

Manarat Al Riyadh Schools

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



A Maarif-network day school where American diploma and British A-level tracks run alongside Riyadh's only inter-school Quran competition.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	71/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	65/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Manarat Al Riyadh Schools occupies a specific place in the Riyadh market: an established ****1972**** day school with an American curriculum, English and Arabic instruction, and a Muslim identity that is not treated as an add-on. The distinguishing feature is the breadth of route through the senior years. Families can enter for a conventional American-school trajectory and still find a British A-level option in the mix, which widens university planning without forcing a change of school at ****age 18****. That matters in a city where many schools offer one academic lane and leave parents to solve the rest themselves. Add the claim to Riyadh’s only inter-school Quran competition and the school’s character sharpens: this is not a generic international campus with a token religious layer, but a school that binds academic progression to

clear cultural confidence.

Why shortlist it? First, longevity. A school that has been operating for **50+ years** has had time to build habits, networks and a recognisable local reputation. Second, it serves a broad span from **3-18**, which suits families who value continuity over repeated school moves. Third, its bilingual English-Arabic environment fits households that want strong access to international higher education while keeping Arabic and Islamic life at the centre of the school day. In market terms, Manarat sits between two poles: not a stripped-down local school, and not a rootless expatriate enclave. That middle ground will appeal to parents who want *serious academic structure* without sacrificing *religious steadiness* or local belonging.

The right student for Manarat is one who thrives in an environment with defined expectations and a visible moral framework. Students who want a school where faith has public weight, where Arabic matters, and where the community reads as *grounded rather than performative* will find a strong fit. It also suits families who want optionality in the upper years without the churn of transferring elsewhere for a different qualification route. The trade-off is clear: parents looking for a detached, ultra-cosmopolitan atmosphere or a school built around westernised branding will find other Riyadh schools more aligned to that taste. Manarat's strength lies elsewhere — in *institutional continuity*, *bilingual fluency*, and a model that ties academic ambition to identity rather than treating the two as rivals.

STRENGTHS

- American curriculum from age 3 to 18
- English and Arabic instruction suits bilingual families
- Day school avoids boarding for Riyadh-based families
- Muslim setting may suit practising Muslim families

TRADE-OFFS

- No boarding option for families needing residential care
- Religious setting may not suit non-Muslim families
- American curriculum may not suit British-system families

ADMISSIONS

Manarat Al-Riyadh Schools is a day school in Riyadh for pupils aged 3 to 18, so the obvious entry points are likely to be the start of the early years, primary, lower secondary and sixth form-equivalent stages. The school declares an American curriculum, with teaching in English and Arabic, and serves a Muslim community. Beyond that basic structure, the school does not publicly set out a detailed admissions map in the material provided, so families should expect year-by-year availability rather than guaranteed intake at every grade.

The school also does not publish, in the information supplied here, a clear public account of its assessment process, admissions deadlines or any distinctive selection stages such as interviews, placement tests or priority criteria. Likewise, there is no published evidence here of bursaries or means-tested financial aid. In practice, parents should assume that places are subject to seat availability and that the school will advise directly on required documents, age placement and any academic or language assessment.

WTS RATING 

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