

Sacred Heart School Kobe

Kobe, Japan



Perched above Kobe, this Catholic girls' school blends Japan's curriculum with an American track in an Antonin Raymond-designed hall.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	54/100
Academic outcomes	56/100
University placement	54/100
Prestige & heritage	55/100
Alumni network	54/100
Facilities	54/100
Transparency	42/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Perched above Kobe rather than buried in the city’s international-school circuit, Sacred Heart School Kobe has a profile of its own: a Catholic girls’ day school for ages 3 to 18 that runs both the Japanese National curriculum and an American track, in Japanese and English. That dual structure is the point. This is not an international school that has added a little local compliance at the edges; it is a school built to straddle two academic cultures. For families who want serious continuity in Japan without giving up an Anglophone pathway, that is **genuinely distinctive**. The school’s Society of the Sacred Heart foundation also gives it a clear identity, and the Antonin Raymond-designed hall adds a layer of architectural and institutional character that newer competitors cannot manufacture.

The attraction here is precision of fit, not scale or flash. Sacred Heart covers **ages 3–18**, remains day-only, and carries ACS Global accreditation. Its average annual day fee is **JPY 2,736,000** across the full ladder, which places it in the *premium but not stratospheric* bracket for Kobe. Parents should shortlist it if they want a girls’ school with a defined moral and academic frame, a bilingual environment, and a curriculum model that keeps one foot in Japan and one in the American system. That combination is *rare*, and for the right family it solves a real problem.

It will not suit everyone. Families looking for a broad co-educational social mix, a rootless international atmosphere, or a school that dilutes its ethos to please every market will find this too specific. Sacred Heart suits girls who are comfortable in a structured setting, can handle academic life across **two** curricular traditions, and value a school with a *strong internal culture*. It also suits families who want substance over theatre: a school founded in **1923**, with a settled religious identity and a *clear sense of purpose*, rather than a glossy newcomer selling facilities first and educational coherence second.

STRENGTHS	TRADE-OFFS
• Part of the international Sacred Heart network (Society of the Sacred Heart / RSCJ), giving access to a global tradition of Catholic girls' education. • Offers both Japanese national curriculum and an American-curriculum track, giving families some flexibility for repatriation or overseas university pathways. • Located in Kobe, a city with an established expatriate community and long history of international schooling in Japan. • As a day school, it avoids the cost and separation issues associated with boarding options. • Small, values-driven institution with a defined religious and pastoral ethos rather than a purely academic-results factory.	• All-girls institution, which immediately excludes families seeking co-education for their children. • Editorial rank (1279) and 'candidate' tier status reflect limited international profile and scant independently verifiable outcome data (university placement, exam results, inspection reports). • Running two curricula (Japanese national and American) in one small school raises questions about depth and resourcing in each track compared with schools dedicated to a single system. • Public information in English is limited; families relocating from abroad will find it harder to verify fees, staff qualifications, or accreditation status without direct enquiry.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points typically align with the Japanese academic year (April start), with some allowance for mid-year admission for transferring international families given the American-curriculum strand. Applications generally require school records, a parent interview, and in many Sacred Heart schools, some assessment of Japanese or English proficiency depending on the track chosen. As a girls-only Catholic school with modest enrolment, competitiveness is likely moderate rather than intense, but families should contact the school directly to confirm current fee levels, curriculum balance, and specific entry requirements, as these are not comprehensively published in English.

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_c3467758db.