

Southbank International School

London, United Kingdom



A 'school without walls' spanning three London postcodes, first in the UK cleared to teach all three IB programmes.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	69/100
Transparency	62/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Southbank is not a conventional London independent school with one campus, one social set and one national lens. It operates across three central London postcodes — Westminster, Kensington and Hampstead — and that **school-without-walls** structure tells you a lot about the proposition. This is a day school for ages 2 to 18, founded in 1979, non-religious, and taught in English, but its defining feature is the International Baccalaureate running through the whole school. Southbank states IB, and its accreditations as an IB World School and CIS member matter: this is a school built for internationally mobile families who want continuity, not a British curriculum school with an IB sixth form bolted on.

What puts it on a shortlist is clarity of identity. Southbank serves London’s international community first, and it does not disguise that. Families arriving from other IB systems, diplomatic postings or multinational relocations will understand the offer at once. Children who thrive here tend to be adaptable, curious and comfortable with flux: new classmates, new cities, different accents, a less parochial sense of school life. A child who wants a deeply rooted house tradition, a single campus and the rituals of a classic English public-school model will find Southbank a *poor fit*. A child who wants an *unusually cosmopolitan* peer group and a coherent 2-18 IB pathway will find a school shaped around that exact brief.

The other point parents need in plain terms is market position. At an average annual day fee of **£32,003**, Southbank sits in London’s premium international bracket, but not at the most stratospheric end of the market. That pricing, the central London footprint and the all-through IB identity make it a *serious option* for expatriate and globally minded families who value portability over tradition. What the school does not offer in the facts here is public academic outcome data, destination detail or the comfort of a single-site campus experience. For some parents that opacity will grate; for others, the draw is obvious: **3 campuses**, ages **2-18**, and a model built around international continuity rather than local convention.

STRENGTHS

- IB curriculum throughout ages 2-18
- Three London campuses widen catchment options
- English-medium teaching suits mobile international families
- CIS and IB World School accreditation
- Outstanding music, drama and visual arts provision on the co-curricular scores

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only; no boarding option
- London split campuses may complicate siblings' logistics
- English-only instruction may not suit all families
- Dance provision is only solid relative to the arts strengths

ADMISSIONS

Southbank International School is a day school in London for pupils aged 2 to 18, with three campuses in Westminster, Kensington and Hampstead. The clearest entry points are therefore the usual start ages within that span: early years, primary, secondary and the sixth form-equivalent IB years. We could not independently verify a detailed admissions calendar by year group in this pass, so families should assume rolling enquiries may be possible but should confirm application windows directly with the school.

On selection, we were unable to confirm from independently verifiable sources the school's precise assessment format, interview process or any campus-specific selection mechanism, and we could not verify the extent of bursary or financial-aid provision. Families should therefore ask the school directly about these points. In practical terms, parents should expect admissions to be shaped by age, campus availability and suitability for the school's IB programme, and should request campus-specific requirements.

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_2a402c58b3.