

# PRINCIPLES OF PUPIL ADMISSION FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDUCATION

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- English-language education is intended for pupils in basic education who live in Espoo (whose municipality of residence is Espoo) and whose native language is English or who otherwise possess sufficient English skills. Pupils residing in other municipalities can only be admitted after all qualified applicants who meet the selection criteria and live in Espoo have been admitted and places are still available.
- Applications for English-language education are accepted during periods determined annually by the Finnish Education Unit. Applications submitted after the application period are rejected.
- Pupil admissions are based on a pass grade in the entrance examination. Entrance examinations are held during periods determined annually by the Finnish Education Unit. Applicants may take the entrance examination only once per year.
- If an applicant is ill on the examination date(s) and is unable to take the entrance examination, another entrance examination can be organised for him/her. Parents/guardians must notify the principal of the school providing English-language education of the matter before the entrance examination starts and present a doctor's statement regarding the applicant's illness for the examination date before the examination starts or immediately after receiving such a statement. Only applicants who were ill on the actual entrance examination date and were therefore unable to take the examination are eligible to take the new entrance examination.
- If an applicant who resides in another municipality is planning to move to Espoo before the autumn term starts, this applicant can be considered an Espoo resident but can only be admitted under a conditional decision, which will only become valid if the applicant moves to Espoo before the beginning of the school year and the address given by the applicant is available in the population register by a date determined annually by the Finnish Education Unit. The applicant must take the entrance examination at the same time as Espoo residents.
- Pupils are admitted into English-language education for the duration of school grades 1–9, mainly at the beginning of the school year.
- Pupils who have attended school abroad are admitted into grades according to their age level based on their year of birth, and applicants who have gone to school in Finland are admitted according to their latest school report.
- Pupils admitted to English-language education are not entitled to the school transport subsidy. The pupil's school transport and its costs are the responsibility of the parents/guardians.
- The education groups established for English-language education and the minimum and maximum number of pupils admitted for education are decided annually by the Committee.
- The board of the school providing English-language education can decide on the grounds specifying the admission criteria, such as the scoring of the entrance examination.

## **1. ADMITTING PUPILS TO FIRST GRADE**

Pupils are admitted to first grade based on an entrance examination held in the spring. The entrance examination consists of two sections:

- English examination (0–30 points).
- Test of linguistic capabilities (0–45 points) in either Finnish or English, according to the parent's/guardian's choice.

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. Pupils 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.

If there are places available after all qualified applicants who are Espoo residents are admitted, pupils from other municipalities can be admitted in the order of their total score in the entrance examination.

If qualified applicants residing in Espoo are not admitted due to a limited number of places available, their entrance examination score is valid until the end of the starting school year. If places become available, new pupils are admitted in the order of the total score received in the entrance examination so that precedence is given to Espoo residents.

### **1.1. Starting school at the age of six**

If an applicant to the first grade of English-language education has not yet reached the age of compulsory education, his/her parents/guardians must submit a development assessment drawn up in Finland (by a psychologist or physician) to the principal of the school providing English-language education no later than the day before the entrance examination.

## **2. ADMITTING PUPILS TO SEVENTH GRADE**

If places are available after pupils who have been admitted to English-language education and are continuing to the seventh grade have been admitted, new pupils will be admitted based on an entrance examination held in the spring (English language examination, 0–100 points).

In order to be admitted to English-language education, an applicant must achieve the minimum total score of the entrance examination. Pupils are admitted in the order of their total score (0–100 points). If two or more applicants have the same total score, their order will be determined by drawing lots. If there are places available after all qualified applicants who are Espoo residents are admitted, pupils from other municipalities can be admitted in the order of their total score in the entrance examination.

If qualified applicants residing in Espoo are not admitted due to a limited number of places available, their entrance examination score is valid until the end of the starting school year. If places become available, new pupils are admitted in the order of the total score received in the entrance examination so that precedence is given to Espoo residents.

### **3. ADMITTING PUPILS TO OTHER GRADES**

Pupils are admitted to other grades based on an entrance examination held in the spring (English language examination) if places have become available during the school year and they have not been filled by applicants moving to Espoo in the middle of the school year. Pupils start in the English-language education at the beginning of the school year.

When applying to any grade, an applicant must achieve the minimum total score of the entrance examination in order to be admitted to English-language education. Pupils are admitted based on the order of their total score in the entrance examination. If two or more applicants have the same total score, their order will be determined by drawing lots. If there are places available after all qualified applicants who are Espoo residents are admitted, pupils from other municipalities can be admitted in the order of their total score in the entrance examination.

If qualified applicants residing in Espoo are not admitted due to a limited number of places available, their entrance examination score is valid until the end of the starting school year. If places become available, new pupils are admitted in the order of the total score received in the entrance examination so that precedence is given to Espoo residents.

### **4. PUPILS WHO MOVE TO ESPOO DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

If places become available in grades 1–9 in the middle of the school year, a pupil who has recently moved to Espoo can be admitted based on an entrance examination (English language examination). The entrance examination will be held once the applicant has moved to Espoo. The principal of the school in question will determine the date of the entrance examination. If there are several applicants at the same time, the entrance examination will be held on the same day for all of them.

When applying to any grade, an applicant must achieve the minimum total score of the entrance examination in order to be admitted to English-language education. Pupils are admitted based on the order of their total score in the entrance examination. If two or more applicants have the same total score, their order will be determined by drawing lots.

A pupil admitted to English-language education must start school within one week of receiving the admission decision or the decision expires. School holidays are an exception to this requirement.

A principal may exceed the maximum number of pupils with one or two qualified applicants moving to Espoo whose presence was not known during the preparation phase.

### **5. PUPILS FROM OTHER MUNICIPALITIES**

Pupils residing in other municipalities can only be admitted after all qualified applicants who meet the admission criteria and live in Espoo have been accepted and places are still available. Transportation costs of pupils residing in other municipalities will be the responsibility of parents/guardians or the pupil's municipality of residence. Applicants living in other municipalities will not be admitted in the middle of the school year. If a pupil admitted to English-language education in Espoo later moves to another municipality, his/her basic education will be organised by the new municipality of residence. The pupil may continue in English-language education in Espoo until the end of the school year upon application by his/her parent/guardian.