Schools in Spain). Its emphasis is on English language learning and education, and British culture. In many ways, the experience of students at the school is very similar to that of a student at school in the UK.

All NABSS schools are required to have a language policy, which emphasises the value of language learning and the importance of respecting and encouraging the use of local languages and students' first language.

Children can attend the school from age 3 to 18 and many students are there for all levels. This means students are familiar and comfortable with English as their medium of educational instruction.

Alongside Cambridge programmes, the school offers Spanish and Valencian curricula to all students, covering the subjects of Spanish language and literature, and social sciences.

Around 90 per cent of students at the school are Spanish – they have Spanish parents and speak Spanish at home, typically with no English communication outside of school. The remainder of the students are Chinese, Russian and English native speakers.

English language learning

All teachers delivering Cambridge programmes are native English speakers and are educated to degree level. They either have or are studying for a PGCE teaching qualification through the school's affiliation with the University of Nottingham in the UK. Teaching support assistants in the classroom are either English, or English-speaking Spanish assistants.

When children start at an early years age, they are immersed in English and pick it up quickly. Monday mornings are always the most challenging for them as they need to readjust to communicating in English after speaking only Spanish at home over the weekend.

Cambridge House celebrates and recognises English-language learning achievements of students at every stage of learning in formal and informal ways.

All school assemblies are in English. The school also runs extracurricular events such as talent shows and singing competitions and takes part in international competitions like the Model UN and the European Youth Parliament education



programme. British culture is emphasised in the school's visual displays. There are also school trips to England and the school has links with schools in the UK.

The school finds that English is spoken by students spontaneously in subjects where they get especially passionate such as PE, drama and music.

In addition to the school's curricula, it offers students the option of taking Cambridge English Qualifications at the younger ages and later, B2 First and C1, Advanced for those who want a language certificate for recognition purposes.

Students typically leave Cambridge House to go on to higher education in one of three destinations: Valencia, the UK or a European university in a country such as Holland where they enrol in an English language programme.

The education that students receive at Cambridge House prepares them well for further study by widening their horizons and offering much more than a high level of English language instruction.



Learning other languages

Throughout primary school, all students study three languages: English, Spanish and the local language of Valenciano. As students move into secondary school, they also learn French. They later have the option of studying German and Italian. All students study a foreign language to upper secondary level and many go on to study languages at advanced level, including Russian.

Additional language support

Teachers are supported by teaching support assistants, a dedicated language intervention teacher and a school psychologist, who work together to identify additional language learning needs. Parents are always involved in discussions. English language support also exists in a less formal way through student-to-student teaching and learning. The school has a system where older students give English lessons during lunchtimes to younger students who need extra help, for example with grammar.

Parents and the community

The Cambridge House website is written in English but there is also a Spanish version to support parents. The school encourages and supports lifelong language learning by providing optional evening and weekend English classes for parents. It also provides dedicated facilities for parents such as its library. All school communications, including student reports for parents, are written in English and students translate these for parents, as needed. The evening and weekend programmes for adults mean that Cambridge House is a hub for English language learning for the whole community. Visit: www.cambridgehouse.es/en

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