



# top schools

SOUTH-WEST DELHI

HINDUSTAN TIMES-C FORE SURVEY 2012

SIXTH OF  
THIRTEEN PARTS

## Elite schools, grounded students



VIPIN KUMAR / HT PHOTO

### TOP TEN SCHOOLS OF SOUTH-WEST DELHI

The 2012 Hindustan Times-C fore Top Schools Survey gave scores to each school across 14 different parameters, from value for money to sports. Here's a list of schools ranked in the Top Ten in south-west Delhi

**SELF IMPROVEMENT** South-west Delhi has some of the city's best schools, which focus less on competition and more on excellence

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One must fight the natural urge to declare a ranking of schools in south-west Delhi as a 'clash of the titans'. These schools are the gold standard, they set the benchmarks. For years, Delhi Public School, RK Puram and Modern School, Vasant Vihar, were the 'it' schools (for very different reasons, of course). In the last decade, Vasant Valley and The Shri Ram School, Vasant Vihar, have become the talk of town.

According to the 2012 HT-C fore Top Schools survey, The Shri Ram School (TSRS) has lost its coveted number 1 rank to Vasant Valley school. TSRS has been a consistent Top Ten in previous surveys, and two years ago, it had finished top of the podium, albeit, by a nose (the 2011 survey did not carry number ranks, only a list of top ten schools). With the highest scores on the 'innovative teaching', 'individual attention to students' and many other parameters, Vasant Valley has, for the first time, topped the overall charts.

TSRS has jointly topped the 'extra-curricular activities' parameter with Springdales, Dhaula Kuan. There are a few hat-tricks as well. DPS, RK Puram, which has built a reputation around its excellent academic performance, has scored one, by topping the 'academic rigour' parameter once again. TSRS has scored another, by topping the 'competence of teachers' category again this year (jointly with Vasant Valley).

The competition between schools is a figment of our imagination, schools insist. "We aren't looking over our shoulder," said Arun Kapur, director, Vasant Valley. Schools may not be competing with each other, but are competing "with ourselves, with what we are providing to the students," said Madhulika Sen, principal, Tagore International, Vasant Vihar. "We believe in simple, steady and continuous growth," she said.

Schools in this part of Delhi have long sent students to the best universities in India and abroad. What makes them so special? "Our teachers are passionate about children. We invest a lot in training," answered Manika

Sharma, principal, TSRS.

Vasant Valley, apart from a continuously evolving and improving the curriculum, radically changes its approach every 5 years. "We have a full staff meeting where we redesign every aspect of the school, so that if we use a certain methodology, everyone knows why it's there. We have a curriculum for both students and teachers," said Kapur.

Schools, given their limited options for expanding big physical infrastructure, are upgrading other things, both tangible and intangible. The biggest is the curriculum, the methodology used to teach, and the tools needed to impart this curriculum. "The future of education in Delhi is in embracing technology," said Sen.

**BRAND EQUITY**

Based in affluent colonies such as Vasant Vihar and Anand Niketan, some schools here are accused of being elitist. How do they respond? "Yes, the longevity of the school has created a certain brand equity. But our school is not there yet, most of our students come from Vasant Kunj, not Vasant Vihar or Anand Niketan. We have a lot of defence officers' children," said Sen. Kapur agrees, but elaborates further: "If elitism is defined as being the best in something, then we are guilty as charged. In our 22-year-old school, we have always had 1,200 students. We are not looking to expand this number — we are not a corporate looking for 10% annual growth. The only thing we want to expand is our students' minds," he said. Students in these schools couldn't have it any better. "Our teachers are not so strict, we are allowed to have fun," said Kabir Oberai, a Class 5 student at TSRS.

**TOMORROW**

To find out which schools in South-East Delhi make it to the Top Ten, look out for Part VII of the survey in tomorrow's HT.

#### 1 VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL, VASANT KUNJ



There is a planned space for every activity in the school. The academic, non-academic and assembly areas and the sports fields are integrated harmoniously in and around the building. It has topped the 'teacher care and development', 'innovative teaching' and 'individual attention to students' categories, among others.

WEBSITE: www.vasantvalley.com  
PHONE: 011-26896547, 41767940  
NURSERY FEE: ₹1,28,490 per annum

#### 2 THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL, VASANT VIHAR



This school has a special needs educational programme. There are basketball, soccer, cricket, badminton and tennis facilities. With their senior wing in Mousari, Gurgaon, the school has topped the 'extra-curricular activities', 'competence of teachers' and 'life skills education' categories.

WEBSITE: www.tsrs.org  
PHONE: 011-26140884/26149572  
NURSERY FEE: ₹1,34,300 per annum

#### 3 DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, RK PURAM



The school has a grand open-air theatre used for outdoor quizzes and club meetings. It also has designated grounds for cricket, football and golf and a host of other sports and has topped the 'academic rigour', 'sports' and 'infrastructure and facilities' parameters this year.

WEBSITE: www.dpsrkp.net  
PHONE: 011-49115555  
NURSERY FEE: ₹81,375 per annum

#### 4 SPRINGDALES SCHOOL, DHAULA KUAN



At Springdales, the Inclusive Education Programme, functional for the past four years, helps those children who are unable to cope with heightened academic pressure, by providing them a platform to nurture their talents. The school has topped the 'value for money' and 'extra-curricular activities' parameters.

WEBSITE: www.springdales.com  
PHONE: 011-24116657, 24118023  
NURSERY FEE: ₹46,480 per annum

#### 5 DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, VASANT KUNJ



The school has three well-stocked libraries; four computer laboratories, each equipped with advanced technologies. Its computer club, the Code Warriors, was started in the year 1997 and has a remarkable following. The school has the second highest 'sports' and 'value for money' scores this year, and does well on 'academic rigour'.

WEBSITE: www.dpsvasantkunj.com  
PHONE: 011-43261200, 43261215  
NURSERY FEE: ₹80,625 per annum

#### 6 TAGORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, VASANT VIHAR



Computer-aided learning is offered to classes I to XII. This school has inclusive learning. A number of students from the National Blind Association are regular students of this school. This year, the school has done well on the 'value for money', 'innovative teaching' and 'parental participation' parameters.

WEBSITE: www.tagoreint.com  
PHONE: 011-26142270, 26149008  
NURSERY FEE: ₹56,480 per annum

#### 6 MOUNT ST MARY'S SCHOOL, PARADE ROAD



Tied for sixth place, the schools has a science park, a swimming pool, volleyball, football, cricket grounds and a basketball court. It provides a spectrum of learning activities that focus on integrated development. It has the second highest 'life skills education' score and does well in 'sports' and 'infrastructure and facilities'.

WEBSITE: www.msmschool.net  
PHONE: 011-25692002, 25699308  
NURSERY FEE: ₹45,540 per annum

#### 8 MODERN SCHOOL, VASANT VIHAR\*



Multimedia and computer aided lessons are used by teachers for all subjects. The integration of animation along with classroom teaching makes classes interesting for students. The e-tests allow both teachers and students to assess themselves. The school has the third highest 'sports' and 'safety and hygiene' scores.

WEBSITE: www.modernschoolv.com  
PHONE: 011-26144388, 26142781  
NURSERY FEE: NOT AVAILABLE

#### 9 ST MARY'S SCHOOL, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE



St Mary's has a strong sense of social commitment. The visually, physically and financially handicapped all study together with other children in the same classroom under an inclusive education policy. It has the second highest 'social accountability' score, and does well in 'life skills education' and 'value for money' categories.

WEBSITE: www.stmarysdelhi.com  
PHONE: 011-26103926, 26171440  
NURSERY FEE: ₹46,300 per annum

#### 10 BLOOM PUBLIC SCHOOL, VASANT KUNJ



This new entrant has the third highest 'individual attention to students' score and does well on 'academic rigour' and 'life skills education'. Teachers use digitised content, interactive softwares and PPTs for teaching and learning. The school's mental health programme focuses on issues such as peer relationships etc.

WEBSITE: www.bloompublicschool.com  
PHONE: 011-26893422, 26897972  
NURSERY FEE: ₹76,095 per annum

e-book  
hindustantimes.com

As a guide to young parents, we have created an e-book for each zone's Top Schools. Log on to our website to download this, and more.

www.hindustantimes.com/topschools2012

Nothing can substitute a nice playfield and good teachers. It's the students who bring laurels to their school, not fancy facilities.

MANIKA SHARMA, principal, TSRS

We are not a corporate looking for 10% growth. The only thing we want to expand is our students' minds.

ARUN KAPUR, director, Vasant Valley

### THEY TOO MAKE THE GRADE...

They may not have made it to the Top Ten, but they hold as much promise as their crowned counterparts. Here is a list of other good options:

#### GD GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL VASANT KUNJ

The school has been a potent agent of change through exchange programmes. It has Hi-Fi Gym equipment, a fully computerised library with a collection of around 29,000 books and 300 electronic resources. Facilities exist for outdoor games like cricket, volleyball, basketball, soccer; the schools has a swimming pool.

#### MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL ANAND NIKETAN

Students of Mount Carmel are actively involved in adult literacy programmes. Students from Class XI visit Kanak Durga slum dwellers colony thrice a week. They working on the principle of 'each one teach one'. Every Friday, they have inter-house activities which develop a spirit of sportsmanship in the students.

#### THE AIR FORCE SCHOOL SUBROTO PARK

A variety of facilities is being provided by the school along with special education like speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychological testing and counselling. The school's quiz club is very active. Students are prepared for inter-school competitions.

#### RYAN INTERNATIONAL VASANT KUNJ

The school band echoes the cultural ethos of the Ryan fraternity. Students of the school band are trained to play bagpipes, flutes and drums. The school has sports facilities for basketball, volleyball, lawn tennis, cricket, football, roller skating and athletics.

#### SADHU VASVANI INTL SCH FOR GIRLS RK PURAM

Alongwith media activities such as film-making and animation, students participate in media camps and international media literacy programmes. Aerobics, chess, commercial art are other activities students take an interest in. The school has a sports complex, a technology park, interactive class rooms, a paper recycling plant and a greenhouse.

#### HERITAGE SCHOOL VASANT KUNJ

Heritage School stresses on holistic education. "Jeevan Vigyan" is part of the regular school curriculum and is practised in classrooms. The school has a global meditation and yoga research and training center where retreats for children, parents and teachers are organised.

### METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted in three phases. In the first phase, schools in Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad and Ghaziabad were invited to provide information on academic and non-academic facilities, performance of students, profile of teachers etc. Sifting through this, research agency C fore shortlisted schools for the second round, in which a perceptual survey was carried out with a sample of about 500 parents and teachers in each city. They were asked to assess schools that

they were aware of on a scale of 10 against various parameters. The parameters of the survey this year were finalised after taking feedback from educationists, teachers and parents. Results of the perceptual survey were combined with objective data from the first round to rank schools. In the third round, C fore researchers visited the schools to conduct an audit and finalise rankings. Perceptual data scores were extrapolated for schools whose objective data was not available.

Nursery fee figures, provided to HT by the schools, are approximate. They include annual fee and development charges (transport fee is variable). For the total fee amount, please contact the schools.  
\* These schools did not participate in the survey. Their scores are based on the perceptual survey conducted among parents and teachers as mentioned in the methodology.  
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