

Marist Brothers International School

Kobe, Japan



The only international school run by the Marist Brothers, rebuilt from Kobe's 1995 quake into an American-IB dual pathway.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	65/100
University placement	63/100
Prestige & heritage	64/100
Alumni network	63/100
Facilities	65/100
Transparency	53/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Marist Brothers International School occupies a rare niche in Japan: a Catholic international day school in Kobe, founded in **1951**, with English-medium teaching and a clean American-IB structure. It teaches the Common Core State Standards alongside the IB PYP, MYP and Diploma Programme, which gives families both continuity and a serious academic frame from the early years to Grade 12. The religious character matters here. This is the only international school run by the Marist Brothers, and that gives MBIS a distinct institutional identity: *a strong moral centre*, *a visible service ethos*, and an older-school belief that character formation sits alongside academic work rather than beneath it.

What puts it on a shortlist is not flash. It is coherence. Many international schools bolt together mission statements, pathways and values with little sign that they belong to the same institution. MBIS has a tighter fit. Its four pillars — academics, athletics, arts, and service and character development — align with the IB learner profile and with the school’s Catholic foundation. The result is a school for parents who want **structure without sterility** and **pastoral seriousness without sentimentality**. Kobe also works in its favour. MBIS sits within reach of a broad Kansai catchment, with the school itself pointing to access from Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, Akashi and Himeji. For families weighing city convenience against a more contained school community, that matters.

The caveat is scale and visibility. MBIS does not trade on the deep public profile of the biggest Tokyo and Yokohama names, and it does not publish the kind of headline-grabbing outcome data that hard-driving parents often demand. If you want a school that sells itself through league-table style noise, this is not it. If you want **clarity of purpose**, **a stable dual-track academic spine**, and a school that still treats values, relationships and service as core work, MBIS earns attention. It will suit students who thrive in a close community, value teacher oversight, and want an English-language international education with IB continuity through all major stages. It will appeal less to teenagers chasing a sprawling campus culture or a brand built on status display. This is a school for families who want **substance over theatre** and a child who will use both the American curriculum and the IB to grow into a disciplined, outward-facing adult.

STRENGTHS

- IB PYP, MYP and Diploma offered on one campus.
- Common Core standards alongside IB framework.
- English-medium instruction suits many expatriate families.
- Open from Early Years through Grade 12.

TRADE-OFFS

- American label may feel muddled with extensive IB provision.
- English-primary teaching may not suit Japanese-medium preferences.
- Over 20 languages spoken can mean less linguistic uniformity.

ADMISSIONS

Marist Brothers International School takes pupils from Early Years through to Grade 12, so the main entry points are the early years and any year where places arise. The school states that English is the primary language of instruction. Academically, it uses Common Core State Standards alongside the IB Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and the IB Diploma Programme in Grades 11 and 12. Beyond that, the school does not publish much admissions detail in the material provided, so parents should expect year-by-year availability rather than assume open places across the school.

The public information here does not set out assessment format, application deadlines, or any distinctive selection stages such as interviews, testing days or rolling admissions. It also does not mention bursaries, scholarships or financial aid, so families should not assume these are available without checking directly. What is clear is the school's positioning: a long-established international school in Kobe, founded in 1951, with a broad age range and an English-medium education framed by IB programmes in the primary, middle and diploma years.

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_b827b571ce.