

Striving for excellence

David Hatchwell Altaras, Ex-President of Madrid's Jewish community, said he was ecstatic that the school had joined World ORT.

"We believe in striving for excellence and we feel that of all Jewish organizations involved in education ORT is the leading one," Mr Hatchwell said. "We always want to learn from the best and that's why we sought ORT. We're very proud to be part of it."

Estrella Toledano Principal Luna Alfon Coriat said that taking part in World ORT programmes in recent years such as the Ecology Summer School in Panama, the Digital Skills Academy in Bulgaria, and the Davidson-World ORT Science Summer School in Israel had changed the vision of her students.

"Being part of an international network is really interesting because it offers our students the chance to be in touch with other countries, other students and with other Jewish people. Now, with globalization, we must be ready to adapt and feel comfortable everywhere," she said.

Estrella Toledano takes students from the age of one until 18, when they sit the International Baccalaureate.

Founded as a kindergarten in 1965, Estrella Toledano School now teaches children all the way through to matriculation at 18.

World ORT President Dr Conrad Giles said signing the agreement formalizing the school's new status had been the highlight of the Board of Representatives meeting in Madrid.

"We are proud of the addition of a school and ORT Spain to our network, knowing that it will be a relationship of mutual satisfaction and that it will benefit the children of Madrid in the coming years," he said.