

Saint Ignatius' College Riverview

Sydney, Australia



A Jesuit boys' school on the Lane Cove River, where the boatshed sits on campus and rowing has raced since 1882

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	75/100
Academic outcomes	75/100
University placement	73/100
Prestige & heritage	79/100
Alumni network	80/100
Facilities	82/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Saint Ignatius' College Riverview occupies a distinct corner of the Sydney market: an old, full-scale boys' school with day and boarding provision, a Jesuit frame, and a riverfront campus that gives sport and school life unusual physical coherence. Founded in ****1880****, it trades on continuity and ritual as much as on academics. The appeal is not hard to locate. This is a school built for families who want a **strong sense of tradition**, formal pastoral structures, and a broad co-curricular life that carries real weight. The boatshed on campus and a rowing history running back to 1882 are not decorative details; they tell you what sort of place this is — physically active, institutional, competitive, and deeply invested in belonging.

What marks Riverview out is the combination of scale, structure and identity. It is a boys' school for ages 11-18, with the Australian HSC, English as the language of instruction, boarding as a real part of the school rather than a token add-on, and a published student-teacher ratio of **11:1** with average classes of **22**. The school talks in the language of holistic education, pastoral care and service, and in this case the message aligns with the architecture of the place: house-based support, a long-established boarding community, and an all-through culture that starts well before the senior years. Parents who want a narrowly transactional academic factory will find other Sydney schools more direct in that ambition. Riverview's proposition is wider: *education of the heart*, *institutional confidence*, *serious co-curricular breadth*, and a formation model rooted in discipline, service and shared codes.

That same clarity of identity is the reason it belongs on a shortlist — and the reason it will not suit everyone. Riverview fits boys who thrive in a structured environment, value team sport, and want a school with *visible community rituals* and *a powerful old-school rhythm*. Boarders, country families and families drawn to a strongly values-led education will find a mature, coherent offer here. Boys who resist convention, dislike single-sex settings, or want a more informal, individualised culture may find the place too codified. In market terms, Riverview sits among Sydney's heavyweight traditional boys' schools, but with a Jesuit emphasis on pastoral care and service that gives it a different flavour from a pure academic hothouse. For the right student, that mix of *spiritual seriousness*, institutional memory and everyday activity on the river is compelling.

STRENGTHS

- Saint Ignatius' College has a non-selective enrolment policy and currently caters for approximately 1,560 students from Years 5 to 12, including 335 boarders, making it one of the largest boarding schools in New South Wales.
- Notable alumni include former Prime Minister of Australia Tony Abbott, former Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, former Chief Justice of New South Wales Tom Bathurst, the current Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher, former NSW Premier Nick Greiner, seventeen former Wallabies, nine Olympians and eight Rhodes Scholars.
- The 2025 HSC cohort achieved a median ATAR of 87.45, with 41% of students scoring above 90, and the Dux graduated with an ATAR of 99.7.
- The school occupies spacious grounds covering over 110 acres on Burns Bay and the Lane Cove River, close to central Sydney.
- Boarders are organised across three purpose-built houses by age group, from Fr Charles Fraser House (Years 6-8) through to Kevin Fagan House (Years 11-12), allowing pastoral structures to match developmental stage.

TRADE - OFFS

- The school is single-sex, enrolling boys only across Years 5-12, so it is not an option for families wanting co-education.
- 2026 Year 12 tuition is set at \$42,660, with a separate boarding fee from \$29,565, and additional levies for camps, music tuition and equipment typically apply on top.
- Although academic entry is non-selective, admissions priority is given first to boys baptised into the Catholic faith and to families actively involved in a parish community, which can disadvantage secular or other-faith applicants in oversubscribed intakes.
- Like a number of long-established Australian Catholic boarding schools, Riverview has a historical record of child sexual abuse allegations against Jesuit staff in the 1970s and 1980s, with two cases resulting in criminal convictions.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points are Year 5 and Year 7 for day boys, with waitlist applications accepted from birth and closing September 1 of Year 1 (for Year 5) or Year 3 (for Year 7); boarding places for Years 6-12 are considered year-round. Enrolment is formally non-selective, assessed on 'whole person' criteria, but published priority favours baptised Catholic boys and families active in parish life, then alignment with school values. Given the school's 335-strong boarding cohort and long waitlists, families should apply early and be prepared for a values-based rather than purely academic selection process.

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_57f0009bcd.