

Applying for English-language education for the 1st Grade

School year 2025–2026



About arranging basic education

- Espoo, like other municipalities, has an obligation to arrange basic education for children of compulsory school age residing in its area. Pupils have a **subjective right to attend a local school** (primary school) assigned by the municipality. Basic education is given in Finnish.
- Pupils who cannot yet speak Finnish or whose Finnish language skills are not equivalent to those of a native speaker have the **opportunity to be supported in increasing their Finnish language skills and to participate in preparatory education.**
- Pupils can apply for English-language education. Pupils, however, **do not have a subjective right to be admitted to English-language education**, as opposed to applying to a local school.

English-language education in Espoo

- Intended for pupils **who live in Espoo**.
- One form of **weighted-curriculum education** in Espoo.
- **Nearly all the teaching is in English.** The aim is to give the pupils the kind of linguistic skills that enable them to continue their studies in both English and Finnish even after basic education.
- **Follows the national Finnish curriculum in all subjects.**
 - The A1 language is English and the A2 language either French or Spanish.
 - Finnish is studied either as mother's tongue or according to the Finnish as a Second Language curriculum.





English-language education in Espoo

Schools

- **Grades 1-9:** Espoo International School
- **Grades 1-6:** Kivimies International School
> Pupils transfer in 7th Grade to Espoo International School.

Study places

- Espoo International School, 50
- Kivimies International School, 25

Admission criteria

- In accordance with the admission criteria for English-language education decided by the Growth and Learning Committee.

English-language education in Espoo

Allocation of lesson hours (grades 1–6)

Espoo 1 extra hour allocated to Finnish in grades 1 and 2, in grade 3 to science.

Arts and crafts hours in grades 3 to 6:

- 3rd Grade 1 hrs crafts
- 4th Grade 1 hrs music
 - 5th and 6th Grades 2 hrs crafts

	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade
ENG	5 hrs	5 hrs	4 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs
FIN(2)	4 hrs	4 hrs	4 hrs	4 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs

The differences between English and Bilingual education (Finnish-English)

English-language Education	Bilingual Education (Finnish-English)
Finnish National Core Curriculum for Basic Education	
Allocation of lesson hours, slight differences FIN vs. ENG	
Max 25 pupils per class	
English as medium of instruction for all subjects	More subjects taught in Finnish in higher grades
One form of weighted-curriculum education in Espoo	One form of weighted-curriculum education in Espoo
International School: Espoo International School (Grades 1-9) Stream within a Finnish primary School: Kivimies International School (Grades 1-6)	Stream within a Finnish primary School: - Jalavapuisto (Grades 1-6) - Kilonpuisto (Grades 1-9) - Kuitinmäki (Grades 1-9) - Niittykumpu (Grades 1-6) - Haukilahti (Grades 7-9) - Nöykkiö (Grades 7-9)
A1 language: EN A2 languages: FR, ES	A1 language: EN A2 languages: GER (Niittykumpu GER + SWE, Kuitinmäki GER + FR)

How to apply

Enrolling in the 1st grade and applying for English-language education



- Enrolling in the 1st grade and applying for English-language education takes place through the electronic Wilma service **between 8th and 20th January, 2025** by filling in the form 'Application for 1st Grade of Comprehensive School'.
- Online registration **requires a personal Wilma user account**. In order for you to create a personal Wilma account, you must have a valid email address.
- Create** your own personal Wilma account at <https://espoo.inschool.fi/connect> **by using the key code** delivered with the letter 'Notification of beginning of compulsory education'.

ESPOON KAUPUNKI
Suomenkielisen perusopetuksen tulosyksikkö
PL 31
02070 ESPOON KAUPUNKI

Ilmoitus oppivelvollisuuden alkamisesta
Notification of beginning of compulsory education

Lapsellasi alkaa oppivelvollisuus torstaina 7.8.2025.

Sinun tulee ilmoittaa lapsesi peruskoulun ensimmäiselle luokalle 8.1.–20.1.2025 verkkopalvelu Wilmassa <https://espoo.inschool.fi> täyttämällä Peruskoulun ensimmäiselle luokalle ilmoittautuminen -lomake. Ilmoittautumislomakkeen täyttämiseksi tarvitset henkilökohtaisen Wilma-tunnuksen.

Wilma-tunnus luodaan osoitteessa <https://espoo.inschool.fi/connect> käyttämällä tämän kirjeen lopussa ilmoitettua avainkoodia. Tunnuksen luominen edellyttää toimivaa sähköpostiosoitetta. Jos sinulla on voimassa oleva Wilma-tunnus koulutulokkaan esiopetusajalta, sinun ei tarvitse luoda tunnusta vaan voit käyttää voimassa olevaa tunnusta ilmoittaaksesi lapsesi ensimmäiselle luokalle. Vanhemman sisaruksen Wilma-tunnusta ei voi sellaisenaan käyttää, mutta avainkoodin avulla voit liittää koulutulokkaan aiempaan tunnukseseen.

Säilytä henkilökohtainen Wilma-tunnuksesi. Tunnus on käytössä koko perusopetuksen ajan.

Jos sinulla ei ole mahdollisuutta täyttää lomaketta Wilmassa, voit tulostaa Peruskoulun ensimmäiselle luokalle ilmoittautuminen -lomakkeen osoitteesta www.espoo.fi/opetuksenlomakkeet. Täytetty lomake on postitettava siten, että se on perillä suomenkielisen perusopetuksen tulosyksikössä viimeistään 20.1.2025. Tutustu Koulun hakeminen -sivustoon espoo.fi/koulunhakeminen ennen ensimmäiselle luokalle ilmoittautumista.

Jos tästä kirjeestä tai Espoon kaupungin internetsivuilta ei löydy vastausta ilmoittautumiseen liittyvään kysymykseesi, voit olla yhteydessä neuvontaan p. 09 816 21 tai info@espoo.fi.

Tietolähde: Digi- ja väestötietovirasto

Your child is due to begin his/her compulsory education on Thursday, August 7, 2025.

Enrolling in comprehensive school is carried out online through the electronic Wilma tool, <https://espoo.inschool.fi>. We ask you to fill in the form "Application for 1st grade of Comprehensive School" under the "Forms" section between January 8th and 20th, 2025. Online registration requires a personal Wilma user account.

We ask you to create your own personal Wilma account at <https://espoo.inschool.fi/connect> by using the key code delivered with this announcement below. In order for you to create a personal Wilma account, you must have a valid email address. In case you already have a personal Wilma account for the child from his/her preschool, the same account is used for the online registration. You may not use the Wilma account created for an older sibling but are permitted to add the younger sibling using the key code below.

Please retain your personal Wilma account. The personal Wilma account will be used throughout basic education.

We ask you to familiarize yourself with the Espoo City website espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions for additional information on enrolling in the local school or applying for other form of teaching.

If you have any questions related to logging in and enrolling in school, please contact tel. +358 9 816 21 or info@espoo.fi.

Source of contact information: The Digital and Population Data Services Agency

Avainkoodi / Key code:

Before applying for English-language education

Familiarize yourself with the instructions and the admission criteria. Visit at espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions > Weighted-curriculum education > English-language education.



[Front page](#) / [Childcare and education](#) / [Basic education](#) / [School admissions](#) / [Weighted-curriculum education](#) / [English-language education](#)

English-language education

Beginning from the first grade, the pupil has an opportunity to apply for English-language education. English-language education is arranged in Espoo International School and Kivimies International School. On this page, you can find instructions for applying.

English-language education is meant for pupils living in Espoo and Kauniainen. Pupils who have moved abroad and are temporarily living in Espoo, can apply for a temporary study places.

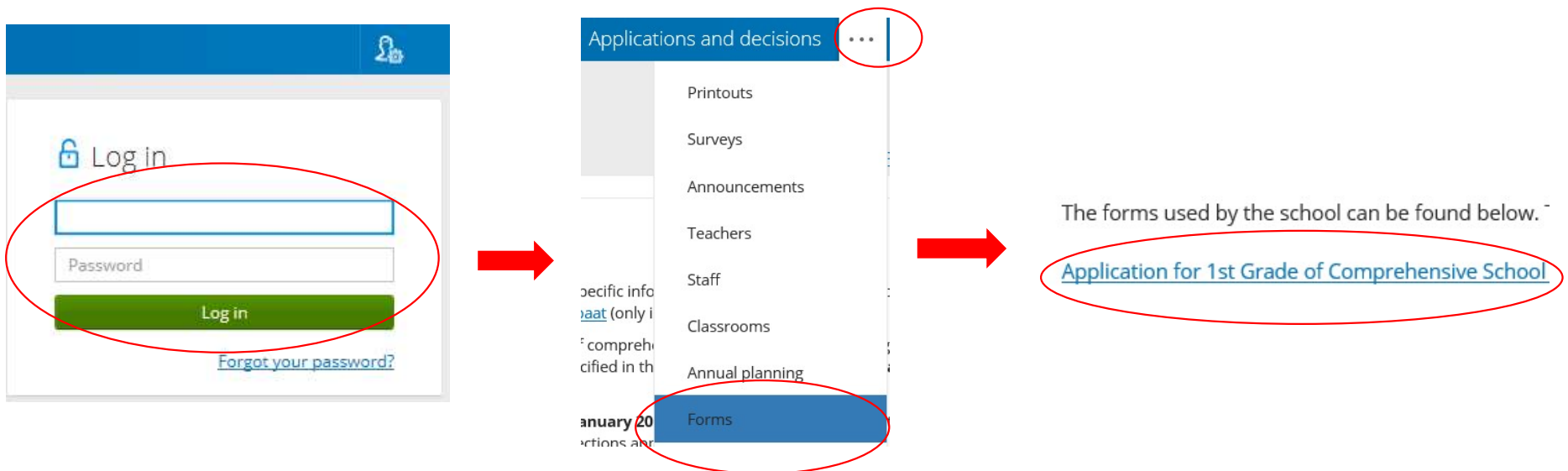
Pupils admitted to English-language education are not eligible for school transport benefit (such as school transport or travel card). The applicant's younger sister or brother does not have a sibling basis to be admitted in the same school.

Before you fill in the application form, familiarize yourself with the instructions and the admission criteria down below.

Applying for grades 1-9 during school year 2024-2025	▼
Applying for 1st grade (school year 2025-2026)	▼
Applying for 7th grade (school year 2025-2026)	▼
Applying for grades 2-6 and 8-9 (school year 2025-2026)	▼
Applying for a temporary study place	▼
Schools providing English-language education	▼
Admission criteria for English-language education	▼
Frequently asked questions (FAQ)	▼

Filling in the form in Wilma

Log in to your personal Wilma account at <https://espoo.inschool.fi/>.



Filling in the form in Wilma

3. NEW PUPIL'S ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Please choose one of the enrolment types (a, b or c)

a) Enrolling for basic education organised by the City of Espoo

☐ The new pupil is enrolling for basic education organised by the City of Espoo.

Please choose one or more of the following options.

☐ The new pupil is applying to a local school. Please fill out section 4 of the form (Applying to a local school).

☐ The new pupil is enrolling for inclusive preparatory education. Please fill out section 4 of the form (Applying to a local school).

☐ The new pupil is applying for bilingual education, language immersion education, English-language education or Montessori education.

5.1 Application preferences

1st preference:

2nd preference:

3rd preference:

4th preference:

5.3 English-language education

Guardians should choose whether the new pupil takes the test of linguistic capabilities in English or in Finnish. Please check the box below accordingly.

Note! If the child also applies for Bilingual education (Finnish-English) or Swedish-language immersion education, the test must be taken in Finnish.

☐ The child takes the test of linguistic capabilities in English.

☐ The child takes the test of linguistic capabilities in Finnish.

- 1) **Inform** in section 3 of the form that your child is enrolling for basic education organised by the City of Espoo.
- 2) **Specify** in section 3 of the form the enrolment type **and inform** that your child is applying for Bilingual education, Swedish-language immersion education, English-language education or Montessori education.
- 3) **Select** in section 5.1. of the form Espoo International School and Kivimies International School in order of preference.
- 4) **Choose** in section 5.3. of the form the language your child is taking the test of linguistic capabilities.

Unable to use Wilma?

- 1) **Fill in a paper form** 'Application for 1st grade of comprehensive school'. The form can be found at espoo.fi/en/education-forms.
- 2) **Submit the form by 20 January, 2025 at the latest** to the following address:
The Finnish Basic Education Unit
Administrative services / Oppilaaksiotto 1. luokka
P.O. Box 31
FI-02070 City of Espoo.
or
by email to: oppilasrekisteri@espoo.fi.

Applications submitted after the application period are rejected and the applicants will not be given a right to participate in the entrance examination.



CITY OF ESPOO
Growth and Learning Sector
Finnish Basic Education Unit

APPLICATION FOR 1st GRADE OF
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
School year 2025-2026

Enrolling in the 1st grade of comprehensive school takes place between 8th and 20th January, 2025. Familiarize yourself with the instructions and principles of pupil admission at espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions before filling in this form.

Submit this form by 20 January, 2025 at the latest to the following address: the Finnish Basic Education Unit, Administrative services / Oppilaaksiotto 1. luokka, P.O. Box 31, FI-02070 CITY OF ESPOO, or by email to oppilasrekisteri@espoo.fi. Ensure that separate attachments or statements are submitted by the deadline (dates specified later in this form and at espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions). Applications, attachments or statements delivered after the deadline will not be considered!

In addition to this form, fill in the form Information about the new pupil (espoo.fi/en/education-forms) by 20 January, 2025 at the latest. The information provided on the form in question will not affect your child's local school assignment or pupil admission.

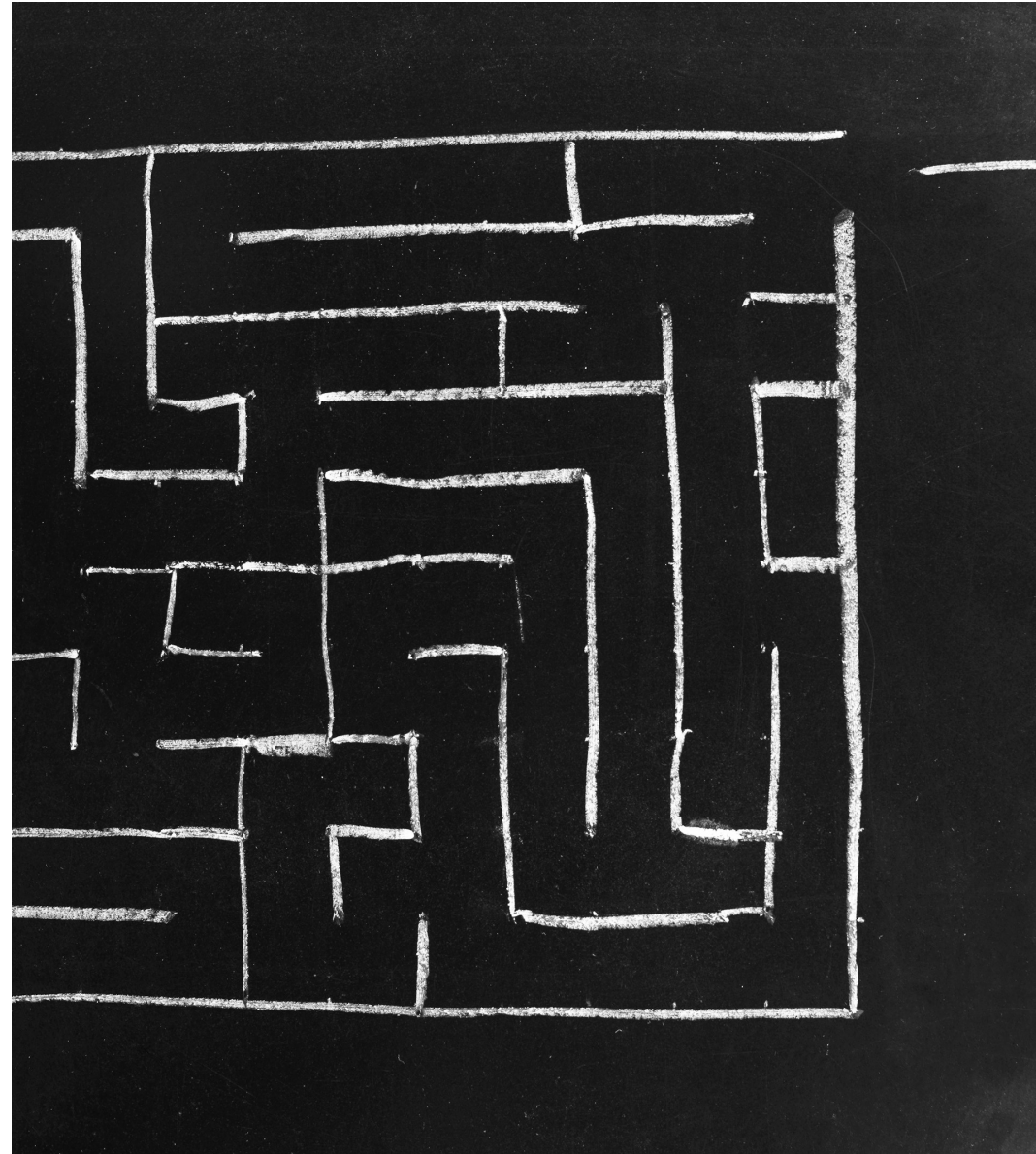
1 CHILD'S BASIC INFORMATION	Last name	First names	Personal identity code
	Home address		Postcode and city/town
	Current pre-primary education unit (name of school/day-care centre)*		
	*) The pre-primary education unit will not affect the school assigned to the child. The information is needed for transferring necessary information from the pre-primary education unit to the child's future school.		
2 GUARDIAN'S INFORMATION	Name (last name, first names)		
	Home address (if not shared with the child)		Postcode and city/town
	E-mail address		Telephone (daytime)
	Name (last name, first names)		

The entrance examination

- The entrance examination **consists of two sections:**
 - 1) English language section
 - 2) Linguistic competence section
- **29-30 January, 2025** at the school which is marked as the first choice for English-language education:
 - **29 January, 2025:** English language section
 - **30 January, 2025:** Linguistic competence section
- The school will send a **personal invitation** to the examination by email. Remember to give a valid email address on the application.
- The examination arrangements and the assessment are the same for all applicants!

Preparing for the entrance examination

- The entrance examination consists of **preschool-type assignments appropriate for the age group**. Your child is not required to be able to read and write, but must be able to listen to and follow instructions.
- **Find** out beforehand where the Espoo International School is located and how to get there. **Ensure** that your child will arrive at the school in good time before the examination starts.
- If you wish, the child can bring along a bottle of beverage and a small snack.
- **If your child is ill** on the date(s) of the entrance examination, **present a statement** on the illness to the principal **before** the examination starts or as soon as you receive it.



Starting school one year earlier



Requires applying for exceptional start of Basic Education AND a granted permission (i.e. written decision) for early school start made by the Superintendent of Schools.

- 1) **Book** an investigation appointment for your child. Investigations are carried out privately (e.g. Mehiläinen, Pro Neuron, Pikkujätti or Terveystalo). As a parent, you are responsible for any costs the investigations may cause.
- 2) **Contact** the Finnish Education Unit to receive a key code to create Your own personal Wilma account (tel. +358 40 507 0817 or oppilasrekisteri@espoo.fi).
- 3) **Create** your own personal Wilma account at <https://espoo.inschool.fi/connect>
- 4) **Fill in** the form 'Application for 1st Grade of Comprehensive School' between 8th and 20th January, 2025 (through the electronic Wilma service) or submit a paper form **by 20 January, 2025 at the latest**.
- 5) **Fill in** the form 'Application for exceptional start of basic education' at espoo.fi/en/education-forms and **submit** it with the psychological report (and medical report if needed) **by 7 February, 2025 at the latest** to the address informed in the application form.



CITY OF ESPOO
Growth and Learning Sector
Finnish Basic Education Unit

APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL
START OF BASIC EDUCATION
Basic Education Act 27 §

Compulsory education begins during the year when the child turns seven. The child is entitled to start basic education a year before the statutory age if psychological and, when necessary, medical examinations show that he/she has the prerequisites to cope with the studies. On the basis of the aforementioned examinations, the education provider may also give the child permission to start basic education a year after the statutory age.

Submit this application and appendices by 7 February 2025 at the latest to the following address: The Finnish Basic Education Unit, Administrative Services, Pupil Administration Expert Jemina Sirviö, P.O. Box 31, FI-02070 CITY OF ESPOO.

In addition to this form, fill in a form 'Application for 1st grade of Comprehensive School' through the Wilma electronic service between 8th and 20th January 2025. If you are unable to use the Wilma, you fill in the paper form (espoo.fi/en/education-forms) and submit it by 20 January 2025 at the latest. The return address is on the form.

Visit espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions for additional information.

1 CHILD'S INFORMATION	Child's name (last name, first names)	Personal identity code
	Home address	Postcode and city/town
2 GUARDIANS' INFORMATION	Guardian	Telephone number
	Home address (if not shared with the child)	Postcode and city/town
	Guardian	Telephone number
	Home address (if not shared with the child)	Postcode and city/town
	Guardian	Telephone number
	Home address (if not shared with the child)	Postcode and city/town
3 INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION	I am applying for permission for my child to start basic education ☐ a year before the compulsory school-age ☐ a year after the compulsory school-age	

Moving to Espoo before school year 2025-2026

- **Contact** the Finnish Basic Education Unit to receive a keycode to create Your own personal Wilma account (tel. +358 40 507 0817 or oppilasrekisteri@espoo.fi)
- **The application procedure** is the same as applicants living in Espoo.
- Your child can only be admitted under a conditional decision, which will enter into force only if he/she moves to Espoo **on 1 August, 2025 at the latest**. The address given in the form must be registered and available in the Digital and Population Data Services Agency on that day at the latest.



Applying simultaneously for Bilingual (Finnish-English) education

Filling in the form in Wilma

3. NEW PUPIL'S ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Please choose one of the enrolment types (a, b or c)

a) Enrolling for basic education organised by the City of Espoo

☐ The new pupil is enrolling for basic education organised by the City of Espoo.

Please choose one or more of the following options.

☐ The new pupil is applying to a local school. Please fill out section 4 of the form (Applying to a local school).

☐ The new pupil is enrolling for inclusive preparatory education. Please fill out section 4 of the form (Applying to a local school).

☐ The new pupil is applying for bilingual education, language immersion education, English-language education or Montessori education.

5.1 Application preferences

1st preference:

2nd preference:

3rd preference:

4th preference:

5.2 Bilingual education (Finnish-English)

☐ The child's older sister/brother is admitted as a pupil in bilingual education other than in the highest grade at the moment a decision is issued.

5.3 English-language education

Guardians should choose whether the new pupil takes the test of linguistic capabilities in English or in Finnish. Please check the box below accordingly.

Note! If the child also applies for Bilingual education (Finnish-English) or Swedish-language immersion education, the test must be taken in Finnish.

☐ The child takes the test of linguistic capabilities in English.

☐ The child takes the test of linguistic capabilities in Finnish.

- 1) **Inform** in section 3 of the form that your child is enrolling for basic education organised by the City of Espoo.
- 2) **Specify** in section 3 of the form the enrolment type **and inform** that your child is applying for Bilingual education, Swedish-language immersion education, English-language education or Montessori education.
- 3) **Select** in section 5.1. of the form schools providing English-language education in order of preference and also schools providing bilingual education in order of preference.
- 4) **Inform** in section 5.2. of the form if your child has an older sibling in bilingual education.
- 5) **Choose** in section 5.3. of the form the option 'The child takes the test of linguistic capabilities in Finnish'.

Unable to use Wilma?

- 1) **Fill in a paper form** 'Application for 1st grade of comprehensive school'. The form can be found at espoo.fi/en/education-forms.
- 2) **Submit the form by 20 January, 2025 at the latest** to the following address:
The Finnish Basic Education Unit
Administrative services / Oppilaaksiotto 1. luokka
P.O. Box 31
FI-02070 City of Espoo.
or
by email to: oppilasrekisteri@espoo.fi

Applications submitted after the application period are rejected and the applicants will not be given a right to participate in the entrance examination.



CITY OF ESPOO
Growth and Learning Sector
Finnish Basic Education Unit

APPLICATION FOR 1st GRADE OF
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
School year 2025-2026

Enrolling in the 1st grade of comprehensive school takes place between 8th and 20th January, 2025. Familiarize yourself with the instructions and principles of pupil admission at espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions before filling in this form.

Submit this form by 20 January, 2025 at the latest to the following address: the Finnish Basic Education Unit, Administrative services / Oppilaaksiotto 1. luokka, P.O. Box 31, FI-02070 CITY OF ESPOO, or by email to oppilasrekisteri@espoo.fi. Ensure that separate attachments or statements are submitted by the deadline (dates specified later in this form and at espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions). Applications, attachments or statements delivered after the deadline will not be considered!

In addition to this form, fill in the form Information about the new pupil (espoo.fi/en/education-forms) by 20 January, 2025 at the latest. The information provided on the form in question will not affect your child's local school assignment or pupil admission.

1 CHILD'S BASIC INFORMATION	Last name	First names	Personal identity code
	Home address		Postcode and city/town
	Current pre-primary education unit (name of school/day-care centre)*		
	*) The pre-primary education unit will not affect the school assigned to the child. The information is needed for transferring necessary information from the pre-primary education unit to the child's future school.		
2 GUARDIANS' INFORMATION	Name (last name, first names)		
	Home address (if not shared with the child)		Postcode and city/town
	E-mail address		Telephone (daytime)
	Name (last name, first names)		

Entrance examinations

- 1) The entrance examination for English-language education on **29 January, 2025** at the school which is marked as the first choice for English-language education.
- 2) The entrance examination for Bilingual (Finnish-English) education on **30 January, 2025** at the school which is marked as the first choice for Bilingual education. The entrance examination consists of two sections:
 - 1) A test measuring linguistic capabilities
 - 2) A test on basic terminology in English and English language skills.

NOTE! The first section measuring linguistic capabilities must be completed **in Finnish**. It is only possible to take the test in English if the child applies solely for English-language education.

All applicants will receive a personal invitation to the entrance examinations.



Admission criteria for English-language education

Admitting applicants to 1st Grade

Applicants are selected **based on the entrance examination**. The examination consists of two parts:

- 1) English language section (0–30 points)
- 2) Linguistic competence section (0–45 points), which the applicant completes in either Finnish or English, as chosen by their guardian.

In order to be admitted to English-language education, **the applicant must achieve at least the minimum score in each section and the minimum total score**.

Applicants are selected in order of their total examination score (0–75 points). If applicants have the same total score, their ranking will be decided by a draw.

Applicants who meet the admission criteria but are not admitted due to the limited number of study places will be **put on a waiting list**. If study places become available, applicants are admitted from the waiting list until the end of August, after which the waiting list expires.

Decisions and delivery

Decisions and delivery

- You can **choose the means of delivery** for the decision when filling in the form 'Application for 1st grade of comprehensive school'.
- There are two options:
 - 1) The decision will be **published in Wilma on 25 April, 2025**. The decision will not be delivered by post.
 - 2) The decision will be **mailed on 25 April, 2025**. The decision will not be published in Wilma.
- It is possible to **choose only one**. The choice is binding!



After decisions are made

If your child is admitted to English-language education

- **The place will not have to be accepted separately.** The decision will continue in force for the duration of the grades taught in the school.
- Your child is **not entitled** to the school transport subsidy and his/her younger sisters/brothers have **no right** to admission to the same school under the sibling principle.
- **Notify the principal** of the school **if your child** moves away or gives up the school place and requests assignment to a local school.





If your child is not admitted English-language education

- Your child cannot reapply for English-language education and/or complete the entrance examination again. This concerns school year 2025-2026.
- Your child will be **assigned to a local school on 25 April, 2025**. If your child has little or no knowledge of the Finnish language he/she will be **assigned to preparatory education**.
- Your child can **apply for a place in a secondary school** by submitting a separate form **by 28 May, 2025**.
- You can **appeal the decision** by submitting a written demand for rectification to the Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland. The decision is accompanied by detailed instructions.

Application for afternoon activity of basic education

Fill in the form 'Application for afternoon activities' in Wilma (<https://espoo.inschool.fi/>) **between 25 April and 1 May, 2025.**

If you are unable to fill in the form in Wilma, you can fill in a paper form at espoo.fi/en/education-forms. The paper form must be submitted to arrive **by 1 May, 2025 at 3:45 pm at the latest** to the following address:

Finnish Basic Education Unit
Support Services, Afternoon activities
P.O. Box 31, FIN-02070 City of Espoo

OR

by email to: iltapaivatoiminta@espoo.fi.

Additional information: espoo.fi/iltapaivatoiminta



Tips for the guardians

- **Familiarize yourself** with the instructions and the admission criteria at espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions > Weighted-curriculum education > English-language education. In case your child is applying simultaneously for Bilingual (Finnish-English) education, also visit at espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions > Weighted-curriculum education > Bilingual education.
- **Ask** if anything related to the application or admission criteria is unclear and/or you need further information.
- **Fill in the form in good time**, as Wilma will be busy towards the end of the application period. The form is not available after application period ends. If you fill in the paper form, **ensure** that it will arrive by the given deadline. Applications arriving after the given deadline will be disregarded.
- **Give a valid email address** on the form as the school will send a personal invitation to the examination using that email.
- **Find out** beforehand where the school arranging the entrance examination is located and how to get there.