

# 10 best int'l schools in the city

**CLASS APART** HT brings you 2019's top 10 international schools from across the city that scored well on teaching, infrastructure, facilities



HELLO READERS, WE ARE PLEASED to present the 11th HT Top Schools survey.

Parents give a lot of thought and time to selecting a school for their child. Curriculum, teaching standards, school infrastructure, fees, location, safety—all are crucial while making that choice.

Earlier, there were few options in curricula and a small list of old and established institutions to choose from. Now, new-age campuses and legislation, such as the Right to Education Act, are revolutionising school education.

With an explosion in the number of schools and a wider choice of Indian and international curricula, the task of finding the best school is tougher than ever.

We hope our list of the top schools in Mumbai will help you arrive at that important decision.

The methodology used to select the city's top schools (detailed below) involves a formula that has proved its efficacy since 2009, when HT first gave you a list of Mumbai's best schools.

Over the years, some of your suggestions have been incorporated in the selection process.

We list the best schools in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai.

We have also included international schools as a separate category.

Apart from the rankings, we will have profiles of the top institutions in each zone, followed by a series of reports next week that will track the trends and developments in school education.

## TOMORROW

The 10 best schools (Indian boards) in the city

## TOP SCHOOLS (INT'L BOARD) OF 2018

- 1 Dhirubhai Ambani International School, BKC
- 2 Oberoi International School
- 3 Ecole Mondiale World School
- 4 Aditya Birla World Academy, Tardeo
- 5 Singapore International School, Dahisar
- 6 Podar International School, Santacruz (West)
- 7 Utpal Shanghvi Global School, JVPD
- 8 Bombay International School, Babulnath
- 9 Bombay Cambridge International School, Andheri (East)
- 10 JBCN International School, Parel

## METHODOLOGY

Hindustan Times commissioned research organisation C fore to conduct the survey to rank top schools in Mumbai.

The assessment parameters and corresponding weightage were set by HT and were the same as were used last year:

### THE 18 PARAMETERS ON WHICH THE SCHOOLS WERE RATED ARE:

Educational philosophy; attitude towards learning; breadth of vision; social engagement; academic rigour; innovative teaching; teachers; teacher-student relationship; sports; cultural activities; life-skill education; infrastructure and facilities; safety, health and hygiene; diversity; selection process; governance; parent participation; and value for money.

A perceptual survey was conducted among a carefully selected sample of teachers and parents using a structured questionnaire.

In all, 5,779 teachers and parents participated in the survey.

The respondents were asked to evaluate the schools that they were aware of on a 10-point scale against all the parameters. Simultaneously, objective data was also collected from various schools.

C fore researchers visited each school shortlisted for ranking based on the objective and perceptual data collected.

The data gathered was also audited by talking to parents and students. To arrive at the ranking score, the figures of perceptual and objective data were combined. In case the objective data was not available, the perceptual data scores were extrapolated to rank top 10 schools of each of the five zones of Mumbai, namely North Mumbai, East Mumbai, West Mumbai, South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. Only schools that have classes up to 10th grade were included in the survey.

## COMING OUT ON TOP

The 2019 Hindustan Times-C fore Top Schools survey gave scores to each school across 18 parameters, from academic rigour to sports. Here is the list of international schools that topped our rankings:



### 1 DHIRUBHAI AMBANI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra [www.da-is.org](http://www.da-is.org)

**HISTORY:** Dhirubhai Ambani International School is a K-12 co-educational international day school established in 2003, with a view to offering world-class educational opportunities.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** It has a community service programme from Class 3, student-exchange and teacher-exchange programmes. It boasts of a Green Building Certification with platinum rating.

» We're happy that our school has once again been ranked among the best. This comes on the heels of our school getting into the league of Top 10 IB schools.

NITA M AMBANI, founder and chairperson

**Highest ratings:** Education philosophy, academic rigour, teachers  
**Board:** Class 10 (ICSE), Class 10 (IGCSE), Class 12 (IB Diploma Programme) **Annual fees:** LKG to Class 7—₹2.50L, Class 8 to 10 (ICSE)—₹2.75L, Class 8 to 10 (IGCSE)—₹6.55L, Classes 11 and 12 (IBDP)—₹10.55L **Students:** 1,078 **Student-teacher ratio:** 7:1



### 2 OBEROI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

OGC Campus, off WEH, Goregaon (East) <https://oberoi-is.org/>

**HISTORY:** The school started its operations in August 2008. It has grown stronger since then with the opening of the second campus on JVL.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** Guidance counsellors from over 350 universities visit the school to introduce kids to various courses. Over 100 workshops are held in the year, including sessions on health, sex education, transition to universities, etc.

» We're a happy international learning community. At OIS, we do so much more than producing great results – we produce awesome adults.

NEIL MCWILLIAM, head of school

**Highest ratings:** Governance, sports, innovative teaching  
**Board:** IB **Annual fees:** Pre-primary—₹6.20L, Class 1-5—₹7.20L, Class 6-10—₹8.40L, Class 11 & 12—₹9.5L **Students:** 1,630 **Student-teacher ratio:** Class 1 to 5—5:1, Class 6 to 12—8:1



### 3 ADITYA BIRLA WORLD ACADEMY

JD Road, Tardeo [www.adityabirlaworldacademy.com](http://www.adityabirlaworldacademy.com)

**HISTORY:** Run by the Aditya Birla Education Trust, the school was set up in 2008-09 by the Aditya Birla Group and is led by Neeraja Birla as the chairperson of the institute.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** Academic excellence is supplemented with value-based education to equip children to deal with emerging challenges. Every kid is made to feel safe.

» We focus on the emotional well-being of our students, with a vision to enable them to optimise their potential.

NEERAJA BIRLA, chairperson

**Highest ratings:** Educational philosophy, academic rigour, selection process and parent participation  
**Board:** IB and CAIE **Annual fees:** Not disclosed **Students:** 680 **Student-teacher ratio:** 6:1



### 4 ECOLE MONDIALE WORLD SCHOOL

JVPD Scheme [www.ecolemondiale.org](http://www.ecolemondiale.org)

**Highest ratings:** Attitude towards learning, teachers, selection process

### 5 SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Post Mira Road, Dahisar <http://www.sisindia.net>

**Highest ratings:** Educational philosophy, teachers, selection process



### 5 UTPAL SHANGHVI GLOBAL SCHOOL

East West Road No.3, JVPD Scheme [www.usgschool.org](http://www.usgschool.org)

**HISTORY:** While the school's inception was in 1982, it introduced the Cambridge International Curriculum in 2005, maintaining consistent high standards of performance right from the first year of exams in 2008.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** The school has introduced professional courses to nurture young aspirants. They are empowered with e-learning to foster creativity, acquire fundamental skills, etc.

» We think out of the box and aim to create a perfect environment for academic excellence, offering yoga, sports, soft skills, IT and audio visual depts.

JAYESH CHOKSI, president, Juhu Parle Education Society

**Highest ratings:** Innovative teaching, life skills education, value for money  
**Board:** Cambridge International and Maharashtra State Board (Grades 3-10) **Annual fees:** ₹64,000 to ₹2.66L (depending on the board) **Students:** 2,941 **Student-teacher ratio:** 15:1



### 7 JAMBHAI NARSEE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

N.S Road No. 7, JVPD Scheme [www.jns.ac.in](http://www.jns.ac.in)

**HISTORY:** The school was founded in 1971 by the Narsee Monjee Educational Trust and is managed by it. It was established by Chhatrabhuj Narsee, Pratap Narsee and Dhanraj Narsee in 1970. It's on the threshold of its Golden Jubilee year.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** In pre-school, the management has amalgamated best practices from seven teaching pedagogies. Kids' core skills are honed by us.

» Differences among students are respected and parent-teacher relationship is strengthened by an effort towards the child's holistic growth.

ZEEANAT BHOJABHOY, principal

**Highest ratings:** Innovative teaching, infrastructure and facilities, selection process  
**Board:** ICSE, ISC, IB and NIOS **Annual fees:** ₹2.31L **Students:** 4,200 **Student-teacher ratio:** 40:1



### 8 PODAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SANTACRUZ

Saraswati Road, Santacruz (West) [www.podarinternationalschool.com](http://www.podarinternationalschool.com)

**HISTORY:** Established in 1927, the Podar Group has a strong presence with over 124 Podar-owned schools across India. Headquartered in Mumbai with seven schools in Santacruz, Podar Schools are now spread across nine states.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** Use of tech, committed teaching team and a student-centric approach are the three most distinguished characteristics.

» What makes our school better than the rest is that we're willing to change in the face of relevant trends, data and opportunities.

VANDANA LULLA, principal

**Highest ratings:** Academic rigour, innovative teaching and safety, health and hygiene  
**Board:** IB and Cambridge **Annual fees:** ₹3.95 lakh **Students:** 1,411 **Student-teacher ratio:** 15:1



### 9 BOMBAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Babulnath Road, Malabar Hill [bis.edu.in](http://bis.edu.in)

**Highest ratings:** Selection process, attitude towards learning and educational philosophy



### 10 BOMBAY CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Rabindranath Tagore Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East) [www.bcseast.org](http://www.bcseast.org)

**HISTORY:** Established in 1993, it is a K-12 premier co-educational, English-medium school known for its dynamic and progressive learning environment.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** Focus and emphasis is laid on the social and emotional learning through well-structured programmes designed by experienced educators and psychologists.

» Our goal is to create world graduates, students who are able to express their potential, be responsible decision-makers and sensitive to all living things.

NALINI NAIR, principal

**Highest ratings:** Diversity, safety, health and hygiene, life skills education  
**Board:** Cambridge International and Maharashtra State Board **Annual fees:** Not disclosed **Students:** 2,341 **Student-teacher ratio:** 15:1 (international board), 25:1 (state board)



### 10 JBCN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PAREL

Yogi Mansion, Dr Vinay Walimbe Road, Parel (East) [www.jbcnschool.edu.in/parel/](http://www.jbcnschool.edu.in/parel/)

**HISTORY:** JBCN Education has been a pioneering organisation in the field of education for over three decades. JBCN International School, Parel, was established in 2012.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** The school aims to provide learners with 360-degree learning, where the academic learning is complemented by infra, a strong co-curricular and value-added programme.

» A school is all about the child. At the JBCN International School, Parel, our collective endeavour at all times, is to prepare the learner for life.

SANDEP CHHABRA, principal

**Highest ratings:** Educational philosophy, parent participation, academic rigour  
**Board:** ICSE & IB, PYP Candidate School **Annual fees:** Not disclosed **Students:** 1,256 **Student-teacher ratio:** 12:1

HT PHOTOS: SATISH BATE, SATYABRATA TRIPATHY, ANSHUMAN POYREKAR, PRAMOD THAKUR, KUNAL PATIL

## NOTES

**1. Despite employing** such a comprehensive process, we at HT believe that such rankings cannot be completely objective because people will have different opinions of what they believe constitutes good education. Some parents might be looking for a school that allows them to be closely involved, while others may want the opposite. Some parents might want schools that focus on sports, while others may want one where academics dominates.

**2. We believe that beyond a particular** threshold, it is difficult to rank schools in an objective manner. Indeed, as we have already said, our survey includes some subjective, perceptual inputs. We have, however, ranked the top ten schools overall in the city and will rank the top schools in five zones because many readers have asked us for this kind of demarcation.

**3. In any case,** we advise parents to look carefully at how schools have scored against the various parameters instead of going just by the overall rank. These scores will indicate to parents which school might better suit their specific aspirations. Indeed, a school that is ranked lower in the Hindustan Times list might actually be better suited to a parent and his or her child/children than the top-ranked one.



Parents, students, educators, readers, please write in with your thoughts and views to [htmetro@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htmetro@hindustantimes.com). We value criticism as much as we welcome praise. A special request to school principals: we hope many more of you will reply to our questionnaire next year!