

Vajiravudh College

Bangkok, Thailand



Royal-founded historic Thai boarding school modelled on English public schools; strong prestige and alumni depth.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	53/100
Academic outcomes	55/100
University placement	55/100
Prestige & heritage	80/100
Alumni network	7/100
Facilities	65/100
Transparency	35/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Vajiravudh College occupies a singular niche in Bangkok: a royal-founded boys’ school from **1910** with a deep national reputation and a culture consciously modelled on the English public-school tradition. That combination matters. In a market crowded with international schools selling global curricula and glossy facilities, Vajiravudh offers something different: *old-institution confidence*, *ceremony with backbone* and a distinctly Thai educational identity delivered through the Thai National curriculum in Thai and English. Parents choosing it are not buying an expatriate school experience. They are choosing immersion in Thai elite culture, a long-established network and a school with genuine historical weight.

Its appeal rests less on curricular novelty than on formation. This is a school for families who value discipline, hierarchy, tradition and the social capital that attaches to a famous name. The all-boys structure and the school's age range of **12–18** sharpen that identity further. For the right student, that can be *a powerful sense of belonging* and *institutional seriousness*; for the wrong student, it will feel rigid, narrow and socially coded. Parents need to be clear-eyed here: this is not the choice for a child who wants a progressive, highly personalised or overtly international school culture. It is for boys who thrive in structured environments, respect authority and can make use of a school community shaped by prestige and expectation.

Why shortlist it? Because very few schools in Thailand can match its blend of heritage, status and recognisable national standing. Vajiravudh College offers *rare historical depth*, *strong symbolic capital* and a brand that carries weight far beyond the campus. That matters in Bangkok. It also gives the school a market position no new premium school can replicate. The trade-off is equally clear: parents seeking transparent international benchmarking, alternative pathways or a broad co-educational social environment will find stronger options elsewhere. Vajiravudh belongs on the shortlist for families who want a boys' school with *established prestige*, a Thai academic base and the cultural force of one of the country's best-known historic institutions.

STRENGTHS

- Vajiravudh College is an all-boys non-profit boarding school, founded by King Rama VI, King Vajiravudh, on December 29, 1910, giving it over a century of continuous royal-founded heritage.
- The school was built as an all-boy boarding school in the same tradition as English public schools such as Eton and Harrow, with traditions inspired by British boarding schools, with separate residential houses, uniforms, and formal ceremonies that shape daily life.
- Students are accommodated in residential houses (kana); primary students are assigned to three houses, and secondary students are divided into six houses, giving structured pastoral care and identity-building across age groups.
- The campus blends traditional Thai architectural style with contemporary educational buildings, and reviewers describe the area as spacious, estimated to be approximately 100 rai.
- The school has a strong alumni network, which plays an active role in the school's management, providing support for programs, fundraising efforts, and community outreach.

TRADE-OFFS

- It is a full-boarding, all-boys institution only — all enrollees must commit to full-time boarding as a core requirement of admission, and Vajiravudh College is an exclusively male institution, so it is not an option for families wanting a day-school or coeducational setting.
- Instruction follows the Thai national system rather than an international curriculum, and the school accepts students who are Thai citizens or permanent residents of Thailand, which limits access for many transient expat families.
- Places are scarce and the process is selective: the admission process for Vajiravudh College is highly competitive, with a limited number of spaces available each year, and selection incorporates a quota system that balances academic merit with factors like regional representation and preferences for children of alumni (legacy admissions).
- The overall student body is modest for a school of this profile — the school offers education from Grade 4 to Grade 12 and currently has 838 students and 318 staff members — meaning limited flexibility in subject choice compared to larger international campuses.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is normally at Prathom 4 (Year 5), with applications opening from Primary 4 onwards, purchased directly at the school. The process is described as competitive with capped annual places, an information session, and legacy/regional quota factors alongside merit. Because the school accepts students who are Thai citizens or permanent residents of Thailand and requires full-time boarding, non-Thai and short-stay expat families are effectively excluded unless residency status is established.

WTS RATING 

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