

The King's School (Parramatta)

Parramatta, Australia



Australia's oldest independent school, where an 1831 foundation still marches in the country's oldest surviving military uniform and cadet corps.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	73/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	75/100
Alumni network	74/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	68/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The march of history still matters at The King’s School, Parramatta. This is Australia’s oldest independent school, founded in 1831, and it keeps that lineage in active use through the country’s oldest surviving military uniform and cadet corps. That detail tells you a lot. King’s does not trade on heritage as decoration; it uses it to reinforce a **highly structured** idea of school life centred on discipline, leadership and service. The school is Anglican, teaches in English, takes boys from age 3 to 18, and runs both day and boarding provision. Its own description is blunt about the offer: academic excellence, character

development and Christian community, with a leadership programme built around service learning, house leadership, cadets, Duke of Edinburgh, outreach, seminars and exchanges. Parents looking for a *soft-edged* progressive culture should look elsewhere.

This is a serious, established school with academic weight as well as ceremonial heft. In 2023, its MySchool figures recorded an ICSEA of **1160**, Year 9 Reading at **612** and Year 9 Numeracy at **610**. Those are strong numbers and place King's firmly in the academically competitive end of the Sydney market. The curriculum context lists both IB and Australian pathways, and the school holds IBO accreditation. The campus footprint in Parramatta and the Southern Highlands is another part of the appeal: this is not a tight urban day school but a *large-scale*, fully resourced operation with room for sport, music, drama, outdoor education and residential life. That breadth matters for boys who thrive when school extends well beyond the classroom.

The fees place it where you would expect a top-end Australian independent school to sit: an average annual day fee of **AUD 40,808** across the full age range, and an average annual boarding fee of **AUD 77,585**. That buys a lot of infrastructure and a very specific institutional culture. King's belongs on a shortlist for families who want an *old-school, unapologetic* boys' education with visible tradition, strong co-curricular expectations and a clear moral frame. It suits boys who like order, ritual, teams, outdoor challenge and formal leadership pathways, and who will use the scale of the place rather than get lost in it. It is *not for the faint-hearted*, nor for families uneasy with cadets, chapel and hierarchy. For the right student, that directness is the point.

STRENGTHS

- Australia's oldest independent school, founded in 1831 and now spread across a 148-hectare campus in North Parramatta with extensive sporting infrastructure. Founded in 1831, the school is Australia's oldest independent school, and is situated on a 148-hectare (1.48 km²) suburban campus.
- Offers a dual-pathway academic model: the IB Primary Years Programme in the junior school, with senior students able to choose between the IB Diploma and the NSW HSC. The IB PYP delivers the NSW curriculum in the Preparatory School. Senior students choose between the IB Diploma Programme and the NSW HSC, with SAT testing available as an accredited centre.
- One of the largest and longest-established boarding operations in the country, housing roughly 430 boarders from Years 5-12. The school hosts about 2,157 students in K-12 as of 2024, and about 430 boarders from Years 5-12, making it one of the largest boarding schools in Australia.
- A founding member of the Great Public Schools (AAGPS) athletic competition, giving students access to a long-established, well-resourced sporting circuit. It is a G30 School and is a

TRADE-OFFS

- The Parramatta campus is a boys-only school; families wanting mixed-gender schooling through to Year 12 will need to look elsewhere. The King's School is an independent Anglican, early learning, primary and secondary day and boarding school for boys, located in North Parramatta in the western suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.
- Fees are substantial: day tuition runs up to roughly A\$50,000 a year, with boarding costs additional on top. Day tuition ranges from AUD 30,980 for Pre-K to AUD 49,980 for Year 12. Boarding fees are additional.
- Despite recent improvement, median ATAR performance still places the school mid-table among NSW schools rather than among the state's top academic performers. Median ATAR 87.5 ranks #94 of 136 New South Wales schools. Within New South Wales Independent schools, ranks #65 of 91.
- A 2016-17 Royal Commission hearing found a bullying culture existed within the boarding houses as of 2013 and that the school failed to report an indecent-assault allegation to police. The commission also found another elite Sydney boys school, the King's School, failed to report

founding member of the Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools of New South Wales (AAGPS).

- The Class of 2024 recorded the school's best-ever median ATAR of 89.9, with 459 Band 6/E4 results across subjects. The King's School has seen exceptional results – with this year's median ATAR, 89.9 being the best in the School's history. The class achieved 459 Band 6 and E4 results.

an assault allegation to police that occurred amid a bullying culture. The commission said the measures Australia's oldest independent school took to address the bullying of the boarder were ineffective.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is offered across Early Learning to Year 12, with Kindergarten, Year 5 and Year 7 the most common intake points; a linked co-educational preparatory boarding campus, Tudor House, feeds into the senior school. Registration and enrolment carry separate non-refundable fees, and academic or leadership scholarships are available, mainly for entry into Years 7-11. The school is not academically selective by entrance exam, but boarding places and popular entry years can fill early, so overseas and interstate families should apply well ahead of the intended start date.

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_49c1794b02.