

Terenure College

Terenure, Dublin, Ireland



A Carmelite-run Georgian estate in south Dublin where 'big six' Leinster rugby pedigree meets a 1860-rooted academic tradition.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	58/100
Academic outcomes	64/100
University placement	67/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	12/100
Facilities	67/100
Transparency	52/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Terenure College occupies a specific corner of the Dublin market: a Catholic, fee-paying boys’ day school with deep roots, a Carmelite trusteeship and a public identity tied as much to rugby as to academics. The school dates to **1860**, sits on Templeogue Road in south Dublin, and trades on the weight of continuity. That matters. For families who want a school with *institutional memory*, *clear cultural identity* and none of the ambiguity that comes with newer entrants, Terenure has substance. It is not a broad-church, all-things-to-all-families proposition. It is a defined school with a defined constituency.

What sets it apart is the combination of Georgian-estate gravitas, Catholic formation and membership of

Leinster rugby’s “big six”. That rugby status carries real market value in Ireland: it signals tradition, competition, alumni loyalty and a school culture where sport matters in earnest, not as a brochure accessory. Terenure has won the Leinster Schools Senior Cup **10** times, and that fact tells parents more than any mission statement. This is a school for boys who will thrive in a structured, male environment where identity, belonging and team culture run strong. The Carmelite foundation also gives the place a *solid moral framework* and *old-school confidence* that many families still want.

Academically, the public data in view is thin by current standards. The oft-cited figure that **80%** of students who sat the Leaving Certificate in 2007 accepted a place in an Irish university is positive, but dated. The school does not publish the kind of detailed, current outcomes data that hard-nosed international parents now expect: no recent aggregate Leaving Certificate profile, no university destination breakdown, no comparative attainment metrics in the public domain. That does not negate academic seriousness, but it does place more weight on the school’s long reputation than on fresh published evidence. Parents who prize *measurable academic transparency* above all else will want fuller answers before committing.

Terenure belongs on a shortlist for families seeking a boys’ school with *rugby-centred prestige*, a Catholic ethos and a settled south Dublin reputation. The best fit is a boy who wants a strong peer culture, responds well to tradition and structure, and will use the school’s sporting energy as fuel rather than background noise. This is not the right choice for a student who wants a progressive, informal atmosphere or a co-educational social environment. It is a strong choice for the family that wants *discipline, belonging and lineage* in one package.

STRENGTHS

- Terenure is one of the 'big six' Leinster Schools Rugby-playing institutions, having won the Leinster Schools Senior Cup 10 times, giving it a long, well-documented sporting pedigree.
- The modern school theatre was opened by President Michael D. Higgins in 2013, named in honour of past pupil Donal McCann, and the school's alumni also include author John Boyne, reflecting a track record beyond sport.
- Annual day-school fees for 2025/26 are set at The School Fee for the coming school year, 2025/2026, has been set at EUR 6,220, a relatively modest figure compared with many long-established Dublin fee-paying schools.
- There are approximately 65 whole-time teachers and 5 part-time teachers employed by Terenure College Senior School. The College employs a whole-time Special Needs Teacher and provides some Resource hours. The College provides various Support Services such as Year Heads, Tutors, Guidance Counsellors, Chaplaincy Team, School Nurse, indicating a reasonably resourced pastoral structure.
- Terenure College provides a six year curriculum consisting of a three year Junior Certificate

TRADE - OFFS

- Gender BOYS only; there is no co-educational option for families wanting siblings or a mixed environment on one campus.
- In 2015 it was announced that the Junior School would close after enrollment halved from 2009, and current classes were phased out, with the last class finishing in 2017, meaning there is no through-school pathway from early primary years; entry effectively begins at First Year (age 12).
- Rugby is deeply embedded in the school's identity — Rugby has been the leading sport at Terenure College since around 1920 — which may not suit a boy with little interest in the sport, given how central it is to school culture.
- As a FEE_PAYING voluntary secondary school, tuition is still an out-of-pocket cost for families, even though the published fee is lower than some Dublin peers, and it excludes families relying solely on free state education.

Programme, a one year Transition Year Programme and a two year Leaving Certificate Programme. (Transition Year is compulsory for all pupils.), giving every pupil a structured broadening year before state exams.

ADMISSIONS

Terenure College is a voluntary Catholic (Carmelite) secondary school for boys, with the main entry point at First Year (age 12); there is no longer an associated junior school feeding in automatically, as that closed in 2017. Admission is governed by a published Admission Policy available from the college, with further detail in the school prospectus on request. No entrance examination is advertised publicly. Given its rugby reputation and status among Dublin's established boys' schools, places at First Year are likely to be sought after, though official waiting-list or oversubscription data are not published.

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_35f4c4bd73.