

St Peter's College, Adelaide

Adelaide, Australia



Founded in 1847 alongside the colony itself, its heritage quadrangles and Finnis outdoor campus anchor an Anglican boarding tradition on the Adelaide Parklands.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

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

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St Peter’s College trades on three assets that few Australian schools can match in combination: an 1847 foundation, a position on the Adelaide Parklands, and a serious boarding tradition anchored by the Finnis outdoor campus. This is an Anglican boys’ school for ages 3 to 18, with English as the language of instruction, an Australian curriculum, and membership of both AHISA and HMC. That mix places it firmly in the old-guard independent market: **established**, **high-tradition**, and built for families who want a school with institutional memory rather than educational fashion. The school’s own framing is explicit. It

sells boys' education, boarding, outdoor education, service and Anglican life as central parts of the package, not decorative extras.

What is special here is not novelty but coherence. Early Years starts at ages 3 and 4, then runs through Prep to Year 6, Years 7 and 8, and Years 9 to 12, so the school covers the whole ladder without a handover point. Boarding is not an add-on buried in a prospectus tab; it sits near the centre of the school's identity, and that matters in Adelaide, where many day schools offer polish but less residential depth. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **AUD 25,736**, with boarding averaging **AUD 31,860**. That is expensive, but not irrational for a heritage school with both day and boarding provision on this scale. Parents should also note the school's public insistence on inclusion across race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and nationality. In an old Anglican boys' school, that clarity matters; it signals a culture that wants to look less *clubby* and more current.

Why shortlist it? Because St Peter's offers a very specific proposition and executes it without confusion. This is for families who want structure, ritual, visible pastoral framing and a school experience that extends well beyond the classroom into sport, music, visual and performing arts, clubs, service and outdoor education. It suits boys who thrive in a *highly organised*, communal environment and who will use the breadth of school life rather than resist it. It also suits boarders who need a school where boarding is part of the institution's core grammar, not a satellite business. Boys who want a co-educational setting, a progressive culture with minimal tradition, or a looser, more self-directed atmosphere will find it *constraining*. Boys who like clear expectations, a strong sense of belonging and the *full machinery* of an established school will find a great deal to work with here.

STRENGTHS	TRADE-OFFS
• Founded in 1847, St Peter's College is one of Australia's oldest schools with 178 years of continuous operation on its Hackney site near the Adelaide Parklands. • Alumni include three Nobel Laureates, 42 Rhodes Scholars and 10 Australian state premiers, reflecting a long track record of producing prominent old scholars. • The 90-acre Hackney campus combines heritage buildings with modern facilities, plus a separate outdoor education campus at Finniss near Lake Alexandrina for camps and expeditions. • Offers both the SACE and the IB Diploma in the Senior School, giving families a dual academic pathway alongside the standard Australian Curriculum. • Boarding is available and the school is CRICOS-registered for international students, with agency partnerships to assist overseas families with enrolment and visas.	• It is a boys-only school (Reception to Year 12), so it is not an option for families wanting co-education or seeking a place for a daughter. • Tuition is substantial by Australian standards, with published fee schedules plus additional compulsory levies (fixed and IT levies) and extra charges for music, boarding incidentals and excursions. • As a Christian Anglican school with an active chaplaincy and compulsory worship components, families seeking a secular or strictly non-denominational environment may find the religious character pronounced. • Academic league-table position within South Australia has historically trailed some girls' schools on NAPLAN measures, per a 2014 ranking by The Australian.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points exist at Early Years (age 4), Reception, Year 5 and Year 7, with places also considered at other year levels subject to availability. Families apply online, are placed on a waiting list, and offers for major entry years are typically made about two years ahead of commencement. International and boarding students must apply via an enrolment form and, if not residing with a parent, are generally required to live in the Boarding House or an approved homestay. Competitiveness varies by year level and is highest at the standard Year 7 entry point given sibling and legacy priorities.

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_648881c3ec.