

St Peter's International School

Palmela, Portugal



Between Lisbon and Comporta, twin pathways pair Portugal's national curriculum with British IGCSEs and the IB Diploma

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	71/100
Academic outcomes	76/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	66/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	70/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Set between Lisbon and Comporta, St Peter’s International School trades on a combination that few Portuguese schools offer cleanly: a route that keeps one foot in Portugal and another in the international system. The key draw is the twin academic structure. This is a day school in Palmela for ages 3 to 18, teaching in English and Portuguese, with British and IB pathways alongside its Portuguese roots. For families who want global mobility without cutting ties to Portugal, that matters. So does the school’s IBO accreditation. The campus is large at ****37,000 m²****, and the school advertises more than ****80+ activities**** across sport, arts and enrichment; that points to a campus school, not a city building trying to improvise breadth in limited space.

Its market position is clear: this is an **aspirational**, bilingual international school serving families who want academic range and a serious extracurricular offer without moving into Lisbon proper. The published average annual day fee of ****€15,000**** places it in the upper-middle tier of the Portuguese private market, expensive but not at the level that narrows the field to a tiny expatriate elite. The school pushes hard on academic standing in national exams and on access to high-prestige universities, but it does not publish aggregate IB results, IGCSE outcomes or university destination data in the public domain here. That opacity matters. Parents weighing it against Lisbon's strongest international schools will want harder outcome data than broad claims and third-party ranking references.

The student who fits St Peter's is not hard to identify. This school suits children who can handle a **demanding**, bilingual environment and families who value structure, scale and **clear academic ambition**. It will also appeal to Portuguese families who want an international route without abandoning the local system, and to international families settling south of Lisbon who want an established school rather than a boutique newcomer. Children who thrive in a **large, full-service campus** with sport, arts and a busy activities programme will find more here than at a smaller academic specialist. Families seeking a tiny, intensely personal school or fully transparent published outcomes across every exam track will find weaker grounds for confidence.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1993, the school joined Inspired Education Group in 2019, becoming part of a global network of over 125 school communities in 25+ countries.
- Offers on-campus boarding for ages 14-18, described as the first and only property of its kind in the Greater Lisbon area.
- Dual-pathway structure lets families choose between the Portuguese National Curriculum or an International Pathway combining Cambridge, IGCSE and the IB Diploma Programme.
- Spacious 37,000 sqm campus includes science laboratories, an auditorium, two tennis courts, and astroturf pitches for football and rugby.
- Enrolls roughly 1,500 students with 44 nationalities represented, giving genuine international mix within a large day/boarding community.

TRADE-OFFS

- Most students are Portuguese nationals, which may not suit families specifically seeking a majority-expatriate peer group despite the 'international' branding.
- Tuition for the International Pathway rises to roughly EUR 16,050-17,280 a year for IGCSE and IB Diploma years, a significant premium for the region.
- Campus sits in Palmela, Setubal, around 30 minutes from central Lisbon, meaning a daily commute for families based in the city itself.
- The IB/international cohort operates as one strand within a much larger, predominantly Portuguese-curriculum all-through school of about 1,500 pupils, so class and cohort sizes for the international pathway are not separately disclosed.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points range from age 4 months in Preschool through to Grade 11 for the two-year IB Diploma, with transitions also possible at Grade 1, 6, 9 and 10. Families select either the Portuguese National Pathway or the International Pathway (Cambridge, IGCSE, IB DP). Boarding is available from age 14. Applications go directly through the school's admissions office; published fee tables cover the International Pathway (day) only, with boarding and national-curriculum pricing available on request. Continuous intake across many year groups suggests moderate rather than highly selective competitiveness.

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_6bede3972a.