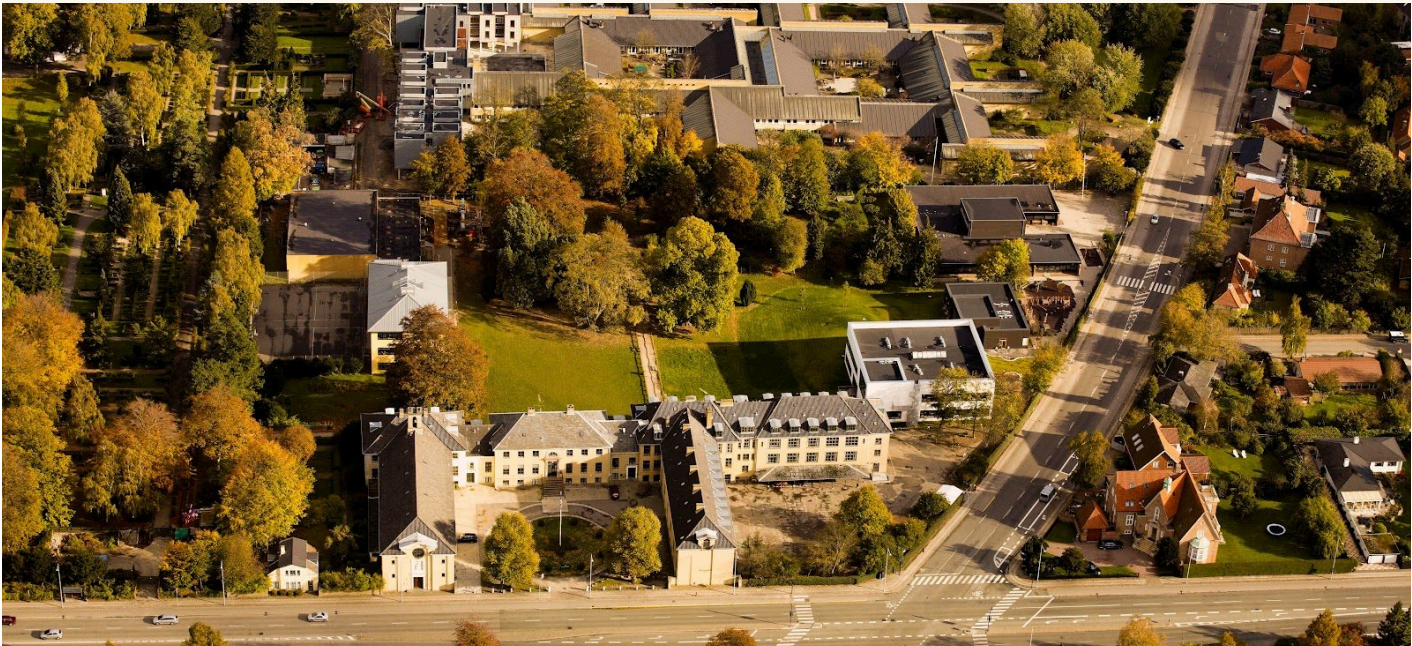


Rygaards International School

Copenhagen, Denmark



Denmark's oldest international school, pairing Catholic roots with the British National Curriculum amid Hellerup's parkland campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	62/100
Academic outcomes	63/100
University placement	61/100
Prestige & heritage	63/100
Alumni network	62/100
Facilities	63/100
Transparency	51/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Rygaards International School occupies a distinct niche in Copenhagen: a ****1909****-founded Catholic day school that combines deep local roots with an English-medium international section built on the British curriculum. That combination is rare in Denmark. This is not a transient newcomer built around expatriate demand; it is the country’s oldest international school, embedded in the Danish system and run as a private, state-subsidised school. The structure matters. Rygaards contains both a Danish private school and an international school, which gives it more institutional depth than many standalone international outfits. Parents who want **continuity without gimmicks**, **a serious academic frame** and **a school with local ballast** will pay attention.

What puts Rygaards on a shortlist is not novelty but fit. The international school serves pupils aged **3–16** and follows the British National Curriculum adapted for an international intake, taught in English, on a day-school model that suits families living in Copenhagen rather than seeking a boarding proposition. The Catholic foundation gives the school a clear moral and cultural inheritance, but the more important point for many international families is tone: *ordered, grown-up, unflashy*. In a market where some schools sell lifestyle first and education second, Rygaards offers *substance over theatre*. Its COBIS and ECIS memberships place it inside established international-school networks, and its long history gives it a credibility that newer schools have not earned.

The school will suit children who do well in a structured environment and families who value *stability in a mobile life*. It fits internationally minded parents who want the familiarity of the British curriculum while living in Denmark, and it also suits families who do not want their child educated in a social bubble detached from the host country. The split-school model keeps one foot in Danish educational life and one in the international sector. That is a genuine advantage for pupils who need a school that understands expatriate movement without becoming rootless. Children who need a highly expansive **16–18** pathway on the same campus will hit a limit here, since Rygaards stops at age 16; parents need to treat secondary transfer as part of the plan.

In market terms, Rygaards is for families who value *heritage with purpose*, *discipline without harshness* and *international education with a local spine*. It is less suited to parents chasing glitzy facilities, a broad sixth-form offer, or a school brand built around spectacle. Rygaards’ appeal lies elsewhere: longevity, clarity, and a model that has held its shape for well over **100** years. For the right child, that restraint is the attraction.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1909; long-established Copenhagen school.
- British curriculum adapted for international needs.
- English-language teaching suits expatriate families.
- CIS-accredited; external quality assurance present.

TRADE-OFFS

- Catholic identity may not suit every family.
- Day school only; no boarding option.
- International section serves temporary, not permanent, residents.

ADMISSIONS

Rygaards International School is a co-educational Catholic day school in Copenhagen for ages 3–16, with a distinct international section using a British curriculum based on the National Curriculum for England, adapted for international needs. The school also contains a Danish private school, so families should be clear which route they are applying to. In practical terms, the main entry points are likely to follow the school's age range, from early years through to lower secondary, but the school does not publicly set out detailed year-by-year admissions pressure points in the material provided.

On process, the publicly available sources here do not specify assessment format, interview stages or fixed admissions deadlines. Nor do they publish bursary or financial-aid arrangements. What is clear is the school's somewhat unusual structure: it sits within the Danish school system, is private but state-subsidised, and serves both families permanently resident in Denmark and those there temporarily. That dual remit is distinctive and may shape how applications are considered, particularly for the international section.

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_418fcd1c52.