

Cathedral Vidya School Lonavla

Lonavla, India



Set among Sahyadri hills near Lonavala, a boarding campus extends Mumbai's Cathedral School ethos into IB Diploma and IGCSE classrooms.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	64/100
Academic outcomes	65/100
University placement	63/100
Prestige & heritage	66/100
Alumni network	65/100
Facilities	69/100
Transparency	54/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Cathedral Vidya School Lonavla occupies a narrow but credible niche in India’s premium boarding market: a co-educational school for ages 11–18 that combines IGCSE and the IB Diploma with a campus in the Sahyadri hills. The selling point is not novelty; it is structure. Parents looking for an English-medium route to international university admissions, without the scale and social sprawl of a giant boarding school, will find a more contained proposition here. A **7:1** student-teacher ratio and average class size of **14** matter. Those numbers point to classrooms where teachers know their students and weak spots are harder to hide. Founded in **2003**, the school also has enough operating history to move beyond start-up gloss.

What sets it apart is the blend of *boarding calm*, *academic focus* and *manageable scale*. Lonavla gives the school physical distance from Mumbai's churn while keeping it within reach of the city's professional families. That balance matters: this is not an isolated wilderness school, nor an urban day school with token boarding attached. The campus setting supports a more regulated rhythm of study, sport and residential life, which suits adolescents who benefit from routine and adult supervision. The international curriculum adds reach, but the school's real strength lies in offering that route in a smaller environment than many better-known competitors. For some families, that translates into *room to grow*; for others, it means fewer places to disappear.

This school belongs on a shortlist for parents who want *serious pastoral containment* alongside recognised qualifications. It will suit students who are academically capable, respond well to close attention, and want breadth without the impersonality of a very large campus. It will also appeal to families who value a non-religious setting and a boarding experience that feels *ordered rather than theatrical*. The weaker fit is easy to identify. Students who want the scale, spectacle and deep extracurricular bench of the biggest legacy boarding schools may find Cathedral Vidya School Lonavla too compact. Students who need the anonymity of a large cohort will not get it here. For the right child, though, that intimacy is the point: *clear expectations*, *close adult oversight* and an international academic track in a setting built for concentration.

STRENGTHS

- IB Diploma and IGCSE offer recognised pathways.
- English-medium teaching suits internationally mobile families.
- 7:1 student-teacher ratio allows close academic attention.
- Average class size 14 keeps discussion manageable.

TRADE-OFFS

- Lonavla location may feel removed from major cities.
- Both day and boarding model may not suit everyone.
- Ages 11-18 excludes younger siblings needing one campus.

ADMISSIONS

Cathedral Vidya School Lonavla is a co-educational day and boarding school for ages 11-18, so the main admission points are likely to fall around the start of secondary school and into the examination years, including the IGCSE and IB Diploma pathways. English is the language of instruction. The school declares IGCSE and IB Diploma, which suggests admissions may depend in part on the year group sought and the applicant's prior school record. Beyond that, the school does not appear to publish detailed public information here on standardised testing, interview structure or whether boarding applicants follow a separate process.

The school also does not publish, in the material provided, fixed application deadlines or a clearly stated bursary or financial-aid scheme, so parents should not assume fee assistance is available without checking directly. As with many schools offering IGCSE and the IB Diploma, later entry points are usually more selective because subject choices and programme continuity matter, but Cathedral Vidya School's exact selection criteria are not stated in the available information.

WTS RATING 

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