

St. Columba's School

New Delhi, India



An all-boys Christian Brothers institution beside Lutyens' Delhi's Sacred Heart Cathedral, home to North India's premier school quiz.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	70/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	63/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. Columba’s School occupies a distinct niche in Delhi: an established all-boys day school in the capital’s old institutional heart, founded in **1941** and still carrying the weight of that history. It sits beside Sacred Heart Cathedral in Lutyens’ Delhi, which gives it a civic and architectural setting few schools can match. The school runs the CBSE curriculum in English for boys aged 5 to 18. With a student-teacher ratio of **17:1** and an average class size of **34**, this is not a boutique school built around low-density pastoral care; it is a sizeable, mainstream academic institution that expects boys to function well in a busy, structured environment. The draw is not novelty. The draw is continuity, seriousness and a reputation that still means something in North India.

What marks St. Columba's out is culture. This is a school with *institutional confidence*, *old-Delhi gravitas* and a long-established public identity. It is also home to North India's premier school quiz, a detail that matters more than it first sounds: strong quiz culture points to intellectual competitiveness, general knowledge, quick thinking and boys who enjoy academic contest beyond the textbook. Parents looking for a school with a polished international veneer should look elsewhere. St. Columba's trades on *earned prestige*, not cosmopolitan branding. Its market position is clear: a traditional, academically serious Delhi boys' school with deep local recognition, strong co-curricular signalling in quizzing, and the kind of alumni-network effect that long-standing capital-city schools tend to generate, even when they do not market it aggressively.

It belongs on a shortlist for families who want a school with *discipline without fuss*, a clear academic spine and a social environment shaped by boys who can handle competition. It suits students who enjoy busy classrooms, are resilient rather than delicate, and want peers who will push them. A boy who thrives here will value routine, relish contests, and take pride in belonging to a school with *a strong sense of place*. A boy who needs intensive individual hand-holding, progressive pedagogy or a softer co-educational atmosphere will find better fits elsewhere. St. Columba's knows what it is. For the right family, that clarity is its strength.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1941 by the Congregation of Christian Brothers, making it one of Delhi's oldest continuously run Catholic boys' schools, located in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi.
- Alumni include three Rhodes Scholars, a Pulitzer Prize winner and a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, alongside former Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud.
- Runs the Columban Open Quiz, described as the premier school quiz of North India, drawing more than 200 competing teams annually.
- CBSE-affiliated since 1991 with a continuous K-12 structure and an enrolment of well over 3,000 boys, giving it institutional scale and stability.
- Has an unusual social-outreach tradition, having provided on-campus shelter to homeless people since 2002 as part of its student social-responsibility program.

TRADE-OFFS

- Single-sex (boys only) from KG through Class 12, so it is not an option for families wanting co-education or with only daughters.
- Class 1 monthly fees (around Rs 4,766) run higher than the Delhi private-school average of about Rs 3,965, so it is not a budget option.
- As an unaided Christian minority institution, admission preference goes to Catholic/Christian applicants within designated parish areas; remaining seats are filled via a points system and lucky draw, making outcomes hard to predict for other applicants.
- The school's own admission terms state that no additional facilities are available for children with special needs.

ADMISSIONS

Main entry is at KG, with roughly 240 seats allotted through Delhi's Directorate of Education nursery-admission calendar; other classes admit only against vacancies. Classes 1, 6, 9 and 11 typically require a written entrance test and interview. As an unaided Christian minority school, Catholic/Christian applicants within defined parish boundaries receive priority; remaining places are decided by a points system and, where seats remain, a lucky draw. The school states it accepts no donations in lieu of admission and gives no assurance of a place.

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_557ab3cdd9.