

Alexandra College

Milltown, Dublin, Ireland



The Milltown school that first opened Irish university education to women in 1866 still tops Leaving Cert results tables today.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	59/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	73/100
Alumni network	10/100
Facilities	64/100
Transparency	52/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Alexandra College occupies a distinctive corner of the Dublin market: a Church of Ireland girls’ school in Milltown with deep institutional history, a day-and-boardings structure, and academic results strong enough to keep it in any serious comparison set. Its claim to importance rests on substance, not branding. Founded in **1866**, it sits in the first rank of Irish girls’ education historically, and the school still trades on that inheritance with conviction. The public case is clear: a long-established school for girls that combines tradition, pastoral structure and ambitious academic expectations. The headline number matters too: an average of **530** Leaving Cert points in **2025** is a strong marker by any measure.

What separates Alexandra from many competitors is the blend of academic pressure and cultural breadth without any evident appetite for gimmickry. The school states that academic excellence is its hallmark, and the exam figure supports that. It also pushes hard on music, sport, the arts and what it calls holistic education, with **27** subjects on offer in the College. That breadth matters for families who want more than a results factory. Boarding adds another layer of appeal in a Dublin market where high-quality girls' boarding options are not abundant. Parents looking for *serious academic intent*, *ordered pastoral care* and a *strong female environment* will find Alexandra compelling.

The right student for Alexandra is a girl who will use the school's structure rather than fight it: academically motivated, comfortable in an all-girls setting, and ready to engage in music, sport or the arts rather than treat school as a narrow exam pipeline. This is not a place built around flash, scale or aggressive international marketing. It suits families who value *institutional confidence*, *old-school continuity* and a school culture that still takes character formation seriously. The Church of Ireland ethos will suit some families directly and deter others; that is not a flaw, just a clear line in the sand.

Why shortlist it? Because Alexandra offers something harder to find than glossy facilities copy: *historical weight*, *high academic ceilings* and a coherent sense of purpose. It stands out for girls who want to be stretched, known and educated in an environment with real memory and standards. Families who want a sprawling co-ed campus or a visibly cosmopolitan brand may look elsewhere. Families who want a proven Dublin girls' school with boarding, strong Leaving Cert outcomes and a culture that has held its shape for over **159** years should look closely.

STRENGTHS	TRADE-OFFS
• Founded in 1866 by Quaker educationalist Anne Jellicoe, making it one of Ireland's oldest and most established girls' schools, with a documented role in pioneering women's access to university education. • All-through school structure from Preschool (age 3) to Leaving Certificate (age 19), offering day places plus 5-day and 7-day boarding options from age 10. • Broad co-curricular provision including a century-old hockey tradition, a dedicated music and performance programme, drama societies, and facilities such as the Henrietta White Centre and an all-weather pitch. • Inspected by Ireland's Department of Education and Skills, and a member of the International Coalition of Girls' Schools, giving external benchmarking of its single-sex model. • Small-class, all-through pastoral model with a long-established boarding community integrated into daily school life rather than run as a separate add-on.	• Single-sex (girls only), which rules it out for families wanting a coeducational environment for their daughter or a place for sons. • Fee-paying with day fees around EUR 8,988 and boarding fees ranging roughly EUR 21,358 to EUR 31,041 depending on arrangement, plus a non-refundable application fee. • Follows the Irish state Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate curriculum rather than the International Baccalaureate, which may complicate continuity for families expecting further international relocation. • Admissions for 1st Year day and boarding places operate on a strict annual timeline requiring application roughly one to two years ahead, with places allocated under a formal selection policy rather than on demand.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Preschool (age 3) through to Leaving Certificate (age 19), with the principal intake at 1st Year (around age 12); boarding is offered from age 10 on 5-day or 7-day bases. Applications require a scanned birth certificate and a non-refundable application fee, with places allocated under a published Admissions Policy in line with the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018. Day applications for 1st Year typically close in October the year before entry, and boarding applications open earlier still, so families should apply well ahead of their desired start date.

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_7860609e18.