

State gets a gold star

Depth of top quality Victorian schools leads the nation

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Victoria has continued its strong showing in the exclusive Top 100 schools rankings, with 15 schools in the next-best list from 101 to 150.

Among the best-regarded and established names among the hotly contested next top 50 are five schools that just missed out on the Top 100.

These are St Michael's Grammar, which did so by less than half a point, followed by Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar, Xavier College, Kilvington Grammar and Sacré Cœur, which were a mere 1.02 to 1.7 points outside the top 100.

Geelong is also represented

in the next 50, with The Geelong College coming in at 133.

Geelong Grammar made the Top 100 list at 65.

Westbourne Grammar School at Truganina has the biggest student population of 2121 in the extended list, while Yesodei HaTorah College in Elwood was the cheapest, charging a \$5427 fee in 2024.

Other Victorian schools to make the next-best 50 were St Leonard's College, St Margaret's Berwick Grammar, St Andrews Christian College, The Knox School, Kingswood College, Oxley Christian College and Iarkaway Hills College.

Of the 15 Victorian schools, 13 were independent and two Catholic, while all were schools offering education from prep into the secondary years.



Student fees ranged from just over \$5000 to \$36,000 per year.

Schools were recognised for strong year 7 and 9 NAPLAN results, high student attendance, favourable student-teacher ratios, socio-economic status, prestige and facilities.

In the top 100 list, Presbyterian Ladies' College in Burwood was crowned Victoria's best private school, snatching top spot from co-educational school Haileybury College and placing third in the nation.

Of Victoria's 33 schools in the national top 100, two were in the top 10 and six in the top 20.

REGIONAL STARS

Victorian rural hard-hitters on the Top100 list include Ballarat Clarendon College, ranked 23rd and posting among the top NAPLAN scores nationally.

Regional standouts in other states include Matthew Flinders Anglican College, 90km north of Brisbane, which placed 69th, just ahead of Ipswich Grammar School at 72nd.

Rounding out the rural high-performers are Whitsunday Anglican School, Toorak College on the Mornington Peninsula and the Gold Coast's All Saints Anglican School, ranked 93rd to 95th, along with Newcastle Grammar (132nd), The Illawarra Grammar (138th) and Ipswich Girls' Grammar (149th).

It comes as national data highlighted by the Isolated Children's Parents' Association shows the impact of geography on your school choice.

ICPA Australia president Louise Martin said families travelled "extraordinary distances, educating children through distance education, sending them away to boarding school or relocating because the education their child needs is not available where they live".



Kilvington Grammar School principal Rob Frenchin with students Rowen and Ellie, year 10, and Holly and Lennard, year 8. Picture: Jason Edwards

Path to success, one student at a time

Mary Papadakis

Kilvington Grammar, a school of 758 students in Melbourne's leafy inner southwest, is among the standout performers in the next-50 list, coming in at number 106.

The Christian school,

founded in 1923, boasts a strong academic tradition — as recognised by the News Corp honour — but principal Rob French said there was more to be celebrated.

"Academic achievement is important to us and we are proud of the consistently strong outcomes our

students achieve. However, education is about much more than results," he said.

"A school's success is ultimately measured one student at a time. It is about knowing each young person, helping them discover their strengths and giving them the opportunities and

confidence to realise their potential."

Mr French said he was proud of the commitment of his students, the expertise of staff, and the strong partnership with families.

"We are deliberately a school where individual students are known," he said.

"We want our students to leave Kilvington as capable and compassionate young people who are ready to contribute to the world around them," he said.

The annual fee per year 12 student this year at the school is \$38,288, up from \$19,812 per prep child.