

Bedford Girls' School

Bedford, United Kingdom



Pioneering since 1882, girls here follow the IB from Primary Years to Diploma on a riverside campus beside the Great Ouse.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	67/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	68/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	63/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The defining feature at Bedford Girls’ School is the all-through girls’ environment paired with the IB on a riverside Bedford campus beside the Great Ouse. That combination is still uncommon in the UK day-school market. The school covers ages 7 to 18, teaches in English, and sits in the independent sector with ISI and GSA accreditation. It has pedigree — founded in 1882 — but the more interesting point is its **deliberate modernity**. The head’s own career, spanning North London Collegiate School Jeju and Harrow Hong Kong before Bedford, fits a school that wants international-mindedness to mean more than a line in the prospectus.

Parents should shortlist it for three reasons. First, it offers continuity: girls can move from junior years through to sixth form without the usual break at 11 or 13, and they do so in a single-sex setting that many families still value for confidence, leadership and classroom voice. Second, the IB focus gives the school a *clear academic identity* in a market crowded with conventional British independent schools. Third, the price point matters. At an average annual day fee of **£18,032**, Bedford Girls' School sits in a *serious but not stratospheric* bracket for an English independent day school with this history and breadth. That gives it a strong position for families who want independent-school infrastructure and a distinctive academic route without London pricing.

The school will suit girls who thrive in a focused, academically organised environment and who want a school with an outward-looking frame rather than a purely local one. It will appeal to students who enjoy breadth, discussion and the structured independence that the IB demands over time. It will also suit families who want a non-religious school and a day-school model rather than boarding. The weaker point is also plain: Bedford Girls' School does not trade on the instant global name recognition of the biggest London independents, and parents chasing raw prestige shorthand may look elsewhere. For families who care more about fit than label, that is precisely why it earns a place on a shortlist: it offers **7-18** continuity, girls-only focus, and an *unusually coherent* identity built around the IB rather than around inherited brand mythology.

STRENGTHS

- Girls-only day school for ages 7-18 with a full 7-18 educational arc.
- World-class co-curricular provision in sport, music, dance, drama and visual arts.
- Offers the IB Diploma in the sixth form alongside a British curriculum.
- Publishes exam results and university destinations on its own website.
- Non-religious setting within the well-resourced Harpur Trust family.

TRADE-OFFS

- Day-only model with no boarding, so less suited to overseas families needing residential care.
- Single-sex education will not suit families wanting a co-educational environment.
- Regional rather than national profile compared with the largest London girls' schools.

ADMISSIONS

Bedford Girls' School is a day school for girls aged 7-18, with entry across junior, senior and sixth form stages. The school website sets out its admissions process, including online registration and separate assessment routes for the Junior School, Senior School and Sixth Form, along with dedicated Fees and Bursaries pages. Families should expect a selective independent-school process and check the exact sequence and expectations for the relevant year of entry directly with the admissions office.

Because detailed assessment formats, interview arrangements and application deadlines can change year to year, parents should confirm the current timetable and requirements with the school. The website indicates that means-tested bursary support is available through a dedicated Bursaries page, so families should enquire about eligibility rather than assume terms. The most natural fit, as ever, is on substance: this is a girls' school with world-class strength in swimming, music and dance, so applicants with serious interest in those areas may find a particularly strong match.

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_855c700063.