

Melbourne Grammar School

Melbourne, Australia



Site of the first recorded Australian Rules football match in 1858, its bluestone St Kilda Road campus still borders the Royal Botanic Gardens.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	79/100
Academic outcomes	79/100
University placement	77/100
Prestige & heritage	82/100
Alumni network	83/100
Facilities	83/100
Transparency	75/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The detail that still matters is not the bluestone or the address opposite the Royal Botanic Gardens, but the structure: co-educational at Grimwade House from Prep to Year 6, then boys-only from Year 7 at Wadhurst and the Senior School in South Yarra, with boarding offered from Year 7 to 12. That split model gives Melbourne Grammar a distinctive place in the Melbourne market. It offers an early co-ed start, then a traditional boys’ secondary education under an Anglican banner, founded in 1858 by Charles Perry, the first Bishop of Melbourne. For families who want one school from age 3 to 18 but do not want a co-ed secondary setting, that is a *clear strategic draw*.

This is an expensive school even by Australian independent standards: the average annual day fee across the full ladder is **AUD 41,904**, and boarding averages **AUD 82,453**. Parents are paying for history, location, facilities and a school with a long-established social and alumni network, not a cut-price academic factory. The academic baseline is strong. On MySchool's 2023 data, Melbourne Grammar posts an ICSEA of **1200**, with Year 9 Reading at **630** and Year 9 Numeracy at **628**. Those are the numbers of a high-attaining, highly advantaged intake. The curriculum mix also broadens its appeal: the school declares IB, VCE and Australian pathways, and it holds IBO accreditation. That gives it more exit flexibility than a single-pathway school.

What puts Melbourne Grammar on a shortlist is not novelty but *institutional weight*. The school has deep roots in Melbourne's establishment, a verified minimum of 171 notable alumni catalogued on Wikidata, and a boarding offer that keeps it in contention for regional, interstate and overseas families as well as locals. The pastoral pitch is explicit, and the school says every student's learning is supported by dedicated pastoral care programmes, but this is not a soft-edged environment. It is a *high-expectation*, tradition-conscious school with a strong sense of continuity and identity.

The best fit is a boy who will thrive in a structured, well-resourced, *socially confident* secondary setting with strong sport, visible tradition and an academically able peer group; or a family that values co-ed primary years before a boys' senior education. It also suits boarders who want an established city school rather than an isolated rural one. It suits families comfortable with Anglican culture without requiring doctrinal exclusivity. It is less persuasive for parents who want a fully co-educational journey to 18, a less formal culture, or a school that publishes more direct evidence of outcomes beyond NAPLAN and institutional reputation.

STRENGTHS

- Founded on 7 April 1858 as the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, the school caters for approximately 1,900 students from Prep to Year 12, including boarders from Years 7 to 12, giving it one of the longest continuous histories among Australian independent schools.
- The school operates three campuses: Grimwade House (Prep to Year 6) in Caulfield, and Wadhurst (Years 7-8) and Senior School (Years 9-12), both in South Yarra, allowing age-specific facilities and pastoral care at each developmental stage.
- The median ATAR for the 2025 cohort was 92.55, and 61% of students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above, placing them in the state's top 10%.
- The school offers both day and boarding places for boys from Years 7 to 12, with a boarding community drawn from regional Victoria, across Australia and overseas, giving relocating and rural families a genuine residential option.
- Sport is integral to school life, with students competing in the APS competition and working with specialist coaches and strength-and-conditioning programs, backed by structured

TRADE - OFFS

- The school is single-sex beyond primary level: it enrolls a mix of boys and girls into Prep to Year 6 at Grimwade House, but at the end of Year 6 boys move on to Wadhurst and Senior School while girls must continue secondary education at a different school, so it cannot serve as a single continuous school for daughters.
- Admissions are genuinely competitive: an application is a prerequisite for admission but not a guarantee, and waiting lists apply at all year levels, with students entering Years 7-12 normally required to sit an entrance or assessment test before an offer is made.
- Fees are layered rather than all-inclusive: a separate Consolidated Charge, specific to each year level, covers compulsory resources such as Grimwade book lists, Wadhurst camps and Senior School outdoor education programs, on top of core tuition.
- The Wadhurst and Senior School campuses sit on the original South Yarra site, a location historically noted for tight grounds: by the 1950s it was clear the school was seriously lacking adequate space, with expansions

evening study time and specialist tutoring for boarders.

crammed into the original 15-acre (6.1 ha) site, a structural constraint compared with schools on larger regional or greenfield campuses.

ADMISSIONS

Primary entry is at Prep, with a small Year 3 intake from the waiting list; the main secondary intake is Year 7 at Wadhurst, with limited later-year places subject to availability. Applicants generally sit an entrance or aptitude test and, depending on year level, an interview with the relevant Head of Campus; academic, music and boarding scholarships are awarded via a separate annual scholarship exam held in February. Waiting lists apply at every year level and an application does not guarantee a place, making entry, particularly for Year 7 boarding and day places, moderately to highly competitive.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (171)

SPORT: David Crawshay, Pat O'Hara Wood, Colin Long, Alex Keath, Barney Wood, Campbell Rose, Corrie Gardner, Martin Chapman

MUSIC: Barry Humphries, Oscar Asche, Dan Robinson, Max Riebl

DRAMA: Barry Humphries, Barrie Kosky, Oscar Asche, Rob Sitch, Frank Thring, Nick Russell

VISUAL_ARTS: Barry Humphries, Robin Edmond

LETTERS: Barry Humphries, Erle Cox, Oscar Asche, Nam Le, Chester Wilmot, James Campbell, John George Davies, Julian Burnside

POLITICS: Tony Street, John Brumby, Doug Jennings, Michael Clarke, Stan Gleeson, Rutherford Guthrie, Philip Hudson, Russell Clarke

SCIENCE: Pierre Gorman, Charles Kellaway, Chester Wilmot, Russell Grimwade, David A Pattison, Richard P. Brent, Jeremy Howard, John F. O. Bilson

BUSINESS: Campbell Rose, Doug Jennings, Russell Grimwade, Jack Christian Richards, Edward Norton Grimwade, Jeremy Howard, John George Davies, Oliver Maurice Williams

WTS RATING 

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