

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 nursery school

Going to nursery school on a regular basis will help your child to make a good start in learning French: **to master French is absolutely necessary for your child to succeed at school.**

At nursery school, your child will learn how to speak with adults and other children. He will learn how to draw, sing, dance, play, count, talk, invent... and start writing.

Your child will discover books and basic writing; he will prepare himself to go to primary school.

Your child will also learn how to live with adults and other children of his age and to respect school rules and regulations.

Taking your child and picking him/her at specific times from the nursery school will give you the chance to meet teachers and other parents. If you are unable to collect your child from school, he/she can be taken care of by another adult if you have given your written consent.

School breaks are times when your child can rest between activities. They take place in the school yard under the supervision of the teachers. They encourage physical activity and exchanges between children of different ages.

At lunch time, your child has the possibility to eat at school: the meals are well-balanced. They respect food regulations and, if possible, comply with religious traditions at your request.

In the afternoon, your child can rest in a supervised and specially equipped room.

You can ask to meet your child's teacher or the headmaster/mistress.

