



# Children's Academy Group of Schools

Bachani Nagar  
Malad (E)

Ashok Nagar  
Kandivli (E)

Thakur Complex  
Kandivli (E)

9/20/2016

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## htop schools

HINDUSTAN TIMES-C FORE SURVEY 2016  
PART 2 OF 10

# Best schools in the city's north

CLASS APART Top 10 schools from the north zone – areas north of Goregaon in the western suburbs, Ghatkopar in the eastern suburbs, and Thane



HELLO READERS, TODAY WE HAVE ranked the top 10 schools in the north zone. Some of these figure on the list of top 10 schools in Mumbai published on Monday.

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 fewer options in curriculum 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 will help you arrive at that important decision.

The methodology used to select the city's top schools involves a formula that has proved its efficacy since 2006, 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.

Over the next few days, we will also list the best schools in the east, west and south zones, and Navi Mumbai. 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: EAST

### BEST SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH IN 2015

1. Smt Sulochanadevi Singhania School
2. Singapore International School
3. Hiranandani Foundation School, Thane
4. Children's Academy, Malad
5. Birla School, Kalyan
6. Gundecha Education Academy
7. NL Dalvia High School
8. DG Khetan International School
9. NES International School
10. Sacred Heart School

### METHODOLOGY

Hindustan Times commissioned research organisation C Fore to conduct the survey to rank top schools in Mumbai. The assessment parameters and corresponding weightages 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-skills 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, 5,689 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 verified 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 four zones of

## COMING OUT ON TOP

The 2016 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 schools that topped our rankings:

**1 SMT SULOCHANADEVI SINGHANIA SCHOOL**  
JK Gram, Thane (West) Website: www.singhaniashool.org



**HISTORY:** Gopalkrishna Singhania established the school in 1968 in memory of his wife Sulochanadevi. The school started functioning in 1969. It has a 12.8-acre campus.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** Classroom teaching is supported by modern methods such as flipped learning—where lectures are delivered through videos, while classes are for hands-on learning. Specialised benches for KG to Class 5 have attached bags.

**» We wish to inspire our students into becoming true citizens and future leaders.**  
REKHA SRINIVASAN, principal

**Highest ratings:** Selection process, sports, academic rigour, teachers, value for money

**Board:** Class 10: ICSE, Class 12: ISC Annual fee: Rs40,000 (approx) Students: 650 Student-teacher ratio: 40:1

**2 SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**  
Western Express Highway, Dahisar (East) Website: www.sisindia.net



**HISTORY:** The school was established in 2005 with a vision to become a global institution. It is among the few boarding schools around Mumbai.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** It has day boarding, weekly boarding and term boarding facilities on its 10-acre campus. The primary section weaves in the curriculum of the ministry of education of Singapore.

**» Students are challenged to put their learning into action in areas such as film studies and drama.**  
SHARONE MILLUICK, head of the school

**Highest ratings:** Infrastructure facilities, teachers, student-teacher ratio and academic rigour

**Board:** Class 10: ICSE, Class 12: IB Annual fee: Up to Rs3.5 lakh (Class 1 to 6), up to Rs5.5 lakh (Class 7 to 10), up to Rs5.5 lakh for IB Students: 230 (IB), 500 (IG to IGCSE) Student-teacher ratio: 10:1

**3 HIRANANDANI FOUNDATION SCHOOL, THANE**  
Hiranandani Estate, Thane Website: www.hiranandanihfschool.edu.in/thane



**HISTORY:** Property developer Hiranandani set up various schools for residents of their township. The school was established in 1999.


**UNIQUE FEATURES:** The school has excellent infrastructure, including facilities for squash, basketball, football and a swimming pool. It offers coaching in skating, table tennis, chess and athletics. It is fully equipped with smart boards.

**» The school strives to ensure each child is groomed into a happy and confident individual.**  
NEELU LAMBA, principal

**Highest ratings:** Academic rigour, value for money, selection process, infrastructure facilities

**Board:** Class 10: ICSE, Class 12: ISC Annual fee: Rs63,000 Student strength: 3,600 Student-teacher ratio: 35:1

**4 CHILDREN'S ACADEMY, MALAD**  
El Maraka Marg, Malad Website: www.children-academy.org



**HISTORY:** Vasudev Bhat, a former municipal education inspector established the school in Malad in 1980. The school got its building in 1985 and has since then added two branches.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** It has TV, computers and projectors in every class. It has nature, literature and general knowledge clubs. The school's hockey team has excelled at various competitions.

**» The curriculum is designed to offer opportunities for students to go beyond the academic experience.**  
SUDHAK SHANBHAG, principal

**Highest ratings:** Value for money, academic rigour, teachers, selection process

**Board:** Class 10: ICSE, SSC Annual fee: ICSE: Rs35,800, SSC: Rs27,670 Students: 4,000 Student-teacher ratio: 28:1

**5 GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY**  
Inakar Village, Kandivli (East) Website: www.gundechaedu.org



**HISTORY:** The school was established by Parag and Mamta Gundecha in 2004. It aims to provide quality education at affordable prices.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** The school offers a blend of humanities, commerce and science streams in ISC with biotechnology, sociology, environmental science, physical education and art. It has QCI NABET accreditation.

**» We make every child feel special by ensuring 100% participation in academics, sports and performing arts.**  
SONU ARORA, principal


**Highest ratings:** Value for money, academic rigour, cultural activities and diversity

**Board:** Class 10: ICSE & ICSE, Class 12: ISC Annual fee: Rs43,000 (approx) Students: 2,695 Student-teacher ratio: 18:1

**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
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
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

**5 NL DALMIA HIGH SCHOOL**  
Grishh Complex, Mira Road (East) Website: www.nldalmia.co.in



**HISTORY:** The school was established in 1991 by philanthropist Niranga Lalji Dalmia in the satellite town of Mira Road to provide quality education and world class infrastructure at affordable cost.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** The school follows an interdisciplinary approach to education known as thematic study. The school gives accident and medical insurance to all students and staff.

**» Our endeavour is to provide education with the same passion and commitment with which the genesis of the school was laid.**  
SEEMA SAINI, principal

**Highest ratings:** Value for money, governance, academic rigour

**Board:** Class 10: ICSE, Class 12: ISC Annual fee: Rs42,000 Students: 2,900 Student-teacher ratio: 21:1

**7 BIRLA SCHOOL, KALYAN**  
Birla College Road, Kalyan Website: www.birlaschoolkalyan.com



**HISTORY:** The co-educational school is managed by Kalyan Citizen's Education Society. It was founded in 1998 by Basant Kumar Birla, chairman of Birla Group of Companies, and his wife Dr Sarita Birla.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** The six-acre campus is equipped with basketball, football grounds and skating rinks. Its teachers use diverse teaching methods to suit the individual learning style of students.

**» The school believes in shaping young minds to be creative, innovative, compassionate and great thinkers.**  
RANJNA JANGRA, principal

**Highest ratings:** Value for money, teachers and selection process

**Board:** Class 10: CBSE Annual fee: Rs50,000 Students: 2,502 Student-teacher ratio: 22:1

**8 DG KHETAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, MALAD**  
Off SV Road and Link Road, Malad (West) Website: www.dgkhetan.org



**HISTORY:** The school started its journey in 2006 with 250 students. It started with classes from nursery to Class 6, but now offers the Cambridge A Level junior college (10+2) and also junior college of science.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** The school follows the traditional gurukul system of education supported by international infrastructure. Remedial assistance is an integral part of the curriculum.

**» We are dedicated to train young minds to explore, experience, research, achieve and apply the learnt knowledge.**  
ARUNDHANIMAM, principal

**Highest ratings:** Infrastructure facilities, innovative teaching, parent participation

**Board:** Class 10: ICSE, Class 12: ISC Annual fee: Rs77,000 (nursery) to Rs11,500 (Class 10) Students: 2,365 Student-teacher ratio: 12:1

**9 BILLABONG HIGH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, THANE**  
Website: www.billabonghanschool.com



**HISTORY:** Started in 2006 with around 500 students, it was the first international school in Thane. It has grown systematically and offers a wide array of activities along with academics.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** Teachers pay individual attention as there are only 30 students in each class. There are at least 10 co-curricular activities, with specialist coaches to train students.

**» As a school, we believe in building bonds that last a lifetime. The school then is a happy place.**  
RAJINI KRISHNABAWY, director/principal

**Highest ratings:** Innovative teaching, life-skills education and value for money

**Board:** Class 1 to 12: ICSE and ISC, Class 1 to 12: ICSE and AS and A Levels Annual fee: ICSE: Rs15,000, ICSE: Rs10,000 Student strength: 2,365 Student-teacher ratio: 9:1

**10 SACRED HEART SCHOOL, KALYAN**  
Harbord Road, Kalyan, Thane Website: www.sacredheartsschool.in



**HISTORY:** The school was established by CC Anthony in 2001. It is a pioneering co-school. Its 18-acre campus has evolved into an urban sanctuary for migratory birds from Siberia and other places. The school aims to mould students into environment conscious adults.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** The school is incubating industrial robots to give older students hands-on experience in design and manufacturing.

**» It is a centre of academic research and has emerged as a centre of excellence in music and sports.**  
ALBIN ANTHONY, chief operating officer

**Highest ratings:** Academic rigour, value for money and sports

**Board:** Class 10: SSC Annual fee: Rs31,950 Students: 2,386 Student-teacher ratio: 20:1

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Parents, students, educators, readers, please write in with your thoughts and views to [httop@hindustantimes.com](mailto:httop@hindustantimes.com). We value criticism as much as we welcome