

Xavier School

San Juan, Philippines



Founded by Jesuits exiled from China, this all-boys Greenhills school pairs mandatory Chinese-language curriculum with an IB diploma track.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	66/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	67/100
Transparency	57/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Xavier School occupies a distinct niche in Metro Manila: an all-boys Jesuit day school in Greenhills with deep Filipino-Chinese roots, a mandatory Mandarin programme, and an IB Diploma track layered onto the Philippine K-12 framework. Founded in 1956 by Jesuits and run by the Society of Jesus, it offers a clear proposition to families who want Catholic formation without thin academics or vague internationalism. The special feature is the combination itself: English, Mandarin and Filipino in daily school life; Jesuit formation; and an optional IBDP route in Grades **11-12**. In a crowded market of generic “international” claims, Xavier has a more specific identity and a stronger cultural centre of gravity. For the right family, that reads as **serious purpose**, **cultural continuity** and **academic range**.

Why shortlist it? First, the school's Chinese-language requirement is not an ornamental add-on; it is part of the institution's character. That matters for families who want sons educated inside the Filipino-Chinese tradition rather than adjacent to it. Second, the Jesuit frame still carries weight in the Philippines: service, discipline, leadership and moral formation are not side notes here. Third, the IBDP option gives older students access to an internationally legible pre-university pathway without requiring a full departure from the local system. The school also has visible co-curricular life, from athletics to service and alumni networks, which reinforces the sense of a long-established boys' school with *institutional memory* and *high expectations*. Accreditation through PAASCU and CEAP adds local credibility.

The trade-offs are plain. This is not a broad-church, anything-goes school for families shopping for a neutral global campus culture. It is Catholic, Jesuit and culturally defined. It is also a boys' school, which suits some households and rules it out for others. The mandatory Mandarin component raises the academic load and narrows the fit for students who resist language study or want a looser curriculum. Parents also need to note that Xavier follows the Philippine K-12 curriculum, with the IB Diploma as an optional track, not a whole-school IB model. That distinction matters.

The student who will thrive here is a boy who responds to structure, values belonging to a strong community, and can handle an education with more than one centre of demand: academics, language, conduct and service. He does not need to be a future classicist or Olympiad specialist; he does need stamina, coachability and a willingness to work inside a framework larger than himself. For Filipino-Chinese families, Catholic families, and parents who want a school with *clear convictions*, *earned reputation* and *no identity crisis*, Xavier School merits close attention.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1957 and run by the Society of Jesus, giving the school a long-established Ignatian, values-based educational tradition.
- Distinctive integrated Mandarin Chinese language and Chinese Studies program, uncommon among mainstream Metro Manila private schools.
- Operates two campuses, the original San Juan site and a newer campus in Nuvali, Laguna, widening geographic reach for families.
- Deeply embedded within the Chinese-Filipino community, giving graduates access to an established and cohesive alumni and business network.
- Jesuit pedagogical framework emphasises formation of character alongside academics, a point often noted by Philippine education commentators.

TRADE-OFFS

- Single-sex (boys only) institution, which rules it out for families wanting a co-educational setting or seeking a place for daughters.
- Strong cultural and linguistic orientation toward the Chinese-Filipino community may feel narrow or unfamiliar to expat families outside that group.
- Tuition sits in the higher tier of Metro Manila private schooling, a real budget consideration though exact current fee schedules should be confirmed directly with the school.
- Entry beyond the early grades is limited, with places largely filled at Kindergarten or Grade 1, making lateral admission at older ages harder to secure.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is concentrated at Kindergarten and Grade 1, with limited openings at higher levels dependent on attrition. The process typically involves a written entrance examination, submission of school records, and a family interview, administered through the school's admissions office. Given the schools reputation within the Chinese-Filipino Catholic community, entry-level places are competitive, and prospective families are advised to apply well ahead of the intended admission year and confirm current requirements directly with Xavier School.

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_2cdce301c4.