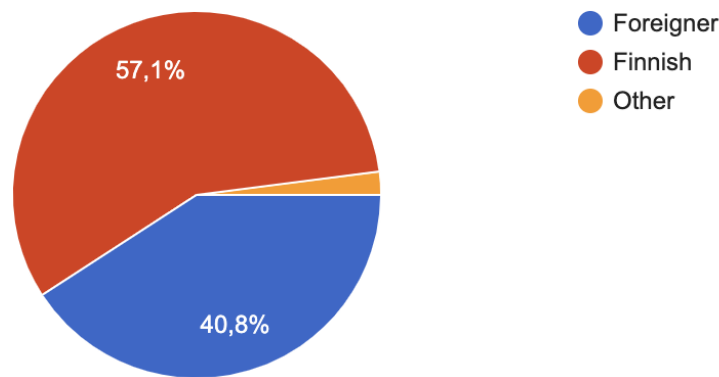


The future of the English speaking classes (All the answers)

Survey made in May, 2023 (50 answers)

1. Your cultural background information

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2. Why should we continue having E-classes in the future?

- Economic: Jyväskylä needs esp. educated foreigners: they bring money to the city (tax payers, consumers)
- Educational: Jkl should be the number one center of Education, incl. special programs like English, Music, Sports classes
- Multicultural: intercultural education needed in Jyväskylä (awareness, tolerance)!!

It is a reason to move to Jyväskylä. We choose Jyväskylä because of English classes. We have very rich multi language populations in Jyväskylä. Teachers are motivated to teach in English. Kids gets more choices in future if they have two languages.

1. English classes are the only and the best link to attract highly educated immigrants to Jyväskylä city.
2. Everyone advertises the Finnish education system as the best education system and I think one thing that makes it best is that kids get the opportunity and education the way they want. And our kids deserve the same. They want to study in English, they should get that opportunity.
3. E-classes are a way to keep the multicultural environment in kids and make them capable to work with people from different nationalities in future, from the very beginning. City should put more effort to improve it rather than thinking of stopping it.
4. Jyväskylä is a city of students and it should attract more immigrants, that should be the core of the city's future plan and E-classes can play a vital role in achieving the city's goal.
5. Last but not least, every kid has the very fundamental right to get the education the way they want and the thought of stopping E-classes will kind of take away that basic right from the kids. So E-classes should not be touched.

English is the language spoken by many people worldwide. English Class helps the Finnish or other family to let their children have an opportunity to continue their studies in English. Therefore, learning English is essential for anyone who wants to be part of the global community. It also provides an option for the children who want to study abroad. Thus, they can bring back their knowledge from different perspectives to Finland in the future.

1. English is an international language it will act as a bridge to communicate with other nationals (even during their exchange programs) while kids are growing 2. My kid did all his studies in English 3. Multicultural integration will be there 4. Kids' future will be affected due to sudden changes in their education 5. Bilingual students can grow in their careers faster than the others

Being fluent in two languages provides numerous opportunities for the children's future. In big cities like Jyväskylä there are lots of parents working in international companies or at the university, it is important that the kids have an opportunity to study in English in case the family is working abroad in the future.

Supporting bilingual children and their language skills

Adaptation to the society for foreign children and chance to learn sooner in more depth (having to first learn Finnish language narrows the chances of learning other school topics)

Opportunity for Finnish children to learn English in more advanced level (for some, the A1 language teaching isn't challenging enough)

Better studying/working opportunities in the future when bilingual, diversity, not everyone speaks Finnish - and in the class foreigners will still learn the language anyway. At least my daughter can challenge herself to learn new things in different languages

1. great for Finnish (to become multilingual, more competitive on the international market),
2. for students who come for a short term and don't want to spend time in Finnish language preparatory classes
3. English speakers come from all over the world, the English classes are more multicultural;
4. It is easy to learn a language fluently and with ease when young and exposed to it like in the English classes (later it is harder to learn the language)
5. Learn Finnish and English culture simultaneously.
6. English is a language that is world-wide most spoken

1. Foundation of international education starts with access to English speaking education, preschool to end of lukio
2. As Jyväskylä is an international city with renowned educational post-secondary institutions, it is imperative that elementary English speaking classes are offered to allow continuity of learning
3. English speaking classes support families who come to Jyväskylä to work from abroad, as their children learn in this environment
4. As public education is the cornerstone of the Finnish National educational system, including English speaking classes in the core curriculum, including these classes deters English speaking courses from becoming a commodity to be paid for, thus becoming the exact opposite of what public education stands for.
5. Jyväskylä, more to the point Finland, is a part of the EU and a major educational country with a highly sought after educational system. English language and its learning environment should always be a requisite part of its core curriculum in order to reflect these world view values.

E-classes support a common ground for children coming from different cultures and backgrounds. E-class system helps kids and families to integrate into Finnish society. It is "bidirectional" in allowing access also to native Finnish speakers. This facilitates back and forth transfer of cultural understanding. Thus prejudices, cultural and linguistic barriers, etc. are lessened rather than strengthened.

First, they need to understand that it is not an extra service they are providing. It is a right for taxpayers to have a suitable education same as Finnish people do. we pay exactly the same taxes, so our needs should be considered.

Second, the city council need to understand that it is important to the future of Finland to have a future base of English-speaking labour that would help the country to communicate with the world. Finnish people need to stop isolating themselves because of the language barrier.

- To Create opportunities for children to acquire fluency in more than one language of instruction, and to actively promote multilingual skills and the culture of multilingualism;

- to respond to the need of international families residing in the region for a limited period of time;

- to be an attractive city for international workforce and to actively promote and support internationalization and cross-cultural contact in the region;

- to ensure the continuous high quality of public education in Finland more generally and to prevent commodification of such crucial aspects of education as schooling in English.

The city of this size needs to be able to offer English speaking education for families possibly coming to work here. It can be a decision maker for some families considering moving here.

Many families are bilingual nowadays.

Many Finnish families move abroad for work at some point of their lives. It's important that the children are guaranteed with international schooling possibilities when they come back/before they leave.

The level of English skills is increasing rapidly (thanks to globalization, gaming industry, Internet) and with that, interest in studying in English is very likely to increase.

We have E-students, Jyväskylä's and Kortepohja's brand and history and heritage, the importance of learning multiple languages, not having them would be taking a step back

1. English is the most spoken 2nd language in the world.
2. By equipping e-class children with such strong bilingual capabilities, we are helping to prepare the next generation of workers
3. Many industries require strong English skills, e.g. academia, various branches of business, media etc
4. English is the language of the internet, which will be a crucial part of the lives of future generations
5. E-classes are one of the most effective promoters of multiculturalism in Finland

1. It attracts International experts by offering flexibility to their children's education while moving in or moving out.
2. It offers diversity and promotes cultural understanding among the children.
3. It gives children access to vast educational resources and latest advancements worldwide, which ultimately help them think and act like a global citizen.
4. It promotes social mobility and equality, especially to children of disadvantaged groups.
5. It feeds students to International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program at Jyväskylä Lyseo high school

E- class is a safe place where we joined to escape bullying.

Easy adaption to Finnish school system. Preparing for international studies in higher education. Personal hobby as music. Multicultural makes more acceptance.

Very important reason for our family to return back to Finland, first to Helsinki and then to Jyväskylä, was the availability of English speaking classes.

As parents we value the language skills, international atmosphere and high level of education. It requires effort to build truly international identity.

In modern society, it is a prerequisite for experts to move abroad and back to Finland. It is vital that their children's academic progress is not affected by this.

As parents we are also important tax payers and bring value to Jyväskylä

If English speaking classes would be closed, Jyväskylä would definitely lose to other cities, e.g. Tampere and Helsinki, in terms of attraction. This then would directly affect the possibility for Central- Finland companies to find professionals leading to decrease in the amount of taxes. Almost every other competitive advantage can be copied, but not skilled workforce.

1. It's important in enabling families coming to Jyväskylä from abroad on 1-2 year work placements, surely integral for developing the business and science landscape of the city
2. Jyväskylä would fall into the small town category without it
3. Finnish families that have been abroad can have a continuation of English language education for their children
4. Bilingual families have a real option in Jyväskylä

1. English is international language and important in today's world. 2. Majority of the international families have English as mother language. 3. Kortepohja is English/International school and how come it can remove English language. 4. Lack of English language ll not attract immigrants to the country. 5. Finland needs international people for its own future.

- for immigrants to have a possibility to start comfortably in another country
- promoting bilinguality
- understandable education
- it gives an opportunity to study English in depth, important to students that are talented in languages

- great study background for future studies like IB, international occupations, etc.

Foreign students must be included in subject teaching immediately (without long-term Finnish language teaching).

The University of Jyväskylä and other educational institutions have many foreign families whose children need English language teaching.

The companies in Jyväskylä need labor from abroad, which won't happen if their families can't find English-language teaching.

Some of the current students do not yet understand Finnish enough to transfer to Finnish-language classes.

The work of the current English classes is otherwise wasted.

We are living in a global world. We need strong communication across borders not to be left out. Students in e-classes are open-minded, friendly, smart, ambitious, opinionated, and there is strong collectiveness in their classes.

English speaking classes make it much easier for foreigners to come to Jyväskylä for short term commitments (university), and it also makes it easier for Finnish people to return to Jyväskylä after years abroad. Having English up on high standards, it opens many doors for children now and in the future. They make Finland known in a very positive way. Learning English does not mean children cannot also learn Finnish and have very Finnish values in their life. English is also official language in Valmet which is one of the biggest employers in Jyväskylä.

It is an investment in the future of Jyväskylä as well as the children who are educated as bilingual citizens able to bring value to the local society and businesses in years to come. It helps attract international talents to Jyväskylä, as well as Finnish families who are migrating back after living abroad. If these classes are cut down, the same children will need to be placed in the Finnish speaking classes and will need the same resources, so what would the actual saving be?

1. Classes serve children of foreign workers and as such improve Jyväskylä's overall attractiveness. Thus existence of E-classes makes it considerably easier for businesses and the university to hire foreign talent to the city. This reason alone should be justification for providing English tuition. As funding is the issue here, situation may call for possible sharing of costs between the city and the other stakeholders.
2. Classes provide those Finnish children who wish to learn English to higher level, an immersive and more comprehensive route.
3. Even if students aim for Finnish studies in the future, classes act as soft landing for English speaking students for picking up Finnish.

Provide a basic, but valuable service to families with international ties
Promote international and multicultural society
Maintain attractiveness of the city to foreign skilled employees (with children)

It enriches children culture, it expands their opportunities to study and work outside Finland or inside with international people, teaching languages at early age increases children capacity to learn other languages more easily, it influences internationalization in Finland

We are highly educated parents, who travel around the world for jobs and work in multinational companies and universities. Our job requires movement to other countries after certain time and for that reason we wish that our child study in international environment and english is the international language which is widely used around the globe. If Jyväskylä decide to stop English education in future then we (expats) have to move to other cities for the sake of our children.

1. For keeping and supporting the culture diversity in Jyväskylä.
2. For encouraging highly skilled people to move from abroad and work in Jyväskylä
3. Students in E-classes are getting great opportunity to learn and deal with multicultural experiences.
4. in extreme situations like war which is not far from Finland , those with english education will have better chance to continue their education without interruption in other countries.

My daughter needs to maintain and build her English language as she has always learned it in school and it spoken at home too. It is also important for her future to be able to communicate effectively in English. She loves English classes and its unfair to take that away from her. Finland should embrace multicultural aspects of foreigners and to take away English classes does not show inclusion of all into the society, something that foreigners are always striving for.

1. E classes bring diversity in culture, thoughts and open up young minds which is so essential in early stages of their lives. Prevents prejudices and promotes equality!
2. It brings holistic and democratic approach to education itself. Respect towards one and all. That's what we want from our younger generations
3. Helps develop international approach which helps in making a future global citizen that we see around us with world as One Global village.
4. Benefits the society by gettiing in international talent and workforce which ultimately benefits the city not only economically but socially.
5. Mark as a true International City status what Jyvaskyla presents itself to the world.

1. To bring highly skilled foreign workers to the city
2. Improving children's English education will make it easier to move with the international community
3. Jyvaskyla has two prestigious universities, so a large number of foreign students come there with their families

Parents may work abroad for years and family lives there, so it's very important to continue studying in English .

It's a great opportunity for every students who are interested in studying English.

Finland is such a small country in the world and only few people speak Finnish. Therefore it's wiser to learn to speak other languages.

English classes helps to raise students to understand other cultures and gives tools to fight against to racism.

There are families where English is the main language. If we want to get foreign professionals to Jyväskylä it is essential that there are English classes for their children. At the moment it is not so easy to find info about the opportunity.

1. Kids will have wider cultural background
2. English language will be most used language in the future of the kids

3. Jyväskylä needs to have E- classes for the foreign workers and students.
4. There is less racism in E- classes.
5. We have the best education in the world but we need to offer it in English so Jyväskylä will attract people from abroad.

1. English language will be needed everywhere in future
2. Children from different countries will need english classes
3. Jyväskylä is big university city not countryside, so we should provide sophisticated education, english classes are big part of it.

- Kids learn better English
- Multiculturalism is important
- E-classes make student exchange easier
- E-classes make it possible to maintain language skills already learnt elsewhere
- Kids get better global skills

1. In some cases, the E-classes are the only options for foreigners to study in Finland and interact with Finnish students (sometimes the integration process doesn't work, for various reasons).
2. Finnish students can interact more with people from different cultures.

In order to be a global citizen, it is necessary that kids are able to learn and communicate in English language. Children learn about different cultures and will grow into better human beings when they spend time together with different ethnicities. Being an ex-pat, we want our children to continue education in E class. In future, if need arises, to move to another city/ country, they will not have difficulty in adapting to new environment.

1. Because in E classes kids get the opportunity to receive an education in the language that is recognized around the world.
2. Because in E.classes students have the opportunity to learn about different cultures and languages, and to make friends with peers from around the world.
3. The expat parents will be able to contribute more and get more involved in kids school activities and with their peers parents.
4. It will attract more foreigners/ expat families to move to Jyväskylä which will be beneficial to the growth of the city itself.

We've got multicultural family and we'd like the kids to be able to study both Finnish and English on a level of full competence. Whilst living in Finland, the influence of Finnish language is so strong that without studying in English the kids would have quite minimal effort on developing their English language skills on a level equivalent to an English speaking country. Also I find fluent background as an advantage for the university studies that I

personally struggled with because of poor English skills. The state of Jyväskylä requires the future of e classes.

- Ulkomailla englannin kielellä opiskelleet oppilaat voivat jatkaa englanniksikin opiskelua
 - E-luokilla erittäin tärkeä myös, että samat osaamistavoitteet suomen kielessä eli luokka on kaksikielinen
 - Oppilailla kansainvälinen tausta, uusien oppilaiden helppo tulla mukaan ja luokan ilmapiiri on hyvin suvaitseva, tasa-arvoinen ja ymmärtävä
 - Mahdollistaa ulkomailta, toisista isoista kaupungeista ym. perheen Jyväskylään muuttamisen (paluumuuttaja, työ, opiskelu ym.), Kun lapset voivat opiskella englanniksi
 - Kaupunkistrategiamme visio on "Jyväskylä on kasvava ja kansainvälinen sivistyskaupunki". E-luokat mahdollistavat ja tukevat, että tämä toteutuu myös kouluikäisille lapsille.
- <https://www.jyvaskyla.fi/projektinosto-jyvaskyla-kasvava-ja-kansainvalinen-sivistyskaupunki-9716>

YLE NEWS: "This will decide your entire future" – English-speaking kids hampered by Finnish education bottleneck -> <https://yle.fi/a/74-20028279>

International & bilingual schools in Finland:

Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere, Turku, Oulu, Rovaniemi, Pori, Rauma, Imatra/Lappeenranta

Bilingual schools in Finland:

Jyväskylä, Lahti, Kuopio, Joensuu, Vaasa, Kajaani (G1-4), ...

3. How should the structure of the English education (E-classes) be developed in Jyväskylä?

- "Kielikylypy" style: a clear structure from Kindergarten / preschool onwards (5-6yrs->)
- city-run English play school(s) needed, also at Kortepohja school (easy continuity)
- more information about the E-classes (cannot easily be found on Google search), more info from the international office in JKL (Pia Bärlund)
- Both International education (only in English) And Bilingual education (E-classes) needed
- smaller cities than JKL (e.g. Vaasa) have several English speaking schools and daycares!!

Maybe English classes should be located in city centres schools. That way more students will be able to participate in English classes. Kortepohja school is quite far from city centre.

1. English education in Jyväskylä need major restructuring and the main thing is to make it easy to get in to English classes. Getting in to E-classes need entrance test and still many things are not clear, hence make it harder for kids to get in.
2. There should be city day cares which are aiming to fill more kids to English education program.
3. From my personal experience not only Foreigner but also Finnish people are not aware that there is English education bilingual program running in city. And there is a clear gap that city in not promoting enough or there is some lack in communication.

I'm satisfied with the current structure of the E classes. The teachers in E-class are professionals. It would be great that E - class would invite some English teachers from abroad to have some exchange programs.

1. Education is mandatory in that sense municipality should allow either parents or teachers to decide whether kids can enrol into the english school (Not bureaucrats)
2. For foreigners they should enrol them directly without any reservation
3. English daycares must be sponsored by the Municipality as well so that kids will learn the language quickly
4. Private english daycares are expensive and are not controlled by the municipality

We have only lived here for one year but both the parent and the child, we have been very satisfied with the E-classes Combined classes and especially learning with children of other ages has been wonderful as it teaches social skills and group work with kids from various ages and backgrounds.

1. More public engagement from the city of Jyväskylä
2. More sharing of annual updates regarding enrollment with city council
3. Annual presentations to the educational department head, strengthening relations and informational relationships.

4. Website that is separate from Kortepohjan päiväkotikoulun school site, as its own link, thus attracting higher enrollment

5. English speaking classes need a liaison person/position to allow for continual communication between prospective families, existing families, teachers, school administrators, education departments and finally city council.

Meet regularly with all parties.

Paying more attention to the English classes (E-classes). Investing more for the (E-classes).

Ensure the continuity at primary and secondary level; to organize English education in preschool and (public) early childhood education.

One suggestion: as e-class children reach the later school years, use them as teaching assistants in English classes for native Finns. This could be a win-win for everyone concerned

Continuous path, different combinations are ok.

Every year should have their own group.

Possibility to have all education in English from pre-school to IB readily available

I would like to see University of Jyväskylä (Teacher's education take some role in E-classes, co-operation with Norssi?)

Stronger Finnish language support

1. English language should be a must part of international school education. 2. If international people learn Finnish language, their own language should not be taken away from them. 3. Already in kortepohja school, majority of the subjects are taught in Finnish, hence English should not be removed. 4. This is very discouraging for many international families to stay in Finland and contribute to the society.

This system has worked very nicely

All English-speaking classes (grades 1-10) could be concentrated in one school in the Jyväskylä region.

Emphasis in bilingual education (some teaching in English, some in Finnish), collaboration with the Finnish speaking classes (both can benefit each other)

1. City should start a program to involve various other stakeholders in the funding of the E-classes. As I mentioned in the previous answer, these classes are critical in attracting foreign talent to local businesses as well as the University. Wide enough financial base would guarantee E-classes continuity even in the probable budgetary limits of near future.
2. I'd like to see English program for students speaking English as the first language that is not aiming for functional language skill, but higher literary and verbal skill level. I'm talking about students who are interested in literature, (screen-)writing, oratory, debate and similar activities.

These classes should be promoted more even among Finnish families since Finnish is also taught in E classes, knowing English from the beginning should be less of a requirement. Small kids learn fast. Not sure if Kortepoja kindergarten has it but Introducing English language in Päiväkotikoulu may increase the number of kids who applies to English classes

The education of E-classes should meet the international standards so that the children is capable of continuing education in any country, if parents have to move abroad.

1. The development starts at grass root level. Need to encourage city to focus on internationalization whereby emphasize to increase English day care centers.
2. Encourage awareness among local communities and people in the city
3. Discuss and participate with city council on how people can get involved to improve the situation. Involve people than alienate them!

1. Jyväskylä city should promote English education
2. Need to start English Preschools and schools by city

I think that all the subjects should be teaching in English.

Maybe consider curriculum that transfers easily to International schools abroad. Not sure if this a problem though. Marketing need's development. Needs to be easy to make contact from abroad and get information

1. Help everyone who want's to join the E- classes and not force them to study in Finnish first.

2. Advertising the E- classes to English speaking people and also to the Finnish citizens in Jyväskylä.

1. Jyväskylä city should be proud of english classes and promote them.
2. City should advertise english classes
3. We should make english classes known for example in social media and everywhere else

It would be great if E-classes would start already in the daycare or preschool. Otherwise I think they are doing great job in Kortepohjan päiväkotikoulu's E-classes.

The English education should be from 1st to 12th grade.

Admission criteria to E classes should be made easier. There should be enough information available (on different mediums) about E-Classes.

Compulsory subjects should be included in basic school programme

Extra curricular activities should be encouraged.

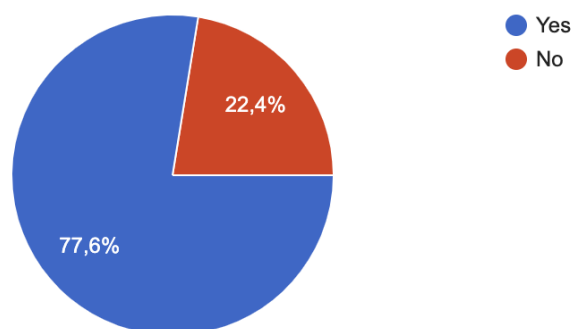
Exams/ Annual tests should be included.

Field trips and projects should be included in children basic education curriculum.

More advertising and more kids. Surprisingly few kids apply for e classes regardless of the benefits of studying on e classes.

4. Would you be willing to come and meet the member(s) of the City council / board if we have the opportunity?

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5. Do you know any influential people in Jyväskylä city who could support us in this matter?

<https://www.jyvaskyla.fi/maatoksenteke/lauta-ja-johtokunnat-seka-jaostot/sivistyslautakunta>

Chamber of Commerce: Team Finland

<https://kskauppakamari.fi/fi-fi/article/etusivu/team-finland/41/>

Regional Council of Central Finland: <https://keskisuomi.fi/en/>

Paul Taylor (heritage English teacher in Jyväskylä)

Petteri Muotka (Christian school head) Christian democrats. Marika Visakorpi (vice chairman of the city council it says on some website, also Christian democrats)

1. Valmet has support E-classes before

Timo Koivisto recently became an honorary doctor from the sports faculty of JYU, where I am a professor and vice dean. I have met him a few times. Eino Leisimo is also a member of one working group that I belong to. At the university I know all of the senior leadership, whose help might be useful. I don't know personally many people in the language department but perhaps help could be obtained from there too.

1. Timo Koivisto (timo.koivisto@jkl.fi)

2. Bella Forsgren (bella.forsgren@eduskunta.fi) she is a politician with very active background jn education. This is very important contact please add them.

3. Eino Leisimo (director of education, culture and sports)

Satu Heikkinen, Head of International Relations, City of Jyväskylä

Pia Bärlund

University of Jyväskylä

Tunnen Henna Virkkusen (Europarlamentaarikko) ja hän voisi hyvinkin tukea tässä asiassa.