

École Alsacienne

Paris, France



Founded by Alsatian refugees in 1874, a Left Bank laboratory for secular, progressive pedagogy that shaped France's republican school system.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	77/100
University placement	75/100
Prestige & heritage	76/100
Alumni network	20/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	71/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

École Alsacienne occupies a rare position in Paris: a private day school with deep establishment roots and a long record of educational dissent. Founded in **1874**, it built its name on secular, progressive pedagogy, and that still shapes the offer. The school states its case plainly: *innovation*, *social mix*, inclusion, digital education, anti-bullying work and gender equality. It is private under state contract, teaches in French, runs through to the French Baccalaureate, and enrolls **1,850** pupils aged 4 to 18. That scale matters. This is not an intimate boutique school. It is a full, complicated institution with enough breadth to sustain serious extracurricular life, internal initiatives and a wide peer group, while still carrying a distinct ideological inheritance from the republican Left Bank.

What puts it on a shortlist is not raw selectivity theatre or a luxury-campus fantasy. It is the combination of intellectual seriousness and a declared rejection of “competition and elitism”. Few Paris schools make that claim so directly; fewer still have the history to make it credible. École Alsacienne also pushes harder than many traditional independents on bursaries, partnerships, support for pupils with disabilities or special needs, and visible pastoral themes. The website points to **210** new pupils a year, bursaries, and a developed workshop culture across science, digital making, debate, writing, theatre, music and sport. This is a school for families who want *a civilised intensity* rather than drill; *a serious school without academic machismo*; *a progressive French education* with structure, range and cultural depth.

The trade-off is clear. Parents seeking English-medium teaching, an international curriculum, boarding, or a narrowly results-driven atmosphere should look elsewhere. This is a French school, in French, for families ready to commit to that system and to the social and intellectual codes that come with it. Its published university destinations show strong traction with France’s selective institutions, with top recent destinations including Sciences Po (**30**), HEC Paris (**12**) and ESSEC (**10**). That reinforces the school’s market position: not a global nomad school, but a high-status Parisian route into the French elite higher-education landscape.

The pupil who thrives here values ideas, conversation and participation. A child who wants only rank-order competition will find the culture constraining. A child who needs room to write, debate, perform, build, question and join in will find *real oxygen* here. École Alsacienne suits academically capable students who do not want their adolescence reduced to exam technique; creative pupils who still need rigour; and families drawn to *republican idealism with operational substance*. In the Paris market, that mix remains *genuinely distinctive*.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1874 by Alsatian teachers who left Strasbourg after the Franco-Prussian War, giving the school a long, documented history as a laboratory for French secular schooling reform.
- Operates as a private school 'sous contrat' with the French State, delivering the standard national Baccalaureate curriculum from maternelle through terminale.
- Tuition is adjusted to family income (quotient familial) and the school runs a scholarship programme, which helps sustain a degree of social mix despite its central Paris location.
- A meaningful share of leavers pursue highly selective options after the Baccalaureate: 23% went on to foreign universities in 2021, institutions the school itself describes as at least as selective as French classes préparatoires.
- Located in the 6th arrondissement, close to RER B and three Metro lines, giving families and older pupils easy access across the city.

TRADE-OFFS

- Overall admission is highly competitive, with an average acceptance rate of just 15.7% across candidates.
- Entry is concentrated at the sixieme (start of college); more than half the student body is admitted at that single point, leaving few places for later joiners.
- Even having a sibling already enrolled is no guarantee: only 38-40% of sibling applicants are admitted to college-lycee, so multi-child families cannot assume automatic places.
- The school teaches a fully French Baccalaureate programme with no IB or bilingual track, which may not suit expat families wanting a curriculum that travels easily to non-French systems.

ADMISSIONS

Registration for entry is handled through an online form only, with a defined annual window (for 2026 entry, 7 November 2025 to 2 January 2026). A non-refundable 100 euro processing fee covers application review, interviews and written tests. The school admits roughly 210-220 new pupils a year across all levels, with the majority of places at sixieme. Average admission runs at 15.7%, rising to around 38-40% for siblings of current students, so competition is real even for insiders. Fees are means-tested against family income rather than fixed.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (117)

SPORT: Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Vincent Moscato

MUSIC: Michel Piccoli, Marc Minkowski, Carlos, Joyce Jonathan, Benjamin Siksou, Izïa, Manu Cornet

DRAMA: Jean-Paul Belmondo, Nathalie Baye, Catherine Allégret, Édouard Baer, Marina Hands, Michel Piccoli, Jean Bruller, Jean de Brunhoff

VISUAL_ARTS: Marina Hands, Pierre Louÿs, Marc Quinn, Jean Bruller, Jean de Brunhoff, Carlos, Joyce Jonathan, Henry de Monfreid

LETTERS: Stéphane Hessel, Marc Boegner, Édouard Baer, Élisabeth Badinter, Pierre Louÿs, Jean-Jacques Pauvert, Jean Bruller, Michel Butel

POLITICS: Stéphane Hessel, Jacques Isorni, Alain Bombard, Jean Lisbonne, Emmanuel Chiva, Michel Rocard, Thierry Breton, Louis-Charles Viossat

SCIENCE: Élisabeth Badinter, Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Alain Bombard, Jean-Claude Margueron, Théodore Monod, Francis Perrin, Georges Gricouff, Léa Griton-Noël

BUSINESS: Nicolas Berggruen, Paul Montebourg, Michel Racat, Thierry Breton, Arthur Sadoun, Félicité Herzog, Gilles Pélisson, Michael Goldman

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_939558edb5.