

Welcome to school!

Information for guardians of new first-graders

school year 2026–2027



Starting school is a major milestone in a child's life. At school, they learn new things and get to know new adults and children. The school is a child's community where they study, play and practise important skills for the future. The school's role is to help children grow and learn.

Each child starting school is unique and important. The school offers all children guidance and a safe environment for learning new skills. Children also get the support they need for learning and school attendance.

The school wants to collaborate with families. It is important that guardians support their children's learning together with the school. You can contact the teachers to discuss any issues related to your child.

How to enrol a child in the 1st grade of comprehensive school

You must enrol your child in the 1st grade of comprehensive school **between 8 and 20 January 2026** through the Wilma system at espoo.inschool.fi, where you will need to fill in the form Application for 1st grade of comprehensive school. **To create a personal Wilma user account, please use the key code indicated in the personal notification letter you received with this brochure.** Remember to make a note of your Wilma user ID and password.

If you are unable to use Wilma, you can fill in a paper form at espoo.fi/en/education-forms. The paper form must be submitted **by 20 January 2026** to the following address: Finnish Basic Education Unit, pupil admission 1st grade, P.O. Box 31, FI-02070 CITY OF ESPOO.

Further information about school enrolment and basic education

For additional information about school enrolment, visit espoo.fi/en/school-admissions

Do you have questions?

We will help you by phone 09 81621 and/or via email at info@espoo.fi.

If you have questions about support for learning and school attendance, you can contact the school's principal or the education support planners by email at opetuksentuki@espoo.fi.

For information on preparatory education for basic education, send an email to valmistava@espoo.fi.

Further information on native language instruction and application instructions are available at espoo.fi/en/childcare-and-education/basic-education/own-native-language-instruction.

Important dates

- Enrol your child in 1st grade and apply to a school: **8–20 January 2026**
- Entrance examination for English-language education: **27–28 January 2026**
- Entrance examinations for bilingual education (Finnish-English) and Swedish-language immersion education: **29–30 January 2026**
- Apply for afternoon activities of basic education through Wilma: **24 April–10 May 2026**
- Register for morning and afternoon care provided by Disability Services through Wilma: **23 February – 31 March 2026**
- Apply for mother tongue instruction for your child through Wilma: **1 January – 30 April 2026**
- Apply for school transport benefit **by 8 May 2026**
- School introductory events for guardians and new pupils will be held in May. Schools will publish the exact dates on their websites (espoo.fi/school's name; for example, espoo.fi/aarnivalkean-koulu)
- First day of school: **13 August 2026**

There are 70 Finnish-speaking and 10 Swedish-speaking comprehensive schools in Espoo. In addition, there are two private schools: Espoon kristillinen koulu (ekk.fi/in-english) and Espoon Steinerkoulu (espoonsteinerkoulu.fi). For information about applying to the private schools, please visit their websites.

If your child can attend school in both Finnish and Swedish, you can choose whether to enrol the child in a Finnish-speaking or Swedish-speaking school. If you wish to enrol your child in a Swedish-speaking school, please contact Swedish Education and Cultural Services during the application period from **8 to 20 January 2026** via email at skolanmalan@esbo.fi.