



**Kajaanin** kaupunki

# Welcome to school!



# Enrolling your child in school

Registration for the school will be done in January in the Wilma program with your own username.

Address: <https://kajaani.inschool.fi/>

Choose Lomakkeet (Forms).

Select: "koulutulokkaat"- oppilaitoksessa oleva lapsi ("schoolchildren" - a child in an educational institution).

Your username should be made with a key code.

The key code can be found in the Welcome to Preschool letter.

Director for the Basic Education

Kalle Komulainen, 044 7100 142, [kalle.komulainen@kajaani.fi](mailto:kalle.komulainen@kajaani.fi)

Education Director

Mari Selin, 044 7100 235, [mari.selin@kajaani.fi](mailto:mari.selin@kajaani.fi)

## School Year 2024–2025

**School starts at 7.8.2024.**

**Autum term: 7.8-20.12.2024**

Autum holiday: 14.10-20.10.2024

Independence Day: 6.12.2024

Christmas holiday: 21.12.2024-6.1.2025

**Spring term: 7.1.-21.5.2025**

Epiphany: 6.1.2025

Sport holiday: 3.3.-9.3.2025

Easter holiday: 18.4-21.4.2025

First of May: 1.5.2025

No school: 2.5.2025

Ascension Day: 29.5.2025

# 1. When to school

All children have the right to basic education and the right to attend school. The Finnish primary school is a school for all children.



## **To school at the age of 7**

Compulsory education means that all Finnish children must go to school. The child's guardian is responsible that the child is attending school. The child's compulsory education ends when child is 18 years old.

## **To school at an earlier age**

According to section 27 of the Basic Education Act, a child may start school one year earlier if he or she is mature and skilled enough to attend school. A psychologist or doctor can examine the child's school maturity. The parents shall pay for these studies. Earlier school education beginning should be agreed with the school's principal.

## **To school at a later age**

The child's readiness for school could be assessed by a family counselling centre, school psychologists or a paediatric neurology outpatient clinic. If you would like an assessment of school readiness for your child, please contact your preschool psychologist during the fall semester. They assess whether the child can start school.

## **To a local school**

The pupil primarily attends a nearby local school. The local school is determined by the child's place of residence.

## **To a non-local school**

If parents want their children to go to a non-local school, they must write an application for that school in Wilma, in the Applications and Decisions (*Hakemukset ja päätökset*) menu.

You can get a place from another school if there is a free place in the school. The principal of that school decides whether to admit the pupil to a school other than the nearby school.

The application should be made in January. The school will notify the guardian of the decision during the spring.

## **If the family moves to a new address**

If the child's address changes before the beginning of the fall semester, the guardian shall notify the school of the change.

## 2. What pupils learn in grades 1-2

According to the Finnish Constitution, the goal of education is for a pupil to become a member of Finnish society and to know his or her rights and obligations. The school teaches the child the knowledge and skills necessary in life. Education promotes civilization and equality in society.



### Own class — own teacher

At school, a pupil is in their own class and in their own group. Each class has its own class teacher. Some subjects are also taught by other teachers. Some of the classes are connecting classes, e.g. classes 1-2 or 3-4.

### Subjects common to all

1st and 2nd classes study Finnish language and literature, English, mathematics, environmental studies, religion or ethics, arts and crafts and physical exercise.

Pupils in grades 1-2 have 21 hours per week of school. A pupil shall receive remedial instruction if needed.

### Religious events

A pupil is not required to attend religious events organized by the school, such as a church visit. The school asks parents for permission to allow the child to attend religious events at the school.

### Collaboration of home and school

Cooperation between home and school is essential for schoolwork to succeed. We hope that parents will be actively involved in the home-school collaboration. The teacher invites the parents to a discussion. There will be interpretation in the discussion if needed.

### The flow of information between home and school

Parents receive information about their child's progress in school. To that end the Wilma system is used in Kajaani's basic education schools. In Wilma, parents monitor their children's schooling from their computers and via the Wilma application on their phones.

Training on the use of Wilma can be arranged for parents.



## Pupil assessment

The pupil, parents, and teacher discuss pupil assessment together. During the discussion, the child assesses his or her own learning. An evaluation discussion will be held at the end of the autumn semester. The pupil will not receive a certificate then.

In the spring, at the end of the school year, the pupil will receive a certificate. For pupils of grades from 1st to 3rd, the certificate contains a verbal assessment of skills. For pupils of grades from 4th to 9th, the certificate rates the student's success in subjects on a numerical scale of 4-10 (4 = rejected, 10 = excellent).

## 3. School transport

If the distance to their school for a pupil in grades 1 to 2 is more than 3 km and if the distance to their school for a pupil in grades 3 to 9 is more than 5 km, or the school transport takes more than 2.5 hours a day, the city will arrange a free transportation of the child to school and home.

If a pupil has an illness or disability that prevents him or her from making the school transport himself or herself, the guardian must send an application and a doctor's statement to the city of Kajaani. A special class student can apply for transportation with the statement of a doctor or school psychologist.



Free transport can be obtained when the child attends a local school, i.e. the school near which the pupil lives. If the family has requested a place at a school other than a nearby school, transportation must be arranged by themselves.

The school transport includes the walk to the bus or taxi stop and the transportation in the vehicle. The pupil must go to the stop in question on their own if the way there is less than 3 km (1-2 graders) or 5 km (3-9 graders).

There is no transport service for morning and afternoon activities.

Fill out the application (in Finnish): [Esi- ja perusopetuksen koulukuljetukset | Kajaani](#)

Further information: [School transport](#)

Tiina Rusanen, 0447100040, [tiina.rusanen@kajaani.fi](mailto:tiina.rusanen@kajaani.fi)

Passenger transport expert

## 4. Teaching Finnish as a second language (S2-teaching)

When a pupil's mother tongue is not Finnish, the pupil can receive support in studying Finnish. The child studies the Finnish as a second language. The school assesses whether the child needs S2 teaching and asks for permission from the guardian.

## 5. Teaching pupil's own mother tongue

If a child's home language is other than Finnish, the child can study the respective mother tongue at school. The teaching is voluntary. A pupil may participate in the study of only one language.



The aim is to arrange teaching if at least four students register to study the same language. There are 2 hours of teaching per week. Teaching place can be other than child's own school. The family transports the child to their own mother tongue classes at their own expenses. A child can be registered for classes with the language and culture coordinator.

## 6. Pupil welfare

The school staff and family work together to secure the child's well-being at school. The school has pupil welfare staff that includes a nurse, curator and school psychologist. Teachers and pupil welfare staff work together to agree on ways to support learning with guardians. The pupil's family also can receive help from the family counselling centre. Your school's website has the nurse's phone number.

## 7. Supporting learning

The teacher teaches and supports all students in the class. At home, parents help the child understand homework. The teacher and parents inform each other about things that affect the child's schooling.

The pupil receives support for language development and learning at the school from their own teacher and special needs teacher.

The need for support is always discussed with the pupil and parents.

## 8. Morning and afternoon activities

If a 1st or 2nd grader needs adult supervision in the morning before school or in the afternoon after school, he or she can participate in morning and afternoon activities.

In the morning and afternoon activities, students eat a snack and rest, make handicrafts and move around, and practice many of the skills needed at school with instructors and other children.

### Organization of activities

In Kajaani, morning and afternoon activities are organized by the City of Kajaani, Kajaani Parish, organizations and associations.

The morning and afternoon activities are held on school days, in the mornings before the school starts from 6.30 am to 10.00 am and in the afternoons from the noon to 4.30 pm. If necessary, to 5.00 pm.

Morning activities are organized in schools. The instructors are the school's school attendance assistants.

Afternoon activities are organized in schools, parish houses and on the premises of organizations.



### Who can participate in the activities?

Pupils in grades 1-2 and special groups can participate in morning and afternoon activities if both parents of the child are at work or studying.

Pupils go to the activity independently or the parents organize the transportation.

The fee includes activities, snacks and insurance.

### Registration

You shall register for morning and afternoon activities in Wilma when you register your child for school. The group will start if 8-12 children register for the group.

If there is no possibility to organize a group in one area, the aim is to organize the activity in another way. The location of the group may also change.

### Notification of selection

The family will be notified of the morning and afternoon admission by post or email in April-May.

### Cancellation of a place granted

If the child does not need a place, it must be cancelled immediately.

Please notify the cancellation to [koululaistoiminta@kajaani.fi](mailto:koululaistoiminta@kajaani.fi)

Cancellations of parish places must be notified to the supervisor of child work: Kaisu Ärväs, 044 7444 575

More information: Reetta Suhonen p. 044 7100 558. [reetta.suhonen@kajaani.fi](mailto:reetta.suhonen@kajaani.fi)

