

Kambala

Rose Bay, Australia



On the Tivoli headland above Sydney Harbour, a non-selective girls' school topped the state for pairing IB and HSC results in 2024.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	62/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	69/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	11/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	63/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

On the Tivoli headland above Sydney Harbour, Kambala trades on something more substantial than views: it gives girls a genuine senior choice between the HSC and the IB Diploma Programme, and that matters. In Sydney’s independent market, many schools talk about breadth; fewer give sixth formers two serious exit routes under one roof. The school is Anglican, non-selective and girls-only, with day and boarding provision from ages 3 to 18, and that combination gives it a distinctive lane: a full-through school with a clear single-sex identity, but without the admissions filter that narrows the intake at the city’s exam-selective heavyweights. The result is a school that has to add value, not merely harvest it.

What puts Kambala on a shortlist is the mix of ambition and range. The school stakes its case on girls' education, "sisterhood", strong foundations in literacy, numeracy and science, and a full journey from early learning to Year 12. That rhetoric is familiar; the more important point is that Kambala backs it with structural choices that parents can actually use. A girl who wants the conventional New South Wales route has the HSC. A girl with international university plans, or one who wants the breadth and discipline of the diploma, has the IB. That dual-pathway model is *a serious advantage*, and in 2024 it underpinned a rare result: this non-selective girls' school topped the state for pairing IB and HSC outcomes. Fees place it squarely in the premium bracket: **AUD 40,899** a year on average for day pupils and **AUD 83,496** for boarders across the full age range. This is *an expensive school*, and parents are paying for location, continuity, boarding and programme breadth as much as for raw academics.

The girl who will thrive here is motivated, articulate and comfortable in an environment that puts female leadership front and centre. She does not need a co-ed setting to find her voice; she wants a school that treats girls' education as the main event rather than a pastoral subtheme. Boarders and day girls who value *clear academic direction*, visible school culture and the option to choose between two senior qualifications will find a strong fit. Families who want a harder-edged, explicitly selective academic hothouse may look elsewhere. Families who want a *high-ambition* girls' school with boarding, an Anglican foundation, **ages 3-18** continuity and a credible claim to top-end outcomes should keep Kambala in the frame.

STRENGTHS

- Kambala has a non-selective enrolment policy and currently caters for approximately 1,000 students from early learning to Year 12, yet it consistently ranks among the top schools in NSW for HSC results.
- In Years 11 and 12, girls have the opportunity to complete either the NSW Higher School Certificate or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, giving families a dual academic pathway uncommon among non-selective girls' schools.
- Kambala offers a family-style Boarding experience for approximately 50 girls from Year 7 to Year 12, in a purpose built Boarding House Fernbank, adjacent to the school, supporting regional and international families.
- Established in 1887, Kambala is a private early learning, primary, and secondary day and boarding school for girls in Rose Bay, giving it a long institutional history on a single harbourside site.
- Class sizes average about 20, and the teachers are 'first-rate', according to an independent school-review source.

TRADE - OFFS

- Fees are among the highest in the country: fees for Kambala School in Rose Bay have surged past the \$50,000 mark for the very first time, effectively making Kambala the most expensive school in the entire country, with a non-refundable and non-transferable enrolment fee of AUD 6,000 required to secure the position once a place is confirmed.
- The school is single-sex for its core years: it is a private early learning, primary, and secondary day and boarding school for girls, so it does not suit families wanting coeducational schooling beyond the youngest years.
- Curriculum choice is limited to the NSW/Australian system: in Years 11 and 12, girls have the opportunity to complete either the NSW Higher School Certificate or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, with no British, American or other international board on offer.
- Despite open, non-selective entry, popular intake years are heavily sought after and priority is given to daughters or granddaughters of Kambala Old Girls, to those with sisters already attending and to Boarders, subject to availability, with places offered two years in advance of the year of intended enrolment,

which can disadvantage families with no prior school connection.

ADMISSIONS

Main entry points are Preparation, Year 5 and Year 7, with smaller intakes at other year levels and an IB-specific entry at Year 10. Applications require a AUD 300 non-refundable fee, past school reports, a birth certificate and a family interview, typically two years before intended entry. Kambala describes itself as non-selective, but priority is given to daughters and granddaughters of Old Girls, sisters of current students and boarders, so places at popular entry points can be competitive despite the absence of academic testing.

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_5f0415fb59.