

The English School, Nicosia

Nicosia, Cyprus



A 1900 foundation opposite the Presidential Palace, uniting Greek and Turkish Cypriot pupils under a rigorously British curriculum.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	60/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	16/100
Facilities	67/100
Transparency	58/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The English School, Nicosia occupies a rare place in Cyprus. Founded in **1900**, it is an old, selective, English-medium day school with a rigorously British curriculum and a social mission that matters: it is one of the city’s designated bi-communal secondary schools, educating Greek and Turkish Cypriot pupils together. That fact is not decorative. In a divided capital, it gives the school a *serious civic weight* that few competitors can match. Add its position opposite the Presidential Palace and membership of HMC, and you get a school with *institutional gravity*, public visibility and a long-established reputation for academic discipline.

What puts it on a shortlist is not warmth or lifestyle polish, but substance. This is a school for families who want selection, standards and a strong academic culture, not a softer all-through international model. Entry is rigorous. The age range is focused — **11-18** — and that sharpens the school's identity: secondary education done properly, in English, with clear expectations and little appetite for fluff. For parents weighing local private options against newer international schools, The English School offers something harder to replicate: *historic credibility*, a selective intake and a cross-community student body that gives daily school life a dimension beyond exam preparation.

Its market position is clear. This is not the broadest or most lifestyle-driven school in the Cyprus market; it is one of the most established and intellectually serious. The student who thrives here wants pace, structure and competition. They will value being taught in English, cope well with selective peers and take pride in belonging to an institution with *real academic edge*. They do not need hand-holding or constant reassurance. They need challenge, standards and a school culture that treats study as the main event.

The best fit is an ambitious, resilient pupil with strong literacy, self-command and the confidence to hold their own in a demanding environment. Families who want a *cosmopolitan but unsentimental* education — British in curriculum, Cypriot in setting, and marked by a genuine bi-communal purpose — should pay attention. The English School is not special because it is fashionable. It is special because, after **125** years, it still offers something difficult to manufacture: *prestige with purpose*.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1900; long-established local institution.
- Selective admissions may suit academically ambitious pupils.
- Bi-communal intake includes Greek and Turkish Cypriots.
- HMC membership offers recognised British-school association.

TRADE-OFFS

- Selective admissions may limit access for many applicants.
- Day school only; no boarding for overseas families.
- Secondary only: ages 11-18, no primary provision.

ADMISSIONS

The English School Nicosia is a day school for ages 11-18, so the main entry point is inferably at age 11, with later applications possible into older year groups where places exist. Publicly available information confirms that it is an independent selective secondary school with a rigorous selection process for admission, but the school does not, from the material provided here, publish the detail needed to describe the assessment format precisely. Nor is there enough in the source material to state whether selection involves only written testing or additional stages.

Applicants should therefore expect competition and a formal admissions process rather than open entry. The school is also distinctive in being one of the secondary schools in Nicosia designated as bi-communal, educating both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. No application deadlines are given in the source material provided, and no bursary or financial-aid provision is mentioned here. Parents should check the school directly for current timelines, testing arrangements and any support with fees.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (9)

DRAMA: Alex Michaelides, Filippou Konstantinou

LETTERS: Rauf Denktas, Michalis Karaolis, Alex Michaelides

POLITICS: Rauf Denktas, Savia Orphanidou

SCIENCE: Kypros Nicolaides, Yannis Laouris, Curtis Yarvin, Savia Orphanidou

BUSINESS: Stelios Joannou (Ioannou)

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_e5533c030d.