

Brisbane Girls Grammar School

Brisbane, Australia



Founded in 1875, six years before women could enter Australian universities, and still topping Queensland's academic ladder from Spring Hill.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	75/100
Academic outcomes	80/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	76/100
Alumni network	74/100
Facilities	78/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Brisbane Girls Grammar School occupies a clear position at the top of the Brisbane market: a non-religious, academically hard-driving girls’ day school with deep civic pedigree and none of the finishing-school varnish. Founded in **1875**, it predates women’s admission to Australian universities and still trades on that original argument — serious education for girls on equal terms. The school’s Spring Hill location keeps it close to the centre of Brisbane, and its structure is straightforward: day-only, English-medium, girls aged 5 to 18, with the Queensland Certificate of Education. The numbers reinforce the

point. An **11:1** student-teacher ratio and average class size of **22** give it enough scale to offer breadth without slipping into anonymity.

What sets BGGS apart is not novelty but institutional seriousness. This is a school built around scholarship, expectations and disciplined ambition. The school talks about a “broad, liberal education”, and that matters: the pitch is not narrow exam drilling, but intellectual range delivered at speed. The 2026 opening of Years 5 and 6 as a dedicated Junior School is a significant shift, extending the BGGS model downward rather than diluting it. Parents who want *academic traction*, *high expectations* and a *clear secular identity* will find a coherent proposition here. Parents who want glossy pastoral language, a religious frame or a softer, more indulgent culture should look elsewhere.

BGGS belongs on a shortlist because it offers something many schools promise and few deliver consistently: an unapologetically academic environment for girls, backed by long institutional memory and strong governance. It has the confidence of an old school without the dead hand of tradition. The atmosphere suits students who enjoy being stretched, who like ideas, who can handle competition and who do not need constant hand-holding. A girl who thrives on *intellectual pressure*, values *purposeful teaching* and wants peers who take work seriously will fit well. A student seeking a laid-back school life, a broad church of academic standards or a heavily pastoral culture will not. This is a school for girls with *scholarly appetite* and *earned confidence*.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1875 as one of Queensland's oldest schools for girls, opening six years before women were admitted to university in Sydney or Melbourne.
- Academically non-selective at its main entry points (Year 5 and Year 7), yet the school is consistently cited as a top-performing girls' school in Queensland for NAPLAN and ATAR results.
- Operates an all-inclusive fee policy covering tuition and most co-curricular programs, with no separate technology, outdoor-education or building levies.
- Affiliated with the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia and the International Coalition of Girls' Schools, and competes in the Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools Sports Association (QGSSSA).
- Located in inner-city Spring Hill with direct rail (Roma Street) and bus access, making it practical for day students commuting from across Brisbane.

TRADE - OFFS

- Single-sex, girls-only day school with no boarding option, which will not suit families seeking co-education or residential places.
- Main entry is effectively limited to Year 5 (new Junior School from 2026) and Year 7; places in Year 8 or 9 arise only occasionally and are subject to availability, making late transfer uncertain.
- Annual tuition runs to roughly AUD \$32,000, and the school offers no broad academic scholarship program, only limited merit-and-need-based bursaries for genuinely struggling families.
- Curriculum is delivered solely through the Queensland Certificate of Education, with no International Baccalaureate pathway, which may concern internationally mobile families wanting a globally portable qualification.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is concentrated at Year 5 (from the school's new Junior School, opening 2026) and Year 7, the main intake points, with occasional vacancies at Year 8 or 9 depending on availability. The school describes itself as academically non-selective at these main entry years, though demand is high given its reputation, so early registration - often years ahead of the intended start date - is advised. Families pay a non-refundable application fee, followed by confirmation and advance fees once an offer is accepted. Bursaries, rather than academic scholarships, are available on a merit-and-financial-need basis for Year 7 entrants.

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_b1dd7403fa.