

Rotterdam International Secondary School

Rotterdam, Netherlands



Steps from Rotterdam Central Station, this state-subsidised IB day school draws students from over eighty nations without trading on exclusivity.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	50/100
Academic outcomes	51/100
University placement	49/100
Prestige & heritage	49/100
Alumni network	48/100
Facilities	50/100
Transparency	38/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Rotterdam International Secondary School occupies a useful niche in the Dutch international market: an English-medium, state-subsidised IB day school in central Rotterdam, serving ages ****11-18**** without the social theatre that clings to many private internationals. Founded in ****1988****, it has longevity, IB World School status and CIS accreditation, which gives parents the baseline assurances that matter. The more distinctive point is access. A school steps from Rotterdam Central Station and in the Blijdorp area offers practical convenience that many suburban campuses cannot match. For internationally mobile families who need a school that fits city life rather than a school run built around a car, that matters.

What puts RISS on a shortlist is not mystique but function. This is a non-religious, English-language IB school with a broad international intake and a public-service character. The tagline’s claim of students from over eighty nations points to a genuinely mixed cohort rather than a school built around one dominant expatriate bloc. That mix can produce a *cosmopolitan peer group*, *daily international exposure* and a *more grounded atmosphere* than the polished insularity of high-fee competitors. Parents who dislike educational branding and want a school with *urban practicality* and *less status performance* will find that attractive.

The trade-off is plain. Families hunting for sweeping grounds, boarding, heritage architecture or a luxury-campus experience should look elsewhere. RISS is a day school, not a destination estate. Its appeal rests on substance: IB continuity, central location, public subsidy and an international student body in a major European city. The school does not trade on exclusivity; that is a strength, not a weakness. It suits students who are academically serious, adaptable, and comfortable in a diverse environment where identity is not a marketing accessory but part of daily school life. The best fit is the student who wants *serious internationalism*, *straightforward ambition* and a school that feels connected to the city around it, not sealed off from it.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Offers the International Baccalaureate curriculum, giving students a globally recognised qualification pathway for university entry. • Located in Rotterdam, a major Dutch port city with strong international business and shipping links, useful for expatriate families. • Operates as a day school, avoiding the additional cost and logistics burden of boarding provision. • English-medium international schooling in the Netherlands typically offers a diverse, multinational student body reflecting the expat community.	• Editorial ranking (1351) and candidate tier status indicate this school has not yet been independently verified against established peer benchmarks. • No publicly verifiable data on inspection outcomes, IB diploma results, university placement records, or fee levels could be confirmed at time of writing. • As a newer or lower-profile entrant on comparative rankings, alumni track record and long-term academic outcomes remain unproven. • Rotterdam has a smaller established international-school ecosystem than Amsterdam or The Hague, potentially limiting peer-school choice and extracurricular partnerships.

ADMISSIONS

Details on entry points, application deadlines, and selectivity are not independently confirmed in public sources at this time. Prospective families should contact the school directly via its website for information on age of entry, required documentation (prior school reports, language assessments), waiting lists, and fee schedules. As with most Dutch international day schools, rolling admissions tied to family relocation timelines are common, though this cannot be confirmed specifically for this institution.

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_dd8e73c0c3.