

Kaywon High School of Arts

Uiwang, Gyeonggi, South Korea



Since 1980, a Gyeonggi campus splits fine art, music, dance and theatre into four dedicated conservatory tracks under one roof.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	48/100
Academic outcomes	59/100
University placement	79/100
Prestige & heritage	19/100
Alumni network	52/100
Facilities	38/100
Transparency	21/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Kaywon High School of Arts occupies a clear niche in South Korea’s specialist secondary market: a day school for ages 16–19 built around the Korean National Curriculum and delivered in Korean, with four conservatory-style departments under one roof — art, music, dance, and drama & film. That departmental structure is the point. This is not a general academic school with a strong arts programme bolted on. It is an arts high school that organises school life, training and identity around disciplined specialisation. For families who want **serious pre-professional formation** rather than broad-based school enrichment, that distinction matters. Founded in ****1985**** on its Uiwang campus in Gyeonggi, Kaywon has had time to establish routines, expectations and a recognisable institutional culture.

What puts Kaywon on a shortlist is focus. A student enters a defined track, trains alongside peers with the same intensity, and studies in a school where the arts are the main business rather than the decorative fringe. The four-department model also gives it breadth inside that focus: visual artists, musicians, dancers, and drama or film students each have a home, while still sharing a single specialist environment. That creates *a conservatory atmosphere*, *high artistic seriousness* and *peer pressure in the best sense*. Parents looking for a polished international package in English will find none of that here; the language of instruction is Korean, the curriculum is national, and the school serves students ready to work within a Korean arts-education framework. That directness is a strength, not a flaw.

The right student for Kaywon is not a dabbler. This school suits a teenager with a settled commitment to one discipline, the stamina for repeated practice, critique and rehearsal, and the temperament to thrive in a selective artistic peer group. A painter who wants studio-centred schooling, a dancer who needs training to shape the day, a young musician who wants *daily immersion*, or a drama and film student drawn to *performance under pressure* will find the proposition intelligible. Students who want maximum subject breadth, a late decision on specialism, or a conventional academic sixth-form experience should look elsewhere. Kaywon's appeal rests on *clarity of purpose*: **4** dedicated departments, one specialist mission, and an age range of **16-19** that catches students at the point where talent needs structure.

STRENGTHS

- Specialized arts high school under the Kaywon Foundation offering dedicated Theatre and Film, Broadcasting Entertainment, and Visual Arts departments within Korea's national curriculum.
- Admission is audition and portfolio-based, producing a committed, artistically pre-selected student body rather than a general comprehensive intake.
- Located in Uiwang, Gyeonggi, within commuting distance of Seoul's broadcasters, film studios and entertainment agencies for industry exposure.
- Long-standing reputation within Korea's entertainment industry as a training ground for students pursuing acting, directing, and broadcasting careers.

TRADE - OFFS

- Instruction follows the Korean National Curriculum almost entirely in Korean, making it impractical for non-Korean-speaking expatriate students without prior fluency.
- Day-only school with no boarding facilities, so relocating families must independently arrange local accommodation and guardianship.
- Narrow arts specialization chosen at age 15-16 leaves limited flexibility for students who later wish to pivot to non-arts academic tracks.
- Highly competitive audition-based entry, particularly in performance-facing departments, means many capable applicants are turned away each year.

ADMISSIONS

Admission follows Korea's specialized arts high school process: applicants apply to a specific department, such as Theatre and Film, Broadcasting Entertainment, Visual Arts, Design or Creative Writing, rather than the school generally. Candidates undergo a practical audition or portfolio review, an interview, and academic screening based on middle-school records. Entertainment-facing departments are especially oversubscribed given the school's ties to Korea's acting and idol training pipelines. All instruction is in Korean, so non-Korean speakers would need strong language proficiency before applying, and places for international students are limited.

WTS RATING 

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