

Cours Sainte-Marie de Hann

Dakar, Senegal



A Marist compound in Hann where a Muslim-majority student body earned Senegal's first UNESCO Prize for Peace Education

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	54/100
Academic outcomes	55/100
University placement	53/100
Prestige & heritage	55/100
Alumni network	54/100
Facilities	53/100
Transparency	42/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Cours Sainte-Marie de Hann occupies a distinct place in Dakar’s school market: a Catholic Marist day school founded in ****1949**** that serves ages ****3-18**** and runs the French Baccalaureate under AEFÉ and Homologué status. That combination matters. It gives families the structure and external recognition of the French system, but inside a school with a Senegalese identity rather than an expatriate-only one. The strongest point in its profile is not glossy infrastructure or an imported brand. It is moral and civic seriousness. The school’s UNESCO Prize for Peace Education — the first awarded in Senegal — gives real weight to its claim to form citizens, not just examination candidates. In a city full of schools that promise rigour, that record carries **rare moral authority**.

What sets Sainte-Marie de Hann apart is the social fact at its centre: a Catholic school with a Muslim-majority student body. That is not a decorative detail; it is the school's defining feature. Parents who want daily proof that religious identity and civic coexistence can sit in the same classroom will find that here. The Marist framework gives the school a clear institutional backbone, but the appeal reaches well beyond Catholic families. This is a school for households that value *disciplined pluralism*, *serious pastoral culture* and an education that treats peace, respect and public conduct as core business rather than assembly-hall slogans. It stands on a substantial campus in Hann and has the age range to carry a child from early years to the bac without a break in ethos.

The school belongs on a shortlist for parents who want French-curriculum continuity in Dakar without the social insulation that marks parts of the international-school sector. It suits students who thrive in ordered environments, accept firm expectations and benefit from a community that places conduct alongside grades. A child who wants a loose, highly personalised, Anglo-style school experience will not choose this first. A child who responds to structure, collective identity and *calm institutional confidence* will. For Senegalese families, mixed-faith families and internationally minded parents who want French and English in the educational mix, Sainte-Marie de Hann offers *a grounded alternative* to both elite cosmopolitan branding and narrower confessional schooling. Its market position is clear: not the flashiest option in Dakar, but one of the city's more *socially consequential* schools.

STRENGTHS

- Follows the French Baccalaureate curriculum, giving graduates a qualification recognised across French universities and many international systems.
- Long-established Catholic day school in Dakar, part of a tradition of French-language mission schooling in Senegal.
- Location in the Hann area of Dakar offers a day-school option for expatriate and local families without requiring boarding.
- French curriculum continuity is useful for francophone families relocating within or from the French education network.

TRADE - OFFS

- As a day school only, it does not serve families needing boarding options for children relocating without local guardians.
- Catholic religious character may not suit families seeking a strictly secular or multi-faith environment.
- Public information on fees, class sizes, exam results and accreditation status is limited, making independent verification difficult.
- Editorial rank (1284) and candidate tier status indicate this is a lesser-documented school compared to established international benchmarks.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is understood to follow the standard French Baccalaureate school-year cycle, with enrolment typically arranged directly through the school ahead of the September start. Families should expect to provide prior school records and, given the Catholic affiliation, may encounter a religious-character admissions context. Detailed published criteria on selectivity, waiting lists or entrance testing are not readily available online, so direct contact with the school administration is advisable to confirm current requirements, capacity and fee structure before applying.

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_9bf1991f9e.