

Kaijo Junior and Senior High School

Tokyo, Japan



A former naval officers' academy in Shinjuku, now a boys' school whose deliberately non-streamed classrooms feed a steady stream into Tokyo University.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	79/100
Academic outcomes	86/100
University placement	82/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Kaijo is a long-established Tokyo boys’ day school with an unusual origin story: founded in ****1891**** by Koga Kisaburo as a naval preparatory school, then rebuilt into a modern secondary school in Shinjuku. The institutional idea still has bite. Kaijo talks about producing a “new gentleman”, but the phrase does real work here: freedom is tied to fairness, and individual choice is backed by adult support rather than theatrical pastoral rhetoric. For parents, the point is simple. This is a serious Japanese National curriculum school in Japanese, for boys aged ****12-18****, with a strong academic centre of gravity and a

clear moral vocabulary that is neither religious nor vague. In Tokyo’s crowded independent market, that gives it a **distinctive intellectual identity**.

What marks Kaijo out is the way it pushes against the narrowest version of Japanese exam schooling without abandoning academic ambition. Its programme gives real space to communication, collaboration and enquiry: project adventure in the lower years, drama-based education for communication and perspective-taking, substantial social studies research, and a middle school graduation thesis running to ***30–50*** manuscript pages. Science teaching also leans hard into practical work, with frequent experiments and field observation. This matters because many schools claim to educate the whole child while running a conventional cram-track underneath. Kaijo does more than that. It has built structured experiences that force boys to speak, investigate, cooperate and defend ideas. The trade-off is obvious: with average class sizes of ***40***, this is not an intimate school, and families looking for small-group hand-holding will find the scale blunt. Still, the intellectual method has **real substance**.

Its market position is strong and specific: an academically ambitious boys’ school for families who want elite outcomes without a purely mechanistic or hyper-streamed culture. The editorial line about a steady flow into Tokyo University fits the school’s reputation, but the more important point is the kind of route Kaijo offers: disciplined, analytical, and less socially brittle than many exam-dominant institutions. It belongs on a shortlist for parents who want **high standards without deadening conformity**, a school with **old Tokyo seriousness** and a credible attempt to teach boys how to think in company with others.

The right student for Kaijo is bright, resilient and happy in a competitive academic environment, but not limited to rote performance. He will do well if he enjoys argument, research, practical science and collaborative work, and if he can handle a big-class setting without constant adult prompting. Boys who want endless coddling or a broad English-medium international experience should look elsewhere. Boys who want **structure with independence**, **academic rigour with purpose**, and a school culture that expects them to grow up rather than merely collect marks will find Kaijo a compelling fit.

STRENGTHS

- Kaijo is a private boys' junior and senior high school located in the heart of Tokyo, with roughly 1,900 students split evenly between the junior and senior divisions.
- The school sends a substantial share of graduates to Japan's most selective universities: 2025 University of Tokyo Admissions: 49 students (2023: 43 students, 2024: 49 students), out of a graduating class of roughly 320.
- The 2025 curriculum favours discussion-based, student-led learning over rote instruction, with active use of ICT, according to independent tutoring-service reviews of the school's teaching style.
- Founded in 1891 as a preparatory academy tied to naval training, giving it over 130 years of institutional history in central Tokyo.
- A dedicated returnee-student (kikokushijo) admissions route exists, so children who have spent years abroad have a defined path into the

TRADE-OFFS

- Kaijo is single-sex: Kaijo is a private boys' junior and senior high school, so it is not an option for families wanting coeducation.
- The school stopped recruiting at the high-school level in 2011 and became a fully integrated six-year (chugaku-kara) school, meaning there is effectively no entry point for teenagers arriving in Japan after roughly age 12-13 outside the specific returnee-exam track.
- Entrance is highly competitive, with reported entrance-exam deviation scores of 62 to 66, placing it firmly among Tokyo's harder-to-enter boys' schools, though it sits a notch below the very top-tier feeder schools.
- All teaching is delivered in Japanese under the national curriculum, so non-Japanese-speaking families or those wanting an English-medium track will find no accommodation here.

school rather than relying solely on the standard exam.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is almost exclusively at Grade 7 (age 12) via Japan's competitive chugaku-juken entrance examination; since 2011 the school has not recruited new students at the high-school level, making it a closed six-year cohort. A separate kikokushijo (returnee) admissions track exists for applicants who have lived overseas, including an interview conducted in Japanese. Reported entrance-exam deviation scores sit around 62-66, indicating strong but not top-tier selectivity relative to Tokyo's most elite boys' schools. All instruction is in Japanese, so applicants need solid Japanese literacy regardless of entry route.

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_9cbfde2c5d.