

Debsirin School

Bangkok, Thailand



Founded on temple grounds by royal decree in 1885, this Bangkok boys' school still fields one of Thailand's oldest football rivalries.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	53/100
Academic outcomes	58/100
University placement	60/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	19/100
Facilities	52/100
Transparency	38/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Debsirin’s case for a shortlist place starts with history that still has force in the present. This is a boys’ day school in Bangkok for ages 12 to 18, founded in 1885 by King Chulalongkorn and still tied to one of the country’s best-known school traditions through Jaturamitr Samakkee, the biennial football competition between four of Thailand’s oldest boys’ schools. That matters because Debsirin is not selling a generic modern-school package. It offers entry into an *old Bangkok institution* with deep alumni reach, a strong sense of hierarchy and belonging, and the prestige that attaches to a school founded by royal decree. For families who value civic standing and historical weight, that is a real differentiator.

The school runs the Thai National curriculum, teaches in Thai and English, and holds accreditation from Thailand’s Ministry of Education. That places it firmly in the domestic academic mainstream, not the international-school market, even if English has a role in instruction. The average annual day fee across the full ladder is ****43,550 THB****, which makes Debsirin ***strikingly accessible*** for a school with this level of name recognition in Bangkok. Parents should still keep their eyes open: the school does not publish the kind of public academic outcome data international parents now expect, and families looking for IB, A-levels or a fully English-medium pathway need to look elsewhere. This is a school with a defined national identity, not a flexible global hybrid.

The student who will want Debsirin is a boy who thrives in an environment with tradition, competition and a clear collective culture. The age range, ****12-18****, and the all-boys format sharpen that identity. So does the alumni record: the school counts King Ananda Mahidol, Tunku Abdul Rahman, more than ****70**** cabinet members and five prime ministers among former students. That pedigree gives Debsirin ***serious establishment capital***. It will suit families who want a ***high-status Thai education*** with strong symbolic value and a recognisable place in Bangkok’s elite school culture. It will not suit parents hunting for soft pastoral branding, international-style disclosure, or a curriculum designed first for overseas university mobility.

STRENGTHS

- One of Thailand's oldest state schools, established 15 March 1885 by founder King Chulalongkorn, giving it over a century of institutional history.
- Alumni include King Ananda Mahidol, Malaysia's founding father Tunku Abdul Rahman, more than 70 cabinet members, including five prime ministers, and numerous military leaders and dignitaries.
- Offers parallel bilingual pathways alongside the standard track: Lower Secondary (M.1-M.3) English Program (EP), Mini English Program (MEP), and Standard Curriculum Program.
- The school also operates as a living museum, containing exhibits on the history of the school and the development of Thai education.
- Debsirin School participates in Jaturamitr Samakkee, a biennial traditional football competition between the four oldest boys' schools in Thailand, giving students a well-known inter-school tradition and alumni loyalty network.

TRADE - OFFS

- Public all-boys secondary school - a single-sex environment that is not an option for families with daughters.
- As a secondary-only institution, families must arrange separate primary schooling before students can enter at the lower-secondary intake point.
- Debsirin School is a government school under the Department of General Education, Ministry of Education, meaning core instruction follows the Thai National curriculum in Thai, with English exposure largely confined to the EP/MEP tracks rather than full international immersion.
- Campus sits on a compact, temple-donated plot in the older, dense Pom Prap Sattru Phai district of inner Bangkok - the school occupies a land area of 8 rai, 3 ngan, and 56 square wa, donated by the fifth abbot of Wat Thepsirin in 1902 - rather than a modern, purpose-built suburban campus.

ADMISSIONS

Entry follows the standard Thai government-school pattern, with intake points at Matthayom 1 (lower secondary) and Matthayom 4 (upper secondary), typically via written entrance examinations set by the school and the Ministry of Education. Parallel English Program (EP) and Mini English Program (MEP) tracks run alongside the standard Thai-medium curriculum and usually carry separate applications and higher fees. As one of Bangkok's oldest and most historically prestigious boys' schools, places at standard entry points are highly sought after by Thai families; published data on exact intake numbers or acceptance rates is not publicly available.

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_8574474177.