

Selwyn House School

Montreal, Canada



One of only two all-boys schools left in Quebec, its name and ethos borrowed from a Cambridge college back in 1908.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	69/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	64/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Selwyn House occupies a narrow and durable niche in Montreal: an English-language, non-religious boys' day school with real history and a clear sense of itself. Founded in 1908 and named after Selwyn College, Cambridge, it trades on old-school confidence without relying on piety or faux tradition. The distinctive point is not the all-boys label on its own. It is the combination of that model with a declared CEGEP and university preparatory mission, a strong co-curricular spine, and a scale that keeps the place personal. With a ****9:1**** student-teacher ratio and average classes of ****18****, boys do not vanish into the crowd. For parents in Quebec who want an English-medium education but also want a school grounded in both English and French language and culture, Selwyn has a sharper proposition than many generic

independent schools.

What lifts it onto a shortlist is the coherence of the offer. The school is explicit that academics are “non-negotiable”, but it does not stop at classroom performance. Athletics sit near the centre of school life, not at the decorative edge, and the same applies to the arts, outdoor education, student leadership and community engagement. The menu is broad: Advanced Placement, a Veritas Diploma, a wood workshop, wellness provision, a student success centre, Duke of Edinburgh, and a substantial athletics programme. That breadth matters for boys who need **purposeful structure**, **a close-knit community** and **serious adult attention** to do their best work. The “Old Boys” culture also tells you something important: this is a school that values continuity, belonging and loyalty. Some families will find that **deeply reassuring**. Others will find it **too steeped in tradition**. Both readings are fair.

The ideal Selwyn pupil is a boy who benefits from clear expectations, visible school spirit and a relational style of teaching. He does not need to be a star athlete, but he will thrive if he wants to join in rather than sit outside the life of the school. He will value **competitive energy**, **high-contact teaching** and a setting that expects boys to be respectful, resilient and hard-working. This is not the right fit for every child. Parents looking for a fully co-educational environment, a progressive free-form culture, or a school that publishes a hard data-rich account of outcomes may look elsewhere; Selwyn does not disclose aggregate public exam figures in the public domain. But for families who want one of only two remaining all-boys schools in Quebec, with more than a century of identity behind it and a K-12 structure that keeps boys on one campus journey from age ***5-18***, Selwyn House has a **strong, singular case**.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1908 as one of Montreal's oldest English-language independent schools, giving it more than a century of institutional continuity.
- Average class sizes of 15 to 20 students across a K-12 boys' program, smaller than many large day schools in the region.
- Offers needs-based bursaries of up to 50 percent or greater for new students entering Grades 7 through 12, assessed separately from admissions.
- Introduced a Pre-University (Grade 12) year starting September 2023, giving families an alternative to Quebec's standard two-year CEGEP route.
- Counts prominent Montreal business and public figures among alumni, including members of the Bronfman family and NBA player Joel Anthony.

TRADE-OFFS

- Single-sex boys-only school, so it is not an option for families wanting a coeducational environment.
- Published tuition runs from roughly CAD 27,749 to CAD 35,889 depending on grade, with extra charges for lunch supervision, activities and international-student fees.
- No dedicated specialist staff for children with learning disabilities; per independent review findings, if difficulties are found the school aims to help boys learn but will not alter its academic expectations for them.
- As a Quebec day school teaching to the provincial curriculum, non-French-speaking newcomers may need outside tutoring in French beyond the earliest grades.

ADMISSIONS

Applications are handled through the school's own online portal (mySelwyn) rather than a shared francophone-region clearinghouse, with entry possible at Kindergarten and other grades subject to space. The school became fully independent of provincial grants in 2021, which it says widened the applicant pool. Prospective families are encouraged to visit during a school day; the process typically involves transcripts, a recommendation, and an interview. Bursary applications are reviewed separately and do not affect admission decisions.

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_81c6b925ab.