

St Stithians College

Johannesburg, South Africa



A 100-hectare Methodist 'village of schools' in Sandton, pairing boys' and girls' colleges with bush-school leadership rites.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	69/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	71/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	64/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

What sets St Stithians apart in Johannesburg is scale with structure. This is not one school but a 100-hectare Methodist campus organised as a co-educational Junior Preparatory for Grades R to 2, then separate boys’ and girls’ preparatory schools from Grade 3, and separate boys’ and girls’ colleges from Grade 8. That arrangement gives families a long educational runway from ages 3 to 18 without forcing a single co-ed model all the way through. The numbers matter: the Junior Preparatory enrolls around 470 to 475 pupils, each preparatory school around 410 to 420, the Boys’ College around 770 to 780, and the Girls’ College around 500 to 510. Few South African schools offer that combination of *institutional heft*, continuity and internal differentiation on one campus.

The school’s character is also more distinctive than the usual “big independent” formula. St Stithians is explicitly Methodist, part of the Central District of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, and it ties that identity to a published statement of spirituality rather than vague values language. The other defining feature is the campus culture: the “village of schools” model, the Kamoka Bush School, and the separate but connected boys’ and girls’ pathways create a *deliberate sense of rite and passage*. Academically, the stated curriculum is the National Senior Certificate (IEB), and the school sits inside serious quality frameworks through ISASA, SAHISA, HMC (Sub-Saharan Africa) and the IEB. It also participates in IQAA review. This is a large, established operation founded in 1953, not a boutique experiment.

Parents should shortlist St Stithians if they want breadth, infrastructure and a strong sense of institutional identity. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **ZAR 153,438**; boarding averages **ZAR 346,295**. That places it firmly in the premium end of the South African independent market. The case for paying that premium rests on the *rare campus scale*, the longevity of the school, and the unusual ability to offer both continuity and phase-specific environments as children grow. The trade-off is clear too: this is not a small, intimate school, and children who need a loose, unstructured setting or who resist tradition may find it *too programmed*.

The student who thrives here is ambitious, energetic and comfortable inside a strong institutional culture. St Stithians suits children who want a lot around them: sport, campus life, leadership rituals, separate senior schooling for boys and girls, and a school community with real size and visibility. It suits families who value English-medium education, a Christian framework, and the IEB route inside an established South African independent system. It is *not for the faint-hearted*; it is for pupils ready to use a **100-hectare** campus and a large peer group as fuel rather than noise.

STRENGTHS

- The 2024 combined Matric cohort achieved a 100% Matric pass rate, a 98.4% Bachelor's Degree pass rate, and a total of 742 subject distinctions across 251 candidates.
- Results improved further in 2025, when 264 candidates achieved a 100% Matric pass rate, a 98.86% Bachelor's Degree pass rate, and a total of 814 subject distinctions.
- The school is a member of the Round Square Conference of Schools and G30 Schools Conference, giving pupils access to international exchange and leadership networks.
- St Stithians runs Kamoka Bush School, a dedicated wilderness-based campus that has played an integral role in crafting the unique and holistic learning experience associated with the College.
- The College hosts the annual Saints Sports Festival, described as the largest and longest continuous school sports festival in the world.

TRADE - OFFS

- St Stithians Girls' College does not offer boarding, so families relocating without existing local accommodation for a daughter must look elsewhere for a boarding place.
- Although housed on one shared 105-hectare site, pupils move from co-educational junior schooling into a boys' school and a girls' school as separate single-sex Colleges from Grade 8, rather than staying co-ed through to matric.
- Annual day fees are substantial, reported at R132,270 per year for Grade R, R170,635 per year for Grade 7, and R199,680 per year for Grade 12, with boarding costing extra.
- The two major points of entry for new students are Grade R and Grade 8; places in other grades are filled from the relevant waiting list, which reduces flexibility for families arriving mid-phase.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is concentrated at two points, Grade R and Grade 8, with places in other grades released only as they arise from a waiting list. All applications are handled by a Central Admissions Office under a published admissions policy, with assessment typical for lateral entrants. Given the school's consistent IEB results and Methodist, campus-based 'College of Schools' model, both entry points are competitive, especially Grade 8. Boarding exists only on the Boys' College side, so boarding applicants must plan accordingly. Early application well ahead of the intended intake year is advisable, particularly for relocating families.

WTS RATING 

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