

King's College Riyadh

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



Riyadh's first British day school anchors a 140-year King's lineage in historic Diriyah, building toward iGCSE and A Level provision.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	42/100
Academic outcomes	42/100
University placement	40/100
Prestige & heritage	45/100
Alumni network	30/100
Facilities	55/100
Transparency	35/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

King’s College Riyadh opened in 2022 in Diriyah, and that start date matters. This is a new school carrying an old name: the first British day school in Riyadh to trade on the King’s College lineage, with the weight of a ****140-year**** brand behind it but none of the long local track record parents can inspect in Saudi Arabia. That cuts both ways. The attraction is obvious: English-medium teaching, a British curriculum, and a 4-18 age range that promises a full through-school journey to iGCSE and A Level in a market where families still prize a recognisable UK independent-school model. The risk is obvious too: new schools need time to prove culture, staffing stability and sixth-form outcomes. King’s deserves a place on a shortlist because it offers ***instant brand recognition*** in a city where credible British provision

still carries real scarcity value, but parents should ask hard questions about delivery rather than buying the crest.

Its market position is clear. With an average annual fee of **SAR 59,522**, it sits in the premium day-school bracket for Riyadh, targeting families who want British structure and social polish rather than a bargain. The non-religious setting widens its appeal for international and mixed-background families, while the Diriyah location gives it a *distinctive geographic advantage* for households in the north-western side of the city who want a serious school run without crossing Riyadh end to end. The school's declared 4-18 span also matters strategically: parents can enter early and avoid another transition at 11 or 13 if the senior school build-out lands cleanly. What is special here is less innovation than importation. King's is selling a specific proposition: *an English independent-school sensibility*, transplanted into Riyadh, with the expectation of orderly classrooms, strong pastoral framing and a conventional academic route to **18**.

The right child for King's is one who thrives in a structured, adult-led environment and whose family wants continuity, clear expectations and a British educational finish. It will suit internationally minded Saudi and expatriate families who value the signalling power of a recognised UK school name and want a school that feels *socially polished* rather than experimental. It is less compelling for parents who want a long-established local track record, published legacy exam data or a more idiosyncratic educational philosophy. In short: King's College Riyadh is a *serious premium entrant*, not yet a proven institution. Put it on the shortlist for its name, curriculum and positioning; keep it there only if the substance matches the inheritance.

STRENGTHS

- Follows the British National Curriculum through to IGCSE and A Level, a globally portable qualification pathway for university entry.
- Operates under the King's Group Schools brand, which has an established base of sister schools in Spain, giving access to a shared curriculum framework and staff training network.
- Located in Riyadh, benefiting from Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 push to expand international schooling options for expatriate and local families.
- Day-school model avoids boarding fees and keeps children within the family home each evening, easing settling-in for relocating households.

TRADE-OFFS

- As a relatively new school in the Riyadh market, it has no long public track record of exam results, leavers' destinations or independent inspection reports.
- Fee levels, class sizes and facilities are not consistently published, making it difficult for prospective parents to benchmark value against established rivals.
- Riyadh's international school sector is still maturing compared with hubs such as Dubai or Abu Dhabi, so accreditation history and long-term institutional stability are less proven.
- Being day-only, families without settled housing near the campus may face commuting or logistics constraints during relocation.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is understood to run across multiple year groups, typical of a growing British curriculum school, with places offered subject to available capacity, an application form, and an assessment or informal interview appropriate to the child's age. English proficiency is generally expected given the curriculum. As a newer entrant to Riyadh's international school market, competitiveness is likely moderate rather than acute, though demand from the expanding expatriate community may tighten places in popular year groups. Prospective families should request current fee schedules and inspection status directly, as these are not consistently 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_4f1a75386d.