

Mayo College

Ajmer, India



Historic all-boys boarding school in Ajmer offering the CBSE and Cambridge IGCSE curricula.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	65/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	79/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	59/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Mayo College trades on something few Indian schools can match: **institutional weight**. This is an all-boys boarding school in Ajmer, founded in 1875, with the kind of legacy operation that extends well beyond lessons into houses, student leadership, prize-giving, publications, sport and a formal pastoral structure. The school covers ages 11 to 18, teaches in English and runs more than one academic route: the context lists IB, Indian National and British, while the school’s own academic pages name CBSE and CAIE. That matters. For parents, this is not a single-track boarding school with one narrow definition of success; it is a large, established institution with multiple academic pathways and a full boarding culture built into the school’s daily life. It also carries two serious external markers in IBO and CIS accreditation.

What puts Mayo on a shortlist is not novelty but **depth of structure**. The school gives unusual prominence to boarding houses, pastoral roles, medical provision, counselling, international exchanges, community service, robotics and AI, music, dramatics and a museum, which tells you a great deal about the shape of the place. This is a school designed to occupy boys fully, not a day-school academic model with dormitories attached. The average annual boarding fee across the year groups is ***INR 1,152,000***, which places Mayo in the **premium Indian boarding** bracket, but not in the stratospheric territory occupied by some international schools with weaker traditions and thinner identity. Parents paying that fee are buying scale, history and an entrenched boarding ecosystem.

The right student for Mayo is a boy who wants the full boarding-school experience and has the appetite for a **highly structured**, tradition-conscious environment. He needs to be comfortable living in houses, taking part in organised sport and co-curricular life, and operating inside a school with visible hierarchy and ceremony. This is not the school for a child who wants a loose, progressive, low-formality education or a highly personalised boutique setting. It is for families who value **discipline, institutional culture and belonging** as much as exam preparation, and who want a school that treats adolescence as something to be shaped collectively rather than managed gently. The missing piece is academic transparency: the school lists “Results” but the context supplied here gives no published outcome data, so parents will need to press hard for concrete leavers’ results and university destinations before signing up.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1875 as one of India's oldest public boarding schools, giving it a long institutional history and an extensive alumni network including diplomats, judges and royalty.
- Offers a dual-curriculum structure - CBSE alongside Cambridge International (CAIE/IGCSE) - giving families a choice of academic pathway rather than a single fixed board.
- Sits on a large, purpose-built 187-acre campus with an unusually wide sports offering, including polo, golf, horse riding, shooting and an Olympic-sized swimming pool.
- Runs a house system of 12 boarding houses (roughly 64 boys each), which keeps pastoral groups smaller than the school's total enrolment might suggest.
- Maintains active international exchange links, with the school citing more than 15 overseas student exchanges and conferences as part of its global-exposure programme.

TRADE - OFFS

- Boys-only school with no coeducational option, which rules it out for families wanting mixed-gender schooling or who have daughters to place alongside sons.
- Fees are substantial: budgeting guidance suggests roughly INR 15-20 lakh in the first year and around INR 11 lakh annually thereafter, plus separate admission and security-deposit charges.
- Located in Ajmer, a mid-sized Rajasthan city some distance from major international airports, which adds travel time and cost for relocating expatriate families.
- Despite marketing references to a 'global' or 'international' outlook, the core academic backbone is CBSE (with Cambridge as an alternate track); there is no confirmed IB Diploma programme, so families specifically seeking an IB pathway should verify this directly with the school.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run mainly through Classes IV to IX, with limited higher-class places subject to vacancy; Class XI admission is instead based on Class X board results. Applicants sit a Common Aptitude Analysis covering English, mathematics and general awareness, followed by a shortlisting interview/interaction. Required documents include transfer and birth certificates, medical reports, passport and prior report cards. Seats are limited and demand is nationwide, so the process is competitive, particularly for the standard entry classes.

WTS RATING 

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