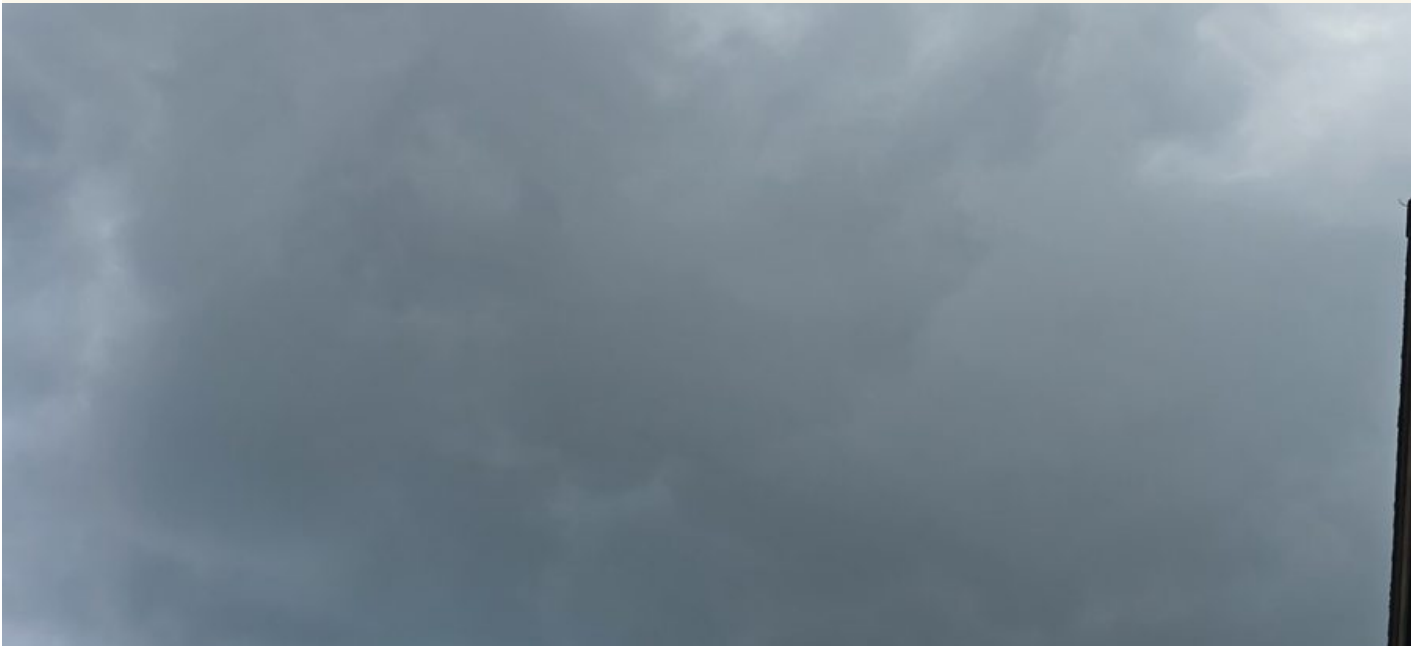


# John F. Kennedy International School

Saanen, Switzerland



*In the Alpine resort village of Gstaad, IGCSE rigor meets a bilingual Swiss curriculum built around winter ski culture.*

## RANKING DIMENSIONS

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Overall              | 60/100 |
| Academic outcomes    | 58/100 |
| University placement | 56/100 |
| Prestige & heritage  | 63/100 |
| Alumni network       | 62/100 |
| Facilities           | 67/100 |
| Transparency         | 48/100 |

## EDITOR'S VERDICT

John F. Kennedy International School occupies a narrow but distinctive niche: a small international day-and-boarding school in Saanen, serving the Gstaad market with British IGCSEs alongside a Swiss bilingual track in English and German. That combination is the point. Parents looking for a vast, hyper-competitive Swiss boarding institution will not find it here. JFK is the opposite: intimate, local in feel, and built on close adult attention. The published numbers are the clearest market signal — a **5:1** student-teacher ratio and average classes of **10**. For families who want *close academic supervision*, *a small-school culture* and a school where staff know children in detail, that is a serious advantage.

What sets it apart is context as much as curriculum. This is a school in the Alpine resort world, and the setting is not decorative. Ski culture, outdoor life and the rhythms of a mountain community shape the experience. That gives JFK a character larger city schools cannot replicate. The attraction is obvious for families already based in Gstaad or Saanen, and for international parents who value \*an Alpine childhood\* over metropolitan scale. The school also spans ages \*\*3-18\*\*, which matters for parents who want continuity from early years through secondary without repeated school changes. Boarding broadens the catchment, but the core appeal remains personal scale rather than institutional grandeur.

The school belongs on a shortlist for a specific child: one who will thrive in \*a tightly knit environment\*, benefits from individual attention, and wants academic structure without the anonymity of a large campus. It also suits students who like outdoor sport, winter life and a community that is \*family-oriented\* rather than theatrical. The trade-off is plain. Families seeking a large sixth-form cohort, a long list of specialist pathways or the social breadth of a major boarding school will find JFK small. That is not a flaw; it is the proposition. For the right student — academically serious, socially happier in a contained setting, and energised by mountain life — JFK offers \*a grounded, high-attention education\* in a rare setting.

#### STRENGTHS

- Ages 3-18 allow one-school continuity.
- 5:1 student-teacher ratio permits close academic attention.
- Average class size 10 suits quieter learners.
- British IGCSE and Swiss bilingual pathways widen options.

#### TRADE-OFFS

- English-only instruction may limit German immersion.
- Very small classes may feel socially narrow.
- Boarding details are not published in sources.

## ADMISSIONS

JFK International School in Saanen admits pupils from ages 3 to 18, so the obvious entry points are Early Years, primary, middle and secondary. The school offers British IGCSE and a Swiss bilingual English/German pathway, though English is listed as the language of instruction. Publicly available material points to rolling applications via an online application system rather than a single annual intake, but the school does not publish detailed entry deadlines in the material provided. Boarding is available, so applicants appear to include both day and boarding families.

What the school does not publish in the supplied sources is equally important: there is no clear public detail here on admissions testing, interview format, required prior school reports, or whether places are decided through a distinctive selective process beyond the usual application-based review. Nor is there any published information in these sources on bursaries, scholarships or means-tested financial aid. Families will need to ask directly about assessment expectations, timing and any fee support.

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\\_477c643abd](https://WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_477c643abd).