

St. Kilian's Deutsche Schule Dublin

Dublin, Ireland



A 1950s refugee-aid charity's legacy now runs a dual-track Abitur and Leaving Cert campus shared with a French lycee in Clonskeagh.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	74/100
Academic outcomes	84/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	68/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	86/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. Kilian’s is not a generic international school with a token language offer. It is a Dublin day school for ages 3 to 18, founded in ****1952****, with English and German as languages of instruction and the German Abitur at the centre of its academic identity. The distinctive point is the dual-track proposition flagged in the school’s own positioning: this is a campus where a German-school tradition operates in Ireland, and where the school’s history reaches back to a refugee-aid charity rather than a corporate education brand. That gives it a **specific cultural purpose** and a **clearer academic identity** than many schools chasing the broadest possible international market.

For parents, the shortlist case rests on fit, not scale or polish. St. Kilian’s offers something *unusually hard to replicate* in Dublin: a German educational environment in a local day-school format, with the possibility of pursuing the Abitur while remaining in Ireland. The school also sits in Clonskeagh on a Eurocampus shared with a French lycée, which reinforces the cross-European character of the place. At an average annual day fee of **€7,910**, it occupies a *strikingly modest* price point for a school with this linguistic and curricular profile. That alone sets it apart from the higher-fee international sector. The trade-off is that families looking for the expansive facilities, glossy extracurricular machine and published outcome data of larger premium schools will not find the same public-facing depth here. The website itself is sparse, and the school does not publish the kind of aggregate results data that serious comparison-shopping parents now expect.

The right child for St. Kilian’s is academically resilient, linguistically open and comfortable in a school with a defined mission rather than a broad, all-things-to-all-families brief. It suits German-speaking families, internationally mobile European families, and Irish-based parents who want their child educated in a bilingual environment with a direct route to the Abitur. It also suits pupils who value a *more grounded* and *less commercial* school culture. It will not suit families who want a conventional Irish private-school experience, a heavily branded global chain, or a school that publishes every metric and destination figure. St. Kilian’s belongs on a shortlist because it offers a *rare educational niche* in Dublin: **3-18** continuity, a German academic route, and a European campus identity at a fee level that undercuts much of the market.

STRENGTHS

- One of Dublin's longest-established international schools, tracing its roots to a Sunday school founded in 1952 for German children under the Save the German Children Society.
- Offers a distinctive bilingual pathway combining the Irish Junior and Leaving Certificate with the German Sprachdiplom and Sek-I examinations, plus an optional German Curriculum Stream from 5th class.
- Shares its Clonskeagh 'Eurocampus' with the Lycee Francais d'Irlande, giving pupils a genuinely trilingual, multicultural Junior Cycle experience.
- Recent Leaving Certificate results have been strong, with average points above 500 in both 2023 and 2024 and roughly nine in ten candidates scoring over 400 points.
- Received the German government's 'Excellent German School Abroad' quality seal after completing the Bund-Lander-Inspektion 3.0 in 2023.

TRADE-OFFS

- The school does not itself confer the German Abitur on site; pupils wishing for the full Abitur must transfer to a school in Germany after the Sek-I stage, since the Sek-I certificate alone does not qualify for German university entry.
- In 2020 a sharp reduction in teacher-assigned grades (with some native German speakers marked down) led the school and nine pupils to pursue High Court action, and third-level progression fell to 63% that year against a typical 90-100%.
- As a fee-paying day school with a non-refundable application/waitlist charge, published fee schedules are not transparent on the school's own site and must be requested directly from the office.
- Entry to later secondary years is not guaranteed year to year; applications for 7th year in a recent admissions cycle were closed outright, underlining constrained capacity.

ADMISSIONS

Admission to Kindergarten and Primary is open year-round via a waiting-list form, accompanied by a birth certificate and a non-refundable EUR100 administration fee; places are allocated against a published Admissions Policy when demand exceeds capacity. Entry to 7th year (1st Year Secondary) and later secondary years can close for a given intake, so families should apply well ahead of the school year they want. German is not required for entry into Kindergarten through 7th year, but pupils opting into the German Curriculum Stream from 5th class need developing language proficiency. An annual Open Day (typically September/October) allows prospective families to view the Clonskeagh Eurocampus before applying.

WTS RATING 

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