

News that crews will begin building Sant Ferran's primary and nursery school this week has been greeted by the local Department of Culture and Education with satisfaction.

Construction of the educational facility was made possible by an agreement between the Govern balear and the Consell de Formentera. The Balearic administration will offer a little more than €5.8 million compared to the Consell's €1.1 million contribution, which will cover the cost of the early-learning centre, or escoleta. Crews have fourteen months from this week to complete the project. The regional ministry of education will cover both projects initially, and Formentera's local government will reimburse the cost of the escoleta later.

Drafted by IBISEC, the project includes plans for a 450-student-capacity school, with 6 rooms devoted to “Infant Education” (for children aged 3 to 6) and 12 rooms for “Primary Education” (ages 6 to 12). The facility is classified as a “two-line school”, meaning there will be two different groups for each year of schooling. The buildings will sit on a 11,037-sq.-metre lot outside Sant Ferran. As for the 6-room municipal escoleta, it will have space for 74 children aged zero to 3 and will also be equipped for two groups in every grade level.

The Consell de Formentera will grant IBISEC exemption from article 23.3, on permitted hours of construction, of the noise and vibrational pollution section of the island's environment and health code. Crews will be allowed to work Monday through Saturday, 9.00am to 6.00pm, and work will begin in summer, when a freeze is typically placed on all construction.

The land where the schools will be built was made available by the Consell de Formentera expressly for educational purposes. Department of Education representatives have indicated that the current site of the school will later be retooled as a cultural centre. Hence, the school build is a necessary first step before the cultural project—driven by consensus and the involvement of neighbours and stakeholders in the local cultural scene—can move forward.

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Department of Communication
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