

Westwood International School

Gaborone, Botswana



Gaborone's only IB continuum school, threading PYP to Diploma from a campus at the foot of Kgale Hill

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	54/100
Academic outcomes	55/100
University placement	53/100
Prestige & heritage	53/100
Alumni network	52/100
Facilities	56/100
Transparency	43/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Westwood sits in a strong niche in Gaborone: it is the city’s only full IB continuum school, running students from the early years through to the Diploma on one campus. For parents who want a single academic philosophy from age 3 to 18, that matters. So does scale. At about ****550**** students, Westwood is large enough to sustain breadth in sport, arts and service, but small enough to avoid the anonymity of a very big city school. The student body spans ****39**** nationalities, which gives the school genuine international range rather than a token passport mix. In Botswana, that combination is rare. **This is a serious proposition for internationally mobile families.**

What puts Westwood on a shortlist is continuity, accreditation and market position. The school has been operating since **1988**, which gives it institutional memory and a settled place in Gaborone's expatriate and diplomatic community. It holds IB World School, CIS and AISA accreditation, and it states that it is the only US Department of State-assisted school in Botswana. That matters to families who value external scrutiny and a school built to serve an international population, not a local school with an international label attached later. The proposition is clear: English-medium teaching, a non-religious setting, and an IB pathway that threads inquiry, concept-based learning and global citizenship from the youngest years to university entry. *For the right family, that coherence is hard to beat.*

There are limits. Westwood talks confidently about holistic education, sustainability and global citizenship, but it does not publish aggregate Diploma results or other headline attainment data in the public domain. Parents who want hard outcome metrics will need to ask direct questions. The school's own language also leans heavily on mission and ethos; that is common in IB schools, but it does not replace evidence on academic performance, subject breadth or university destinations. *The school's strongest selling point is structure, not published numbers.* If you are choosing between schools on measurable exam outcomes alone, Westwood leaves work for the parent.

The best fit is a student who thrives in an internationally mixed, English-speaking environment and responds well to inquiry rather than rote instruction. Westwood will suit children from diplomatic, NGO, corporate and mobile professional families, and local families who want an outward-facing education without leaving Botswana. It will also suit students who want their schooling to extend beyond the classroom into performance, sport and service. *There is a clear sense of purpose here.* *The atmosphere is cosmopolitan.* *The through-line from nursery to Diploma is the real prize.*

STRENGTHS

- Authorised as an IB World School, offering the International Baccalaureate continuum in a country where IB provision is limited.
- Located in Gaborone, Botswana's capital, giving access to embassies, government offices and the small expatriate professional community it primarily serves.
- Day-school structure keeps fees and logistics simpler than boarding alternatives, suiting families based long-term in Gaborone.
- Small national market position means the school is one of very few genuine international/IB options in Botswana, reducing local competition for places.
- International curriculum framework supports mobility for diplomatic, NGO and corporate families who may relocate again within a few years.

TRADE-OFFS

- Editorial rank (1287) and 'candidate' tier indicate limited independent verification of academic outcomes compared with established regional IB schools.
- Gaborone's small expatriate population means smaller cohort sizes, less subject choice at Diploma level, and fewer extracurricular or sporting facilities than larger city schools.
- Limited publicly available data on university placement, examination results or fee structure makes it hard for relocating families to benchmark against peer schools.
- As a single-campus day school, families needing boarding or wanting a large, established international community will find options more limited than in bigger regional hubs like Johannesburg or Nairobi.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions run on a rolling basis typical of small international day schools, with entry points across primary and secondary years rather than fixed intake cohorts. Applications generally require previous school reports, an interview or assessment, and proof of English proficiency where relevant. Competitiveness is likely moderate rather than selective, reflecting Botswana's small expatriate and professional local population. Families should confirm current fee schedules, IB programme availability (PYP/MYP/DP) and space at their intended entry year directly with the school, as published data is limited.

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_b894756752.