

Pretoria High School for Girls

Pretoria, South Africa



A national monument since 1997, this Arcadia institution has paired public-school scale with IEB rigor since 1902.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	69/100
Transparency	61/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Pretoria High School for Girls occupies a rare place in the South African market: a long-established public school with the cultural weight of a historic institution and the academic discipline of the IEB. Founded in 1902 and designated a national monument in 1997, it carries **institutional gravitas** without drifting into nostalgia. This is a full-government, fee-charging girls’ school, taught in English, serving ages 11 to 18 at real scale. The numbers matter: a ***14:1*** student-teacher ratio and average class sizes of ***28*** point to a school that is sizeable, busy and structured rather than boutique. Parents looking for polish, heritage and academic seriousness without private-school framing will find a compelling option here.

What puts it on a shortlist is the combination of public-school breadth and an IEB curriculum. That pairing is unusual. Many schools can offer tradition; fewer combine it with a qualification that parents actively seek for university preparation. Pretoria High School for Girls also benefits from its status as a well-known girls' school in Pretoria, with the confidence and visibility that attach to a school of this age and standing. The sister-school link with Pretoria Boys High School adds to that civic stature. The appeal lies in **earned prestige**, **public-school scale** and a **clear academic backbone**. This is not an intimate, highly customised environment. It is a serious institution with established expectations, routines and standards.

The best fit is a student who wants a girls' school with history, identity and momentum; who thrives in a setting where tradition still has force; and who does not need hand-holding to make use of a large school's opportunities. A girl who values **high standards**, enjoys being part of a visible school community and is ready to navigate classes of ****28**** will do well here. A child who needs tiny classes, a softer pace or heavy individual tailoring will find stronger fits elsewhere. Pretoria High School for Girls suits families who want **substance over branding**: an English-medium education, strong public character, and the kind of **old-school confidence** that only a school founded in ****1902**** can carry.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1902; long-established local institution
- English-medium teaching suits Anglophone international families
- 11–18 age range covers full secondary years
- 14:1 student-teacher ratio offers relatively close attention

TRADE - OFFS

- Girls-only school; unsuitable for families wanting co-education
- IEB curriculum only; no IB or multiple pathways
- Average class size 28 may feel large

ADMISSIONS

Pretoria High School for Girls is a government girls' day school in Hatfield, Pretoria, taking pupils from ages 11 to 18, so the natural entry range runs from the start of secondary schooling through to sixth-form equivalent years. The school is English-medium and follows the IEB. Publicly available material confirms the broad age span and school type, but does not set out detailed admissions stages by year group, so families should expect the main entry points to align with the lower secondary years, with occasional places in other year groups subject to availability.

The school does not publish, in the material provided here, a precise admissions timetable, application deadline, assessment format or interview process. Nor is there publicly stated bursary or financial-aid information in these sources. That absence matters: this is not a case where one should infer a standard independent-school process. As a full-government, fee-charging school, its admissions may combine administrative placement requirements with school-level selection or capacity constraints, but the distinctive mechanics are not described in the sources supplied.

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_1e19b0cc92.