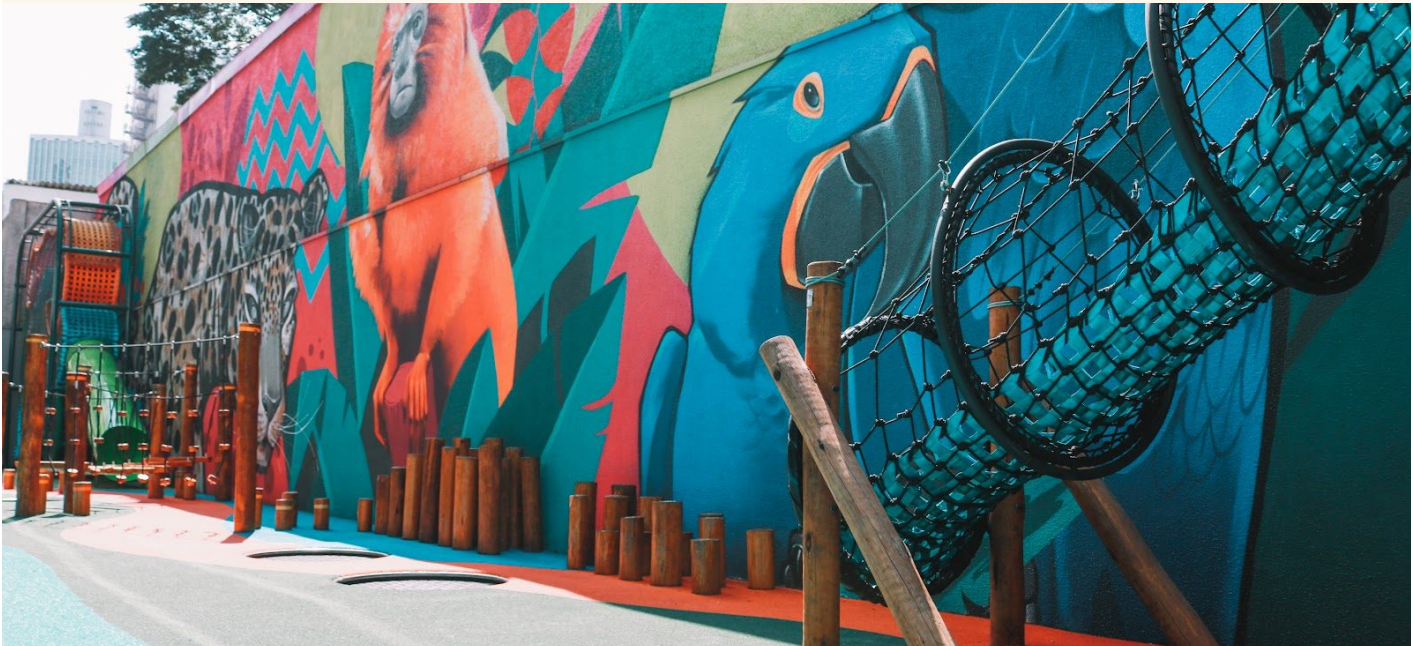


St. Nicholas School São Paulo

São Paulo, Brazil



A full IB continuum across two Sao Paulo campuses, where Oxford, London and Cambridge Houses meet annually for a countryside challenge.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	57/100
Academic outcomes	58/100
University placement	56/100
Prestige & heritage	56/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	59/100
Transparency	46/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. Nicholas School São Paulo occupies a clear niche in the city’s international market: a non-religious, English- and Portuguese-medium day school with the full IB continuum across both Pinheiros and Alphaville. That matters. Many schools advertise international breadth; fewer run PYP, MYP and Diploma Programme from age 2 to 18 on two established campuses. Founded in 1980, St. Nicholas has longevity, scale and a settled identity. The house system — Oxford, London and Cambridge since 1998 — adds a strand of British school culture without turning the place into a replica of an English prep school. The annual Interhouse Festival, held in the countryside, gives the school one of its more distinctive traditions: **competitive camaraderie** rather than empty ceremony.

The strongest reason to shortlist St. Nicholas is coherence. The school has been in the IB world since 2000, with its first IB graduating class in 2003, and it now runs as a full IB school on both campuses. For families who want continuity rather than repeated transitions between unrelated programmes, that is a serious advantage. The published numbers are also useful: more than **1,300** pupils, a **5:1** student-teacher ratio, and **100%** of Year 11 enrolled in the full Diploma Programme. That last figure is striking. This is not a school that treats the IB Diploma as a selective add-on for an academic elite; it builds the senior years around it. The school also states that **70%** of learners choose international universities, which places university guidance and outward mobility at the centre of its offer.

International ambition, *a settled IB pathway* and *daily bilingualism* are the real selling points here.

Parents should also read the school accurately. St. Nicholas is not the obvious choice for families chasing a hyper-selective, exam-results-first culture built on published aggregate scores and relentless public boasting. The school publishes a highest IB score of 44, but not cohort-wide diploma statistics. That leaves some academic opacity. What it does show, clearly, is a strong preference for *pastoral steadiness*, *community intimacy* and a learning culture built around inquiry, belonging and international-mindedness. The two-campus structure widens access across São Paulo, and recent investment — new Primary and Middle Years buildings, an Early Years play space, and the new Alphaville Athletic Complex — shows a school still expanding rather than coasting on legacy.

The pupil who will thrive here is internationally minded, comfortable in a bilingual environment, and responsive to a school that combines structure with warmth. This suits children who value relationships with teachers, enjoy house events, MUN, service, sport and the broader life of school as much as academic progress. It also suits expatriate and Brazilian families who want an *anchored community* rather than a transient outpost. St. Nicholas belongs on a shortlist for parents who want an all-through IB education with *real continuity*, *human scale* and enough institutional history to feel rooted in São Paulo rather than imported into it.

STRENGTHS

- Offers a dual pathway of British-style primary/secondary curriculum leading into the IB Diploma Programme, giving families international portability.
- One of the longer-established British-curriculum schools in Sao Paulo, giving it an embedded reputation among the local expatriate and Brazilian international-school community.
- Day-school structure keeps students within the city's expatriate and bilingual professional catchment, useful for families on shorter corporate postings.
- Bilingual English-Portuguese instruction supports both repatriation and long-term integration into the Brazilian system.
- Located in Sao Paulo, giving access to the city's broader network of international schools, universities and corporate expatriate infrastructure.

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only, with no boarding option, so it does not suit families wanting a residential arrangement.
- Sao Paulo's traffic and sprawl mean daily commute times can be long depending on family residence, a practical constraint rather than a school failing.
- As a mid-ranked candidate-tier school (editorial rank 1235), it lacks the global brand recognition or verified league-table performance of the city's very top international schools.
- Independent international-school fees in Sao Paulo are generally significant relative to local incomes, though exact St Nicholas fee figures are not independently published for verification.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is typically via direct application to the school's registrar, with entry points across early years, primary and secondary levels subject to space availability. Families should expect an assessment or interview process, review of previous school reports, and possible waiting lists at popular entry years such as Reception or Year 7. As a day school drawing partly on Sao Paulo's expatriate and bilingual local population, competitiveness varies by year group rather than being uniformly high across the school.

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_c2f6cac510.