Applying for English-language education for the 1st Grade

School year 2024–2025
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 (school year 2024-2025 grades 1-5): Kivimies International School > Pupils transfer in 7th Grade to Espoo International School.

- **Study places**
  - Espoo International School, 50
  - Kivimies International School, 25

- **Principles of pupil admission**
  - In accordance with the Principles of pupil admission 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

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<tr>
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<th>1st Grade</th>
<th>2nd Grade</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
<th>4th Grade</th>
<th>5th Grade</th>
<th>6th Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENG</td>
<td>5 hrs</td>
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<td>4 hrs</td>
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<td>FIN(2)</td>
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The differences between English and Bilingual education (Finnish-English)

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<th>English-language Education</th>
<th>Bilingual Education (Finnish-English)</th>
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<td>Finnish National Core Curriculum for Basic Education</td>
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<td>Allocation of lesson hours, slight differences FIN vs. ENG</td>
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<td>Max 25 pupils per class</td>
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<td>English as medium of instruction for all subjects</td>
<td>More subjects taught in Finnish in higher grades</td>
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<td>One form of weighted-curriculum education in Espoo</td>
<td>One form of weighted-curriculum education in Espoo</td>
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<td>International School: Espoo International School</td>
<td>Stream within a Finnish primary School: Jalavapuisto</td>
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<td>Stream within a Finnish primary School: Kivimies (Kivimies International School)</td>
<td>Kilonpuisto</td>
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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 9th and 19th January, 2024 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](https://espoo.inschool.fi/connect) by using the key code delivered with the letter ‘Notification of beginning of compulsory education’.
Before applying for English-language education

- Familiarize yourself with
  - the instructions
  - the principles of pupil admission.

- Visit espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions
  > Weighted-curriculum education
  > English-language education.
Filling in the form in Wilma

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

The forms used by the school can be found below.

Application for 1st Grade of Comprehensive School
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?


- Submit the form by 19 January, 2024 at the latest to the following address:
  The Finnish Basic Education Unit Coordinator Sara Raitala
  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.
The entrance examination

- The entrance examination consists of two sections:
  1) English examination
  2) Test of linguistic capabilities.

- 31 January – 1 February, 2024 at Espoo International School (Opinmäki)
  - 31 January, 2024: English examination
  - 1 February, 2024: Test of linguistic capabilities

- 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. Submit the form ‘Application for 1\textsuperscript{st} grade of comprehensive school’ by 19 January, 2024 at the latest.

4. 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 9 February, 2024 at the latest to the address informed in the application form.
Moving to Espoo before school year 2024-2025

- **Contact** the Finnish Basic Education Unit to receive a keycode to create Your own personal Wilma account (tel. +358 40 507 0817, 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, 2024 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 made.

5.3 English-language education

Guardians should choose whether the new pupil takes the test of linguistic capabilities in English or in Finnish.

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?

- Fill in a paper form 'Application for 1st grade of comprehensive school' at espoo.fi/en/education-forms.

- Submit the form by 19 January, 2024 at the latest to the following address: The Finnish Basic Education Unit Coordinator Sara Raitala 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.
Entrance examinations

- The entrance examination for English-language education on 31 January, 2024 at the school which is marked as the first choice for English-language education.

- The entrance examination for Bilingual (Finnish-English) education on 1 February, 2024 at Espoo International School (Opinmäki). 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
Admitting applicants to 1st Grade

Applicants are admitted based on an entrance examination. The entrance examination consists of two sections:
1) English examination (0–30 points)
2) Test of linguistic capabilities (0–45 points), either in Finnish or in English.

In order to be admitted to English-language education, an applicant must achieve the minimum score for each section and the minimum total score of the entrance examination.

Applicants are admitted in the order of their total score in the entrance examination (0–75 points). If two or more applicants have the same total score, their order will be determined by drawing lots.

Decisions and delivery
Decisions and delivery

You can **choose the means of delivery** for the decision when filling in the form ‘Application for 1\textsuperscript{st} grade of comprehensive school’. There are two options:

1) The decision will be **published in Wilma on 26 April, 2024**. The decision will not be delivered by post.
2) The decision will be **mailed on 26 April, 2024**. 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 will be **assigned to a local school on 26 April, 2024**. 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, 2024**.

- Your child cannot apply for English-language education and/or complete the entrance examination again.

- 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 26 April and 10 May, 2024.

- If you 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 10 May, 2024 at 3:45 pm at the latest to the following address: Finnish basic education unit, Support Services, Afternoon activities, P.O. Box 31, 02070 City of Espoo.
Tips for the guardians
- **Familiarize yourself** with the instructions and the principles of pupil admission at espoo.fi/en/schooladmissions.

- **Ask** if anything related to the application or pupil admission 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.