

Welcome to School in Heinola

Minna Repo



Pieni KAUPUNKI, ISO ELÄMÄ  Heinola

General

- 5 pre-primary units
- 4 primary schools
- 1 lower secondary school
- 1 upper secondary school
- 2 vocational schools



Basic Education in Finland

- Includes grades 1-9
- For children between 7-16 years (pre-primary for 6-year-olds)
- Well-known worldwide
- Child-centred
- Based on trust
- High teacher professionalism
- Free of charge for families
- Creative and academic elements combined
- Focus on student welfare



The Process for Foreign Students

Reception (1-2 academic years)

Welcome 1

Welcome 2

Personal
Learning
Plan

Assessment

To Basic
Education

Contact Ms. Minna
minna.repo@heinola.fi
or Ms. Annakaisa
annakaisa.kinnunen@heinola.fi



Starting the Study Path in Heinola

First contact

- For pre-primary, contact Ms. Annakaisa Annakaisa.Kinnunen@heinola.fi and for schools, Ms. Minna minna.repo@heinola.fi as soon as you have **an idea** of your children moving to Heinola

Welcome 1 meeting at the school

- The school will invite you with your student(s) to Welcome 1 meeting
- An interpreter will be available (please tell your preferred language during the first contact with Ms. Annakaisa or Ms. Minna)
- In the meeting, you will need an email ID and your Finnish social security number, student's vaccination card (if you have them) as well as your home address in Heinola
- During the meeting, all important information will be shared both ways and the necessary paperwork will be completed



Reception Year(s)

Objectives

- To learn Finnish
- To gain other skills needed to study in basic education
- To support the integration with the new culture

Implementation

1. Inclusion in pre-primary or primary school class (6–10-year-olds)
2. Reception class VALO (11–16-year-olds)



Structure

Yearly

- Two terms
- Longer breaks between the terms (roughly two months in June-July and 2-3 weeks in December-January)
- An autumn break in October and a winter break in February
- A few national holidays (typically 1 day at the time) along the year (Easter, Independence Day etc.)

Weekly

- School day according to the given timetable (roughly 8/9-13/14 o'clock)
- 4-6 lessons and many breaks per day 😊
- Free lunch every school day



What to Expect And What We Expect

- Modern learning environments and pedagogy
- No school uniforms
- Caring and highly educated education professionals
- Balanced school days
- Free books and other study materials
- A lot of outdoor time regardless of the weather
- Nutritious school lunch every school day free of charge
- Punctuality



Thank You!

Minna Repo

