

Cranbrook School

Sydney, Australia



Sydney's first IB Continuum School, pairing Bellevue Hill harbour views with a Blue Mountains bush campus for experiential learning.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	73/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	67/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Cranbrook occupies a rare niche in Sydney: an Anglican day and boarding school for ages 3 to 18 that runs both the IB and Australian pathways, with IBO accreditation and a campus set-up that stretches from Bellevue Hill to a Blue Mountains bush site. That combination gives it a distinct identity. This is not just a polished eastern-suburbs day school with harbour views. It has a more **expansive** educational brief, using geography as part of the offer and making experiential learning part of the school’s case for itself. For families who want an all-through school with boarding as an option, and who want the IB in a city where it remains a selective proposition, Cranbrook earns a place on the shortlist quickly.

The academic profile is clear. On MySchool’s 2023 measures, Cranbrook posts an ICSEA of **1200**, with Year 9 Reading at **628** and Year 9 Numeracy at **626**. Those are strong scores by any standard and they place the school firmly in Sydney’s *high-pressure* academic market. Parents should read that for what it is: a school drawing a highly advantaged intake and producing correspondingly strong literacy and numeracy results. The attraction lies in that mix of academic seriousness and breadth. The risk, for some children, lies in the same place. A student who needs a gentler tempo or a looser culture will not find this an easy fit.

Fees place Cranbrook in the expensive end of the independent sector. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **AUD 48,582**; the average annual boarding fee is **AUD 94,582**. That pricing puts it squarely in the bracket where parents expect not just polished facilities and networks, but a *coherent* educational proposition. Cranbrook has one: an Anglican framework, all-through provision, boarding, and the draw of Sydney’s first IB Continuum School. The pupil who will want Cranbrook is academically driven, comfortable with ambition, and energized by a school that combines city polish with a *serious* outdoor and experiential dimension. For the right child, it is a *distinctive* Sydney proposition.

STRENGTHS

- Cranbrook was the first major independent school in Sydney to become a full IB Continuum School, offering the Primary Years, Middle Years and Diploma Programmes alongside the NSW curriculum.
- Historic sandstone harbourside campus in Bellevue Hill, on the site of the former NSW Government House, established in 1918.
- Strong IB Diploma outcomes, with a 2025 average IB score of 38 and a median ATAR equivalent of 95.
- Boarding is available from Year 7 to Year 12 through two houses, Rawson and Street, accommodating roughly 75 boarders with resident housemasters and mentors.
- Notable alumni network including media figure Kerry Packer and Atlassian co-founder Mike Cannon-Brookes.

TRADE - OFFS

- Cranbrook only began admitting girls in 2026, initially into Years 7 and 11 only, with full coeducation not reached across all year levels until 2029 - so there is no long track record of a mixed-gender senior school.
- Tuition is substantial, with domestic day fees running from roughly AUD 35,500 in Kindergarten to over AUD 50,000 by Years 7-10, before IB Diploma or boarding surcharges are added.
- The school's headmaster resigned in 2024 after an ABC Four Corners investigation alleged mishandling of a teacher misconduct matter and a toxic workplace culture, a governance episode families should be aware of.
- Most leavers stay in the local system, with about three-quarters proceeding to Sydney universities and only a small minority pursuing degrees overseas.

ADMISSIONS

Cranbrook enrolls from early learning through Year 12, with Year 7 the main entry point; girls were admitted for the first time in 2026 (Years 7 and 11 only), with full coeducation phased in by 2029. The school describes its enrolment policy as non-selective, though places are competitive given demand, and academic scholarships require a separate Cranbrook Scholarship Examination, supporting materials and interview, open only to Australian citizens. Applications are handled through the school's admissions office; early registration is advised, particularly for the expanding girls' intake.

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_36cb9171d0.