

Carey Baptist Grammar School

Kew, Australia



A century-old Baptist foundation in Kew runs VCE and IB in parallel, anchored by a campus Centre for Learning and Innovation with its own UN Room.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	66/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	70/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Carey’s sharpest point of distinction is structural, not rhetorical: this is a Kew day school that carries pupils from age 5 to 18, offers both the VCE and the IB Diploma in the senior years, and does so on a campus estate that extends beyond Kew to Donvale for younger pupils, with a separate Bulleen sports complex. That matters. A school running two senior pathways in parallel gives sixth-form-age students real choice without forcing a transfer at 16, and that alone puts Carey in a narrower competitive set than schools tied to a single leaving qualification. The average annual day fee across the full ladder is **AUD

37,168**, which places it firmly in the *expensive* end of the Melbourne independent day market, but not in fantasy-land pricing. Founded in **1923**, Carey also has the advantage of institutional depth without feeling antique for the sake of it.

What is special here is the combination of scale, continuity and breadth. Carey is co-educational throughout, teaches in English, and frames co-education as a core educational choice rather than a branding add-on. The school runs from Prep to Year 12 in Kew, with Donvale covering ELC to Year 6, so families get a long runway inside one system rather than a patchwork of separate junior and senior schools. The editorial tagline points to the Centre for Learning and Innovation and its own UN Room; that signals a school that wants intellectual life to have visible form on campus, not just a line in a prospectus. Parents who want a *serious*, *well-resourced* all-through day school with visible academic optionality will put Carey on a shortlist for exactly that reason.

The school will suit students who want range and can use it. A child who thrives in co-educational settings, wants access to broad interests, and values the option of choosing between the VCE and the IB Diploma at the top end has a clear fit here. So does the student who wants a substantial peer group and the infrastructure of a large independent school rather than a tiny boutique environment. It is less compelling for families who want a small, intensely intimate school, a strongly confessional religious education, or boarding. Carey started as a Baptist foundation, but the school context here is explicitly non-religious; that leaves it as a *broad-church* Melbourne independent with a long history, a wide age span and a distinctly practical academic proposition.

STRENGTHS

- Offers both the Victorian Certificate of Education and the International Baccalaureate Diploma in Years 11-12, with a 2025 average IB score of 37 and 67% of students scoring 35 or above.
- 2025 VCE results show 15 students achieving an ATAR of 99 or above, 21% scoring 95+, and a median ATAR of 86, placing graduates among the state's higher performers.
- Continuous schooling from age three through Year 12 across Kew and Donvale campuses, with a University Extension program offering subjects from La Trobe, RMIT and the University of Melbourne.
- Founded in 1923 and affiliated with the Associated Public Schools of Victoria, giving access to an established interschool sporting competition alongside a formal co-curricular program.
- Whole-school gender balance is maintained close to 50:50, a structural feature the school points to as supporting confidence and communication in both boys and girls.

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition is a significant ongoing cost, with published local fees running from roughly \$26,000 to over \$40,000 per year depending on year level, plus separate enrolment and application fees.
- The school is a Christian institution with Baptist denominational roots, which may be a consideration for secular or other-faith families weighing the school's ethos and chaplaincy program.
- Admission priority is explicitly ranked in favour of siblings, staff children and children of Old Carey Grammarians, meaning families with no existing school connection can face longer odds at high-demand entry points such as Prep and Year 7.
- Junior schooling is currently split across two separate campuses (Kew and Donvale), with cross-campus transfers not permitted, an arrangement families should clarify given the school's stated move toward site consolidation.

ADMISSIONS

Main intake points are three-year-old Early Learning, Prep, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 10, though applications for other year levels are accepted. A non-refundable application fee (around AUD 200 per student) applies, and admission priority favours siblings, staff children and children of alumni before general applicants by date of application. An interview with the Head of School may form part of the offer process, and Year 8-12 applicants are assessed on recent school reports. Academic scholarships, tested in February the year before entry, are offered for Year 7 and Year 10 entry. An application does not guarantee a place.

WTS RATING 

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