

Gonzaga College SJ

Ranelagh, Ireland



In leafy Ranelagh, a Jesuit day school keeps Latin and Greek on the timetable alongside the Leaving Cert syllabus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	74/100
Academic outcomes	79/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	64/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Gonzaga College SJ occupies a narrow but durable niche in Dublin: a Jesuit boys’ day school with a **serious academic inheritance** and no embarrassment about tradition. Founded in ***1950***, it offers the Irish Leaving Certificate in a setting that still keeps Latin and Greek on the junior timetable and asks senior pupils to carry ***8*** Leaving Certificate subjects. That matters. In a market where many schools trim the academic core to what is easiest to timetable or sell, Gonzaga keeps an older idea of secondary education alive: breadth first, specialisation later. For parents who want a school with **intellectual ballast**, that is the headline.

What is special here is not novelty but **discipline of purpose**. Gonzaga is one of ***5*** Jesuit secondary schools in Ireland and the Jesuit stamp is the point: Catholic, structured, academically demanding, and alert to the formation of the whole student rather than exam technique alone. The school’s traditional curriculum signals high regard for language, argument and close study. A boy who enjoys ideas, reads willingly, tolerates pressure, and does not need endless hand-holding will find real traction here. A boy who wants a loose culture, a broad co-ed social scene, or a school built around constant pastoral cushioning will not.

Its market position is clear. Gonzaga sits on the shortlist for families seeking a **high-expectation boys’ school** in Dublin with a strong religious identity and a curriculum that resists fashion. It will appeal to parents who value **old-school academic range**, orderly expectations and the distinctive Jesuit mix of rigour and conscience. It is less persuasive for families who want published proof points on outcomes, a co-educational environment, or a more progressive educational style. In short: Gonzaga suits the bright, self-propelling boy who will thrive in a **tradition-minded, academically stretched** setting and whose parents want substance rather than educational theatre.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Long-established Jesuit day school (founded 1950) with a broad, traditional curriculum that includes Latin and Greek at Junior Cycle and eight subjects at Senior Cycle for the Leaving Certificate. • Strong university progression record: in 2018 it was named the top all-boys secondary school in Ireland by percentage of students progressing to third level, at 85.9%. • Recently upgraded facilities following a nine-year 'Campaign for Excellence' completed in 2016, adding a theatre, library, dining hall and improved sports amenities. • Compact south Dublin site roughly 4.4km from the city centre, with grounds including rugby pitches, tennis courts and a cricket crease. • Notable past pupils include actor Andrew Scott and cricket international George Dockrell, reflecting a track record in both the arts and sport.	• Single-sex boys' school for ages 12-18, so it is not an option for families wanting co-education or an all-girls setting. • Day school only, with no boarding provision, which can complicate logistics for relocating expat families without a fixed Dublin address. • Fee-charging: the annual fee for 2024-2025 was 8,240 euro, a real cost consideration compared with the free state secondary sector. • Explicitly Catholic and Jesuit in ethos, which may sit less comfortably with secular or multi-faith families despite its liberal, intellectual character.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is mainly at First Year (age 12), with limited places arising later. Formal entrance examinations have been discontinued following government intervention, since the state part-funds teacher salaries; instead, boys and parents attend an interview described by the school as 'a sharing of ideas.' Demand is high given the school's academic and sporting reputation, and places linked to past-pupil family connections are common, so early registration and demonstrated fit with the Jesuit ethos matter more than test scores.

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_d2889bd6fb.