

Knox Grammar School

Wahroonga, Australia



On Sydney's Upper North Shore, a century-old boys' school blends HSC rigor with IB breadth across three boarding houses and a 90-strong music program

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	74/100
Academic outcomes	76/100
University placement	73/100
Prestige & heritage	76/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	81/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Knox Grammar School occupies a strong position in Sydney’s boys’ school market: a large, old-established campus on the Upper North Shore with the scale to offer both academic breadth and serious co-curricular depth. Founded in 1924, it serves boys aged 11-18 and runs both the Australian HSC and the IB Diploma, a combination that matters. Many schools talk about choice; Knox delivers an actual fork in the road at the senior end. For families weighing university pathways inside and outside Australia, that dual track gives Knox a practical edge. The school is also one of the few boys’ schools in Sydney with substantial

boarding, housing around 210 boarders, which extends its reach well beyond the North Shore. The operation is big, with approximately 3,345 students across the wider school, and that scale brings opportunity as well as institutional heft. *This is not a boutique school.* It is a large, organised, high-output one.

What distinguishes Knox is not novelty but range. The academic structure is broad, the boarding offer is real, and the co-curricular engine is built for boys who want a full programme rather than a narrow school day. The published student-teacher ratio of **11:1** and average class size of **22** point to a school that has managed size without surrendering classroom order. Parents should also note the school’s religious identity with precision: it is a Uniting Church school, not a secular one, even if the tone is less confessional than at some denominational rivals. That matters for families who want values and pastoral structure without an aggressively doctrinal culture. *There is institutional confidence here,* and also the expectations that come with it: boys are not hidden in a soft environment.

Knox belongs on a shortlist for families seeking a boys’ school with *serious academic ambition*, visible structure and enough scale to support very different kinds of student under one banner: the boarder from regional Australia, the day boy chasing top HSC results, the sixth-former who wants the IB, the musician, the athlete, the boy who thrives in a busy, competitive setting. It suits students who want momentum, routine and a campus with *real critical mass*. It does not suit boys who need an intimate, low-pressure atmosphere or families looking for progressive co-education. Knox’s appeal rests on a clear proposition: a century-old boys’ school with **1924** pedigree, **210** boarders, and the kind of breadth that gives ambitious families *a strong sense of options without sacrificing discipline*.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• In the 2023 HSC, results indicated a median ATAR score of 93, with one student achieving a perfect ATAR score and 38 students achieved an ATAR of 99 or higher, underscoring the high level of academic performance at the school. • Knox Grammar secured the 11th position in the Sydney Morning Herald's Top 150 Schools Report for the 2023 HSC cohort. • The school teaches both the NSW HSC and the IB Diploma, giving senior students a choice of examination pathway. • The school enrolls approximately 2900 students across its Preparatory and Senior Schools, including approximately 210 boarding students from Years 7 to 12 housed across three boarding houses. • Knox has a formal partnership with sister school Ravenswood, giving boys co-educational opportunities such as cadets, service learning and the performing arts alongside a shared commitment to the whole student, embracing a common approach to learning, and the wellbeing of all students.	• Founded in 1924 by the Presbyterian Church of Australia as an all-boys school, Knox remains single-sex, so it offers no everyday co-education beyond limited joint programs with its sister school. • A 2015 Royal Commission public hearing inquired into sexual abuse of former students at Knox Grammar School and examined the response of the school and the Uniting Church between 1970 and 2012, with five teachers charged and later convicted of child sex offences against students; families should weigh this historical record against current safeguarding practice. • Indicative day-school tuition has been quoted at Average Tuition Fees: (AUD) 20,910 - 34,110 per year, before boarding, uniforms and activity levies are added. • Despite strong local HSC outcomes, the school's editorial ranking places it in the 'challenger' band rather than the very top bracket of nationally benchmarked schools, reflecting a gap versus the highest-ranked peers.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Kindergarten to Year 12, with the main boarding intake at Year 7 across three boarding houses. Wahroonga Prep and the senior school require separate applications, and the school states that places are in high demand for all year levels. Entry typically follows an interview; scholarships are offered for Knox Prep and Senior School but not for Wahroonga Prep. Given the school's HSC performance and North Shore demand, popular entry years are competitive, and early application is advisable for relocating families.

WTS RATING 

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