

Ordrup Gymnasium

Charlottenlund, Denmark



Founded in 1873 as a pioneer of coeducation and outdoor learning, now pairing IB with Danish stx in leafy Charlottenlund.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	58/100
Academic outcomes	60/100
University placement	58/100
Prestige & heritage	57/100
Alumni network	56/100
Facilities	56/100
Transparency	47/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Ordrup Gymnasium occupies a distinct niche in Greater Copenhagen: a public Danish gymnasium with real history, a clear academic route, and an international option that matters. Founded in ****1873****, it carries the weight of an old institution without trading on ceremony. The selling point is straightforward: students can take either the Danish stx or the IB Diploma in a day-school setting in Charlottenlund, with teaching in Danish and English. For families weighing local integration against international mobility, that dual track has practical force. This is not a boutique international school insulated from the national system; it is a Danish school with an international arm, and that difference shapes the culture.

What marks it out is the combination of longevity, coeducational roots and a serious sixth-form age range of **16–19**. Ordrup Gymnasium serves students at the point where schooling narrows into examination years, university preparation and adult habits of work. That gives it a more mature brief than all-through schools trying to be everything at once. The average class size of **28** tells its own story: this is not a tiny, hand-held environment. Parents looking for intense individual shepherding need to register that. The trade-off is *a grown-up academic setting*, *a less cosseted atmosphere* and peer groups large enough to sustain subject breadth and a fuller social life.

Why place it on a shortlist? Because it offers *a credible bridge between Danish and international education* in an affluent, stable suburb, with official standing both in the Danish system and as an IB World School. That matters for internationally minded families who do not want to give up local legitimacy. It also matters for Danish families who want the IB without moving into a fully international-school market. Ordrup’s age range keeps the focus where it belongs: senior secondary study, examinations and onward progression. *There is purpose here*, and parents who value structure over spectacle will recognise it.

The right student for Ordrup Gymnasium is independent, academically steady and ready to work in a school that expects competence rather than performing pastoral theatre. A teenager who wants *serious preparation for university*, who can handle mainstream class sizes, and who values either the Danish stx or the IB as a concrete route forward will fit. A student seeking *a polished international-school bubble* will not. A student who wants *solid academic grounding with international reach* will.

STRENGTHS

- Offers both the Danish STX upper-secondary diploma and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme on one campus.
- As a state-run Danish gymnasium, tuition is free of charge for Danish and EU/EEA-resident students.
- Located in Charlottenlund, a well-connected residential suburb a short train ride from central Copenhagen.
- Subject to standard Danish Ministry of Children and Education oversight and national exam standards, giving consistent quality benchmarks.
- Dual-track structure lets students access an internationally recognised IB qualification while remaining within the Danish public system.

TRADE-OFFS

- A day school only, with no boarding provision for families relocating without local housing.
- The majority of the school and its STX track operate in Danish, limiting immersion for non-Danish-speaking families outside the IB stream.
- IB places are limited relative to STX intake, making entry to the international track more competitive than the mainstream Danish diploma.
- Non-EU/EEA families should independently verify fee status and admission eligibility, as free tuition primarily applies to Danish/EU residents.

ADMISSIONS

Entry to the Danish STX track follows the national system, based on grade point average from folkeskole (lower secondary school) and standard catchment/quota rules administered via optagelse.dk. The IB Diploma Programme has a separate, more selective application process, generally requiring strong academic grades and sometimes an interview, with limited annual places. Tuition is free for Danish and EU/EEA residents; non-EEA applicants should confirm fee and eligibility status directly with the school. Applications for both tracks typically open in the preceding academic year ahead of a late-summer intake.

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_9fa0c0a09c.