

Gymnasium Sorghvliet

The Hague, Netherlands



A stone's throw from the Dutch PM's residence, this Protestant gymnasium sends fifth-formers to Rome each year to live Latin and Greek.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	73/100
Academic outcomes	80/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	72/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	82/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Gymnasium Sorghvliet occupies a narrow but durable niche in The Hague: a Dutch gymnasium for families who want an academic school with a classical spine, without the social varnish and fee structure of the city's private international sector. The draw is clear. This is a school where Latin and Greek are not decorative add-ons but part of the point, and where the annual fifth-form trip to Rome gives the classical curriculum a concrete, lived dimension. The setting adds its own charge: **a school with political geography in its bones**, close to the Dutch prime minister's residence and embedded in one of the country's most institutional cities. With a ****14:1**** student-teacher ratio and average classes of ****28****, it sits in the middle ground: large enough to sustain breadth, small enough to avoid anonymity.

What sets Sorghvliet apart is the combination of *intellectual seriousness*, *classical continuity* and a day-school structure that keeps it rooted in local family life. Parents looking for a glossy “global” offer will not find that here; the appeal runs in the opposite direction. This is a school for households that value subject discipline, cultural memory and a curriculum with hierarchy rather than endless optionality. The age range, **3–18**, gives it unusual continuity, and that continuity matters: schools with a single academic identity from early years to sixth form can shape habits as well as attainment. The published language of instruction is English, which places Sorghvliet in an unusual position for a Dutch gymnasium and widens its relevance for internationally mobile families in The Hague who still want a school with a national academic character.

It belongs on a shortlist for parents who want *substance over display*. Sorghvliet offers a distinct answer to a common Hague dilemma: how to secure an academically demanding education without defaulting to the international-school market. The market position is strong because the proposition is specific. This is not an all-purpose school trying to please every constituency. It serves bright, literate, self-propelled students who enjoy structure, can tolerate academic pressure and gain energy from language, history and abstraction. The right child for Sorghvliet is not hunting for a sprawling buffet of identity branding or soft-edged pastoral packaging. They want *a demanding intellectual culture*, *a strong sense of tradition* and peers who do not treat scholarship as an embarrassment.

STRENGTHS

- Elsevier Weekblad has repeatedly named Sorghvliet a 'superschool' in its annual Beste Scholen survey of Dutch secondary schools, based on Education Inspectorate exam-progress data. Het Christelijk Gymnasium Sorghvliet in Den Haag, de school van de prinsessen Amalia en Alexia, is een van de 'superscholen' van Nederland in de achttiende editie van Beste scholen, het jaarlijkse onderzoek van Elsevier Weekblad. De winnaars onderscheiden zich van andere scholen met goede onderwijsresultaten, zowel in de laagste klassen als de bovenbouw.
- It is a small, single-site, board-independent gymnasium of roughly 800 pupils, which the school itself describes as offering close staff-student familiarity. Sorghvliet is een klein, zelfstandig en gezellig gymnasium met 817 leerlingen. Leerlingen en docenten leren elkaar snel kennen.
- The campus sits in The Hague's International Zone, between the Peace Palace and the Catshuis, a location convenient for diplomatic and government-linked families. Christelijk Gymnasium Sorghvliet is een kleinschalig en zelfstandig gymnasium in het hart van de Internationale Zone van Den Haag, tussen het Vredespaleis en het Catshuis.

TRADE-OFFS

- Entry is limited strictly to pupils who receive a VWO recommendation from primary school, with no in-house havo or vmbo alternative for those who don't qualify or later fall behind. Welk advies moet je hebben om op Sorghvliet als leerling te worden toegelaten? Wij laten de leerlingen toe die van de basisschool een VWO-advies gekregen hebben.
- As a deliberately 'categorical' (single-track) gymnasium, the school offers narrower programme breadth than large comprehensive Dutch scholengemeenschappen that house multiple levels under one roof. Sorghvliet is bestuurlijk geheel onafhankelijk. Hiervoor is in het verleden bewust gekozen. aangezien het bestuurlijk eenpitten de beste garantie vormt voor het in stand houden van het categoriale gymnasium.
- Although classroom tuition is state-funded and technically free, the school asks for a voluntary parental contribution -- around 180,000 euros collected school-wide in 2022 -- plus separate charges for trips such as the year-5 Rome excursion. De ouderbijdrage is strikt vrijwillig. De lessen die wij geven worden immers door het rijk bekostigd. In 2022 werd door ouders van Sorghvliet ongeveer 180.000 euro betaald aan ouderbijdragen.

- An optional 'gymnasium plus' enrichment track starting in year two lets pupils add electives such as business economics, Chinese, philosophy or art in the upper school Zo kent Sorghvliet een plusprogramma dat start in klas 2. Dit programma biedt leerlingen de mogelijkheid om keuzevakken - bedrijfseconomie, Chinees, filosofie of kunst - te volgen in de bovenbouw.
- Members of the Dutch royal family, including Princesses Catharina-Amalia, Alexia and Ariane, have attended the school, underlining its standing among The Hague's establishment families Sorghvliet has a long list of notable alumni, including multiple Dutch politicians, writers, athletes, entrepreneurs, members of the Dutch royal family, and scientists, including one Nobel laureate. Catharina-Amalia, Princess of Orange, Princess Alexia of the Netherlands, Princess Ariane of the Netherlands
- Places are capped and allocated by order of application rather than by catchment or entrance exam, so demand can outstrip supply in a given intake year Voor het komende jaar hebben we plaats voor 147 achtstegroepers.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is at age 12 (year 1) and requires a primary-school VWO recommendation; the school offers no havo or vmbo alternative for pupils without one. Applications are made by email to the administration and processed strictly in order of receipt, with formal priority rules abolished except for siblings already enrolled. Capacity is finite -- one recent intake year listed room for about 147 new first-years -- so early application matters. Instruction is in Dutch throughout, and the school is board-independent with a Protestant-Christian founding identity, though it describes itself as inclusive.

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_3e69f0cf5b.