

The Bishop Strachan School

Toronto, Canada



Founded in 1867 in Forest Hill, this Anglican school remains Canada's oldest continuously operating girls' day and boarding institution.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	69/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	63/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

At **1867**, The Bishop Strachan School has a claim few Canadian schools can match: continuity. This is Canada’s oldest continuously operating girls’ day and boarding school, and that long institutional memory still shapes the offer. BSS is not a loose, lifestyle-driven girls’ school trading on heritage alone; it is a **serious**, university-prep Anglican school for girls aged 3 to 18, with **970** students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, **70** boarders and average class sizes of **18–22**. The structure matters. This is a full-through school, not a senior school bolted onto a junior division, and parents looking for consistency from the early years to graduation will find a coherent ladder rather than a patchwork.

What puts BSS on a shortlist is the combination of scale, ambition and institutional confidence. It carries CIS and IBO accreditation, which gives it external validation beyond the Toronto independent-school circuit. The school also publishes indicators that are worth noting: 85% of students in Grades 9 to 12 hold leadership roles, there are 80-plus clubs, teams and affinity groups, and the school allocates more than \$2 million in financial assistance annually. Those figures point to a school that runs deep rather than thin. It has enough size to offer breadth, but not so much that pupils disappear into the machinery. Fees place it firmly in the premium bracket: an average annual day fee of **CAD 43,800** across the full ladder, and **CAD 84,100** for boarding. That is expensive by Toronto standards, and parents are entitled to expect substance in return.

The caveat is that BSS publishes little public destination data in the context here beyond single placements at Concordia, Dalhousie and George Brown College, which is *thin* for a school with this reputation and price. Parents who care about academic outcomes in hard numbers will want more than rhetoric about leadership and transformation; they should ask directly for university destinations across multiple years and for a clearer picture of attainment. Still, the academic intent is plain. The school describes its programme as challenging and research-based, with inquiry and project-led learning in the middle years and greater independence in Grades 9 to 12. This is a school for girls who want a *structured, high-expectation* environment, who will use leadership openings rather than avoid them, and who value the focus of a girls' school. It will suit students who are *confident or ready to be pushed into confidence*; it is less well matched to children who want anonymity, a softer pace or a more casual academic culture.

STRENGTHS	TRADE-OFFS
• Founded in 1867; long-established Toronto girls' school • Boarding available for ages 3–18 girls • 10:1 student-teacher ratio supports individual attention • IBO and CIS accredited school	• Annual boarding fee is 78,000 CAD • Annual day fee is 38,000 CAD • Average class size reaches 22 students

ADMISSIONS

The Bishop Strachan School is a girls' day and boarding school in Toronto for ages 3-18, with admissions spanning Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12. The published structure is clear: Junior School covers Kindergarten to Grade 6, Grades 7 and 8 form a middle stage, and Grades 9 to 12 the senior years. Boarding is available, though the school does not state entry years for boarders in the material provided. Nor does it publish, here, any fixed admissions deadlines, testing regime or interview format, so families should expect to check directly with admissions rather than rely on a standardised timetable.

What the school does make plain is its academic stance: a "challenging program" with strong emphasis on inquiry, project-based learning, exploration and student-led work, particularly from Grade 7 upwards. That suggests selection is likely looking for girls who will cope well with independence and intellectual initiative, but BSS does not spell out a distinctive assessment process in the extracts supplied. Financial support is available: the school says it allocates more than \$2 million annually in financial assistance.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (8)

SPORT: Rachel Honderich, Aleksa Gold

DRAMA: Linda Thorson, Viola Allen, Michelle Giroux

LETTERS: Emily Murphy, Thea Andrews

BUSINESS: Samar Modonpour

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_18c7471ac7.