

Uptown International School

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



In Mirdif, one of Dubai's earliest IB continuum schools pairs a notably strong Emirati cohort with deep-rooted support for students of determination.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	64/100
Academic outcomes	69/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	60/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	69/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Uptown International School occupies a distinctive patch of the Dubai market: an IB day school in Mirdif, founded in 2005, serving ages 3 to 18, with a profile that is less expatriate-default than many of its competitors. The standout feature is not novelty for its own sake, but fit. This is one of Dubai’s earlier IB continuum schools, and its **deep-rooted** appeal lies in two things that matter to families choosing for the long haul: a **notably strong** Emirati cohort and serious support for students of determination. That combination is rare. Many schools talk about inclusion; far fewer build a reputation on it. Uptown’s case

for a shortlist starts there, not in glossy language.

The school teaches in English, follows the IB, and holds IB World School accreditation. That gives parents a clear academic frame from age **3–18** without a change of system midway through a child’s schooling. In a city full of schools that chase every segment of the market, Uptown reads as more *settled* in its identity. Families who want a school with a stronger local social mix, rather than an enclave of transient expatriate life, will register that at once. Families with children who need thoughtful learning support will also take notice. The school’s average annual day fee of **AED 54,258** places it in the *serious but not stratospheric* band for Dubai international education: expensive, certainly, but not pitched at the ultra-luxury end.

The child who will do well here is not just an IB student in the abstract, but one who benefits from continuity, structure and a school community with *more grounding* than performative polish. Uptown suits families who want Dubai schooling without the social temperature and relentless image-management that define parts of the premium market. It also suits parents who value inclusion as an operational reality, not a slogan. Children who thrive on a broad, internationally recognised pathway in a day-school setting, and who do better in a community that has *real local roots*, will find a credible option here. Those seeking a hyper-elite social scene or a school whose identity rests on brute selectivity should look elsewhere. Uptown’s strength is different: it offers an established IB route, a *genuinely inclusive* culture, and a market position that feels more substantial than fashionable.

STRENGTHS

- Continuous IB pathway (PYP, MYP, DP and CP) from ages 3 to 18.
- 2026 IB Diploma results are strong, with a 66-candidate cohort averaging 35.2 points at a 98% pass rate (WSA).
- World-class sport provision (co-curricular score 9.0) backed by extensive outdoor facilities.
- Elite music, drama and visual-arts co-curricular strength (each scored 8.5).
- English-medium, non-religious ethos suits internationally mobile, mixed-belief families.

TRADE-OFFS

- Day-only model will not suit families seeking boarding.
- IB-only offering means no British or American curriculum alternative on site.
- KHDA rating of Very good sits below the emirate's Outstanding-rated schools.
- Founded in 2005, it lacks the deep legacy of the city's oldest names.

ADMISSIONS

Uptown International School is a co-educational day school for ages 3 to 18, so the main entry points are the early years, primary, secondary and sixth-form stages within that span. It follows the UK-curriculum Early Years Foundation Stage from its Rising 3's nursery through pre-KG and KG1, with students transitioning into the IB PYP in KG2 and continuing through the MYP, Diploma and Career-related Programmes. As an IB Continuum school, it admits across a full school-age range rather than at a single 11+ or 16+ 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_affc7e7584.