



## **Welcome to school!**

New home, new school. How will my child start school? How will my child cope with a new language? How will my child be helped in the new school?

There are Finnish and Swedish-language schools in Kokkola. The classes are held in Finnish or Swedish. Some schools can also offer support for learning in the pupil's first language.

Finland has two official languages, Finnish and Swedish. The majority of children moving to Finland study in a Finnish-language school. About 6 percent of Finns speak Swedish. The City of Kokkola is a bilingual city. Both languages are needed. In Finnish-language schools, studies in Swedish start in the 6th grade at the latest.

### ***The school path starts in preparatory education.***

Pupils who have moved to Finland study in preparatory education. They will study a lot of Finnish at school. The pupils also study other subjects and contents that pupils, who are the same age as them, study. Preparatory education is provided in group form in some of the Finnish-language schools in Kokkola. Group-form preparatory education means that a newly arrived pupil starts school in a smaller group. The group has an own teacher. Pupils in preparatory education also study with pupils who are the same age as them.

The pupil gets a personal study plan. The plan is drawn up in cooperation with the pupil and the guardians. The pupil's goals for learning, needs and earlier school background are considered in the plan.

Preparatory education lasts one school year. After that the pupil will move to general basic education. Pupils, who doesn't have Finnish, Swedish or Sami as their native or home language, study Finnish or Swedish as a second language. The pupil can receive language support in basic education.

Younger pupils will study in an inclusive way. This means that pupils in 1st grade start their school path in a Finnish or Swedish speaking group with children who are the same age. The pupils get support with the language. Children in pre-primary education, or 6-years-olds, attend a Finnish or Swedish-language preschool.





## ***First language education***

First language education is provided in different languages in Kokkola. The classes are typically in the morning before other classes or in the afternoon after other classes. It is important to study one's first language so that it becomes an academic language of learning. This will support all learning.

## ***How will my child start school?***

Contact Kokkola educational services as soon as you know your new address and when you're moving. We will decide a meeting date and time. We will agree on and discuss when the child can start school. The child is welcome to attend the meeting, so that she or he can ask questions that are on her or his mind. Interpretation will be provided at the meeting. Welcome to Kokkola and welcome to school!

## ***Contact***

Coordinators for teaching different language and cultural groups

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