

St. George's School

Vancouver, Canada



Vancouver's only boys' boarding house pairs BC's diploma with IB and AP courses, then swaps desks for weeks in the backcountry.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	74/100
Academic outcomes	76/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	75/100
Alumni network	74/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	71/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The distinctive feature here is not the IB badge or the AP menu, but the combination of a boys-only school in Vancouver with the city’s only boys’ boarding house and a serious outdoor programme. St. George’s, founded in 1930, runs as a non-religious day and boarding school for boys aged 3 to 18, teaching in English and spanning Canadian, IB and American pathways. That mix gives it a broader academic shape than the standard Canadian independent school: a BC diploma base, IB in the senior years, and AP courses in the mix. The boarding side matters. An average annual boarding fee of **CAD 77,700** places it in the premium bracket, while the average annual day fee of **CAD 37,300** makes the day school expensive by Vancouver standards but not out of line for the city’s top independent market.

What puts St. George's on a shortlist is the school's clear sense of what kind of boy it wants to educate. This is a **structured, high-expectation** school with a strong co-curricular spine: academics, sport, arts and outdoor education all sit close to the centre rather than at the margins. The public emphasis on Harker Hall, athletics, music, theatre, visual arts, global stewardship and programmes such as VentureLift points to a school that wants boys busy, stretched and supervised. Parents who want a **softly progressive** environment with maximum student autonomy from the outset should look elsewhere. St. George's suits families who value routine, institutional culture and the discipline of a full programme.

The strongest fit is a boy who will use the school's range rather than resist it: academically ambitious, energetic, willing to join in, and comfortable in a single-sex setting. The outdoor element also stands out. This is a school that swaps classrooms for the backcountry and treats that as part of education, not an annual extra. For the right student, that is **formative**. For the wrong one, it is **hard-edged**. Academic outcomes are less clearly published than many parents will want; the school does not disclose a full set of headline results here, and the recent university destinations listed — Bangor, BIMM Institute and Bournemouth, each with ***1*** student — are too thin to prove much on their own. Even so, the core proposition is clear: a **traditional, well-resourced** boys' school with boarding, recognised by CIS and the IBO, and with a more rugged character than many urban independents.

STRENGTHS

- Long-established Vancouver institution founded in 1930, giving it one of the deeper alumni networks among BC independent schools.
- Class sizes are kept small, typically 18 to 22 students, across both the Junior and Senior campuses.
- The boarding programme draws over 100 students from more than 20 countries, giving day-school families exposure to a genuinely international cohort.
- Co-curricular breadth is wide, with roughly 24 AP subjects alongside 50-plus clubs and 35-plus sport options on offer.
- The school allocates a stated \$2 million annually in financial aid for students in Grades 4 to 12, widening access beyond full-fee families.

TRADE-OFFS

- It is a single-sex, all-boys school, which rules it out for families wanting co-education or with daughters to place.
- Fees are substantial: published tuition figures for boarding range widely into the CAD 60,000-100,000-plus band depending on source and residency category, before extras such as new-student and device fees.
- Boarding is a minority experience structurally: only around 100 boarders sit within a day-school population of over 1,000, so the culture is day-school-led rather than a classic full-boarding environment.
- The campus is split across two urban sites in the Dunbar neighbourhood rather than a single rural estate, meaning less on-site outdoor/athletic acreage than campus-based boarding rivals on Vancouver Island.

ADMISSIONS

St. George's admits boys from Kindergarten through Grade 12 across Junior (K-7) and Senior (8-12) campuses, with boarding available from Grade 8. Day applications are typically due December 1 and boarding applications February 1, processed via standardized platforms such as SAO or Gateway. As a well-known Vancouver name-brand boys' school with capped class sizes of 18-22, places at popular entry points (Kindergarten, Grade 8) are competitive, and the process generally includes testing, transcripts, and an interview.

WTS RATING 

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