

Istanbul International Community School

Istanbul, Turkey



Founded in 1911 as Robert College's sister school, this Bosphorus-side campus was the first in Turkey certified for all three IB programmes.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	64/100
Academic outcomes	66/100
University placement	64/100
Prestige & heritage	65/100
Alumni network	64/100
Facilities	67/100
Transparency	55/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Istanbul International Community School has two facts that matter in this market: it opened in ****1911****, and it was the first school in Turkey certified for all three IB programmes. That combination gives it real weight. In a city where many international schools are younger, louder and more eager to advertise than to explain themselves, IICS has the authority of age and the coherence of a full IB pathway from early years to sixth form. The Bosphorus setting adds **a strong sense of place**, but the real attraction is institutional continuity: an English-medium, non-religious, all-through day school with IB at its core rather than bolted on later. For parents who want a school with **deep roots** and a clear academic identity, that matters.

Its market position is straightforward. IICS sits in the top tier of Istanbul's international sector for families who want an established, expatriate-facing school with global transferability and no confusion about curriculum. The accreditations — IB World School, CIS and NEASC — support that claim, but the sharper point is this: the school offers one system, in one language, across ages **3-18**. That reduces friction for internationally mobile families and gives students a coherent progression into the IB Diploma. The trade-off is equally clear. Parents hunting for a local bilingual model, a national curriculum route, or boarding will need to look elsewhere. IICS is for families who want *clarity over sprawl*.

What is special about IICS is not novelty. It is pedigree, stability and educational consistency. Being one of the oldest international schools in the world gives it *earned credibility*, not heritage-window dressing. Being early to all **3** IB programmes signals a school that committed to the framework long before it became standard international-school shorthand. That puts IICS in a narrower, more serious category than schools that market "international mindedness" while mixing curricula or shifting direction. If there is a critique, it is this: parents who want a highly local Turkish context or a sprawling super-campus experience may find IICS too focused, too self-contained, too anchored in the traditional international-school model.

The students who thrive here are academically steady, internationally minded and comfortable in a diverse community where English is the working language. This suits children from globally mobile families, returnee families who need portability, and students aiming for an IB education from the start rather than joining it at the end. It also suits families who value *institutional memory*, *serious academic continuity* and a school that knows exactly what it is. Children who need heavy vocational provision, a looser academic structure, or the social theatre of a giant campus will find stronger fits elsewhere. IICS belongs on a shortlist because it offers something scarce in Istanbul: *longevity with purpose*.

STRENGTHS

- Founded 1911; unusually established for an international school.
- IB World School offering the IB continuum.
- English-medium teaching suits internationally mobile families.
- CIS and NEASC accreditations add external oversight.

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only; no boarding option.
- IB-only curriculum; no British or American track.
- Non-religious ethos may not suit faith-based preferences.

ADMISSIONS

Istanbul International Community School is a non-religious day school in Istanbul for ages 3-18, with English as the language of instruction and the IB as its declared curriculum. Given that span, the main entry points are inferably in the early years, primary, lower secondary and sixth form, though the school does not publish, in the material provided here, a detailed breakdown of admissions by year group. As one of the oldest international schools in the world, and one of the first authorised to offer all three IB programmes, it is likely to attract families specifically seeking a full IB pathway.

The school does not publicly specify, in the sources supplied, its assessment format, application deadlines, or any distinctive selection stages such as interviews, testing rounds or rolling admissions. Nor is there any published information here on bursaries or financial aid. Parents should therefore expect the usual international-school pattern of year-group availability and some form of age-appropriate review, but should verify current procedures directly with the admissions office rather than relying on assumptions.

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_46a0455128.