

Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

Singapore, Singapore



Singapore's first IB Diploma school, this Methodist boys' campus on Dover Road has ranked among the world's top three IB scorers for years.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	81/100
Academic outcomes	90/100
University placement	81/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	78/100
Facilities	78/100
Transparency	75/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The draw here is plain: Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) was Singapore’s first IB Diploma school and it has ranked among the world’s top three IB scorers for years. That gives it a **hard-edged academic identity** that few schools can match. It sits in Dover as a Methodist boys’ day school, founded in 1886, with a British and IB curriculum pathway delivered in English. Parents also get a school with recognised external standing: ACS (Independent) has IBO and CIS accreditation, a ***10:1*** student-teacher ratio and average class sizes of ***18***. Those are strong operating numbers for a school with this level of academic ambition.

What is special about it is not breadth for breadth's sake, but **clear academic seriousness** paired with institutional confidence. The school does not trade on vague claims of holistic balance; its reputation rests on results and on a long-established brand in Singapore education. The Methodist setting matters too: not because this is a narrowly confessional school, but because it gives the place a defined moral frame and a sense of continuity. The average annual day fee across the full 3-18 ladder is ****SGD 34,700****, which is expensive in absolute terms but still reads as **strong value at the top end** when set against schools chasing the same globally mobile, high-attaining market.

This belongs on a shortlist for parents who want a boys' school with a **serious competitive pulse**, a clear route through to the IB Diploma, and a campus culture that prizes discipline, scholarship and external achievement. It will suit students who are bright, resilient and comfortable in an environment with sharp expectations. It will not suit families looking for a progressive, loose-structured atmosphere or a school that hides its academic pecking order. Recent destinations listed include Fudan University, Peking University and Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University, which shows at least some reach into selective Asian higher education. In market terms, ACS (Independent) sits as a **prestige academic option** for families who want proven IB firepower without the sprawl or vagueness that weakens many large international schools.

STRENGTHS

- Authorised as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School in 2005 and the first national school to offer the IB Diploma Programme, giving it one of the longest IB track records among Singapore's government-linked schools.
- The Class of 2024, comprising 452 students, achieved 100% passes at the November 2024 IB Diploma Programme Examination, with 79% obtaining 40 points and above and an average score of 41.2 points, and results rose further in 2025 with 83% of 469 candidates scoring 40 points and above and an average of 41.6 points.
- ACS provides over 60 diverse Co-Curricular Activities encompassing Sports and Games, Performing Arts, Clubs and Societies, as well as Uniformed Groups, giving pupils a wide choice beyond the classroom.
- As an MOE-linked autonomous school, admission is merit-based and no Singaporean admitted to ACS (Independent) will be turned away because he or she cannot afford school fees, keeping the school markedly cheaper for citizens than comparable IB day schools.
- PSLE cut-off points for 2025 intake stood at Achievement Level 4-6 for affiliated students entering the Integrated Programme and 6-7 for non-affiliated students, reflecting a transparent, results-driven admissions process.

TRADE-OFFS

- The school is single-sex (boys) for Years 1 to 4 and only becomes mixed in Years 5 to 6, so families wanting a fully coeducational secondary experience from age 12 will not find it here.
- The school's mission is to develop students who are more like Christ, and it operates as a Methodist institution with a resident chaplain, which may not suit strictly secular or other-faith families.
- Curriculum choice is narrow: pupils follow either a 4-year Express program leading to GCE O-Level or a 6-year Integrated Programme culminating in the IB Diploma Programme, with no A-Level or alternative international pathway on offer.
- International applicants face a separate, less certain route: a non-refundable SGD 200 admission examination fee is required, and successful international students must pay a one-time, non-refundable entrance fee of SGD 8,000, on top of ongoing tuition.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is primarily merit-based via Singapore's PSLE aggregate score, with Integrated Programme cut-offs around AL 4-7 depending on affiliation status, placing ACS(I) among the more selective IP schools. A Direct School Admission scheme offers an alternate route for pupils with sporting, artistic or academic talent, applied for before PSLE. Foreign nationals without local residency face a distinct process, sitting an entrance examination (with the associated fee) and, if offered a place, paying a substantial one-off entrance fee; places for non-citizens are limited compared with Singaporean and PR intake.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (6)

SPORT: Toh Wei Soong

POLITICS: Ho Peng Kee, Vikram Nair, Eileen Chong (politician)

SCIENCE: Roohi P. S. Ghelani

WTS RATING 

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