

Bienvenue



WELCOME

In France, **state schools are free and education is compulsory** for girls and boys from 6 to 16 years of age. A pupil can start school at 3 (sometimes 2, if places are available) and carry on beyond the age of 16.



Going to school is a **legal right** for French and foreign children living in France.

School respects and teaches the values of the French Republic: all children are admitted and respected, regardless of their origin, their nationality, their religion, their sex, their family status or any handicap they may have. Boys and girls study together and are treated equally.

State schools are non-religious: they respect each other's cultures, languages and religions. No child or adult is allowed to promote, in any shape or form, his/her religious beliefs or political opinions at school.

At school, your child will learn French. Being able to speak French is necessary because French is the language of the Republic. At school, it is in French that your child will learn to speak, read, write and count. However, it is important for him/her to keep on using his/her native language.

At school, children learn how **to live together**, to get to know each other better and to share their cultures.

Starting primary school

Primary school consists of 5 different levels according to the child's age: the "cours préparatoire" (CP) from 6 to 7 years of age, the "cours élémentaire" first and second year (CE1 from 7 to 8 and CE2 from 8 to 9), the "cours moyen", first and second year (CM1 from 9 to 10 and CM2 from 10 to 11).

A teacher is responsible for each class and you can talk to him/her with complete trust. You should not hesitate to ask questions that seem important to you. You will be regularly informed of your child's progress or difficulties thanks to the "livret scolaire" (school report).

At primary school, being late or absent has to be justified and school hours must be respected.

At primary school, your child will learn to read, write and count. He/she will study sciences, technology, history and geography. He/she will practice music, sport and will go to the swimming pool. He/she will use a computer. All these activities are important for his personal development. They are compulsory.

Mastering the French language is a priority for your child and will enable him to learn all the different subjects. All adults at school will help him/her to learn French. You can also help him/her to learn French by involving him/her in sporting, cultural and social activities in your area.

The common base of knowledge and skills brings together the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that are necessary for your child to succeed at school, in his personal life and in his future life as a citizen.

An individual skills booklet will enable you to follow your child's progress at school.

A test of knowledge and skills takes place in CE1 and CM2 for each pupil.

Your child will be able to benefit from **individual tutoring** to help him progress at school, especially in learning the French language. **Short courses to help your child upgrade his/her level** in a given subject can also be offered for a week during school holidays.

In the evening at home, ask your child what he/she has done at school, what he has learnt and what he/she is going to do the next day. Talk with him/her.

Try to reassure your child, pay attention to what he/she is learning, to what he/she has to say about what is happening in his/her new school, in his/her new country.

You can ask to meet the teacher of your child or the primary school headmaster/mistress.

