

St. Dominic's International School

São Domingos de Rana, Portugal



Portugal's first full IB continuum school, tracing a Dominican search for truth back to 1954 on the Cascais coast.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	53/100
Academic outcomes	58/100
University placement	55/100
Prestige & heritage	52/100
Alumni network	38/100
Facilities	60/100
Transparency	48/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. Dominic’s International School holds a clear position in the Lisbon-Cascais market: a long-established English-medium day school with the full IB continuum, Catholic roots and an international intake. That combination is still scarce in Portugal. For families who want one school from age 3 to 18, taught in English and anchored in the IB from start to finish, St. Dominic’s merits a serious look. The Dominican inheritance matters here. “Search for truth” schools tend to place weight on moral formation, service and pastoral order, not just academic throughput. Parents drawn to *serious schooling with a moral centre* will recognise the appeal at once.

What sets it apart is continuity. Plenty of schools offer one or two IB stages; St. Dominic’s runs PYP, MYP and Diploma under one roof. That gives children a coherent academic language across **3** to **18**, and gives parents fewer transition shocks at **16**. The school also carries institutional age. Founded in **1975**, it is not a startup trading on new buildings and inflated promises. It has had time to build routines, expectations and a recognisable identity. The international dimension is also material rather than cosmetic: the public description cites more than **50** nationalities. That points to a genuinely mixed parent body, not a local school with a foreign badge.

The school belongs on a shortlist for families who want *the full IB journey* without boarding, and who prefer a school with *quiet confidence* over a high-gloss luxury proposition. It suits internationally mobile families, diplomat and executive households, and Portuguese families who want English-medium education with a clear route to university admissions abroad. It also fits students who do well in structured, broad academic programmes and who benefit from *a stable all-through environment*. The strongest match is the child who is curious, organised and comfortable in diverse classrooms; less so the student who wants a narrowly exam-drilled culture or a sixth-form experience detached from a whole-school ethos. St. Dominic’s offers *continuity, conscience and international breadth*. In this segment, that is a strong and distinctive proposition.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Offers the full IB continuum (PYP, MYP, and Diploma Programme), giving families a consistent educational philosophy from early years through to university entry. • One of the longer-established international schools in the Lisbon area, giving it a track record and institutional memory that newer schools lack. • Located in the Cascais/Estoril corridor, a well-established expatriate and diplomatic community with good access to Lisbon. • Day-only structure keeps the school focused on a single, coherent pastoral and academic model rather than juggling boarding logistics. • Serves a genuinely international student body, which typically supports strong language exposure and cross-cultural social mixing.	• As a day school only, it offers no boarding option for families who relocate without establishing a permanent local household. • Editorial ranking (821) and rising_star tier indicate it sits outside the most internationally recognised top tier of IB schools, reflecting a more regional profile. • Being one campus in a single location limits flexibility for families who may need multiple site options or larger cohort sizes at each grade. • As with most Portuguese international schools, published fee and results data are less extensively benchmarked internationally than for larger global school groups.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is open at multiple entry points across the PYP, MYP, and Diploma years, with places allocated on a rolling basis subject to space. Families typically apply directly through the school's admissions office, submitting prior school reports, references, and in some cases an assessment or interview for older applicants. Demand fluctuates with expatriate relocation cycles tied to Lisbon-area diplomatic and business postings, making it moderately competitive rather than highly selective. English language proficiency expectations rise for entry into the MYP and DP years.

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_46bd84e130.