How can a child apply for a place in bilingual education (Finnish-English) in grade 1?

Information evening for parents at Rajala school, Sammakkolammentie 14, Kuopio

Monday, 14 December 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

More information: Bilingual instruction (Finnish – English) grades 1 – 9 - Kuopio

Bilingual education (Finnish-English)

At Rajala school one bilingual class is offered at each grade level from grade 1 to grade 6. Admission to the bilingual programme (Finnish-English) requires pupils to have good language proficiency in both Finnish and English so that they are able to study in both languages.

Pupils are selected on the basis of a language capability test. The English language test corresponds to CEFR level A1.2 in the areas of listening comprehension and speaking. Applicants' Finnish language skills are assessed on a pass/fail basis. The required level of Finnish is CEFR level A2.

Applying for Finnish-English bilingual education in grade 1

When enrolling a child in school, you can also apply for bilingual education using the same form. Guardians can enrol their child in school either online (Wilma) or by using the enrolment form that is received by post.

Application period

The application period is from **1 December 2026 to 7 January 2027**.

Language capability test

Pupils are selected for bilingual education on the basis of a language capability test. The language capability tests for applicants to grade 1 bilingual education will be held between 11 and 18 January 2027.

An invitation to the language capability test will be sent to the guardian's email address during week 1 of 2027. Guardians provide their email address on the school enrolment form.

Participation in the language capability test is mandatory for all applicants. Failure to attend the test will always result in a negative admission decision.

If the school is not the pupil's local school, the guardian is responsible for any costs arising from the pupil's transport to and from school, including any necessary escorting arrangements. School transport may also be granted to a school other than the local school if the transport costs are equal to or lower than those of transport to the pupil's local school. In such cases, travel must take place by public transport. The guardian must always apply for school transport using the school transportation application form. The guardian is also responsible for transport costs when the pupil requires transportation due to an illness or a leisure-time accident. If temporary transport is required due to an accident that occurred at school, the school will arrange the transport when necessary.