

ADMISSION POLICY



**Ressun peruskoulu
Ressu Comprehensive School
Helsinki, Finland**

*Updated information regarding the aptitude tests and application deadlines can be found on the school website
www.ressu.y.edu.hel.fi*

Created November 2016

Reviewed October 2020

Reviewed April 2021



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RESSU COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

To be reviewed April 2022



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Mission Statement

Ressu Comprehensive School's objective is to support the growth of children and young people into honest, responsible, cooperative, inquisitive individuals who value a variety of skills and are environmentally responsible. The school aims to provide the students with knowledge and skills as well as prepare them for postgraduate studies. The school supports the development of social skills and healthy self-esteem. Students are encouraged to express themselves and to be creative thinkers, who respect and appreciate different cultures and worldviews.

Ressu Comprehensive School is a Helsinki city operated, accredited IB world school (Grades 1-9). The school has two language streams: Finnish (A-stream) and English language acquisition (B-stream). Ressu Comprehensive School follows the Finnish Basic Education Act with regards to student age and grade level. **All teaching and learning follow the Finnish national core curriculum, which is underpinned by the IB-framework.**

Finnish stream

Ressu Comprehensive is the local school for students living in the admission area. Language of instruction is Finnish. There is no aptitude test for the Finnish language classes. In exceptional circumstances students from another Helsinki city admission area may be enrolled. Please see the Helsinki Education Division's website for more information.

English language acquisition stream

Ressu Comprehensive English language acquisition classes are intended for students with native level English skills residing in Helsinki. This way the school serves also internationally mobile families living in Helsinki. Students come from a wider Helsinki area, and are subject to aptitude tests. For the academic year 2021-2022, the 1st, 2nd, 7th and 8th grade class levels are capped to a total of 52 students, and other class levels to 25 students. Language of instruction is mainly English (80%), and all students also study compulsory Finnish language. Guardians are strongly encouraged to support their child also in their Finnish language studies. If the family is planning to stay in Finland for a longer time, please note that the leaving age in compulsory education has been raised to 18. If the



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child is to complete their comprehensive school in Finnish they will have wider possibilities for further education in Finland.



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Grade 1

All children residing in Helsinki, who have turned six during the calendar year, will receive a letter from Helsinki Education Division in November-December. This letter contains more information regarding grade 1. Students start grade 1 in August of the year they turn seven. Guardians wishing to enrol a child younger than this, need to enrol their child in pre-primary education.

See the school website for information about information evenings.

Aptitude tests

The aptitude tests measure students' ability to study entirely in English. Only language skills are tested. Tests are held in January - February (Grade 1 and Grade 7 only) and in August (grades 1-9). See [application details](#).

January/February test

The January/February tests are only for the prospective first and seventh graders residing in Helsinki and applying for the English language acquisition classes. All applicants living in Helsinki at the time of this session must participate in this test.

The grade 1 test is provided by the city of Helsinki and is the same for Ressu Comprehensive and Maunula English speaking class. Students are not expected to be able to read or write. The test includes a group test (comprehension) and an interview.

The grade 7 test applies to Ressu Comprehensive, Maunula and Kulosaari.

Most seats are filled based on these tests, and some remain vacant until August. Applicants, who are not yet admitted after the January-February tests, can be considered in August.

The registration times and the necessary details including how to return the application form, will be published on our website closer to the application period.

Families, who move to Helsinki during Spring/Summer with grade 1 or 7 aged children, have a chance to enrol their child to take the grade 1 or grade 7 test in August. The



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available seats will be allocated based on the aptitude tests (taking into consideration the scores from the January/February tests).

August test

As families relocate, there may be some availability for grades 1-9. Up-to-date details can be inquired from the school secretary. August test is arranged for prospective students in Grades 1-9, and the places are filled the same day. The tests focus on communication skills and ability to study in English (comprehension, grammar, age-appropriate writing including spelling). Interviews are held only for the prospective grade 1 students, who have moved to Helsinki after the January-February test. Prospective grade 8 and grade 9 students must also pass an initial level of language test in Finnish in addition to the aptitude test in English.

Exact registration dates and instructions can be found on the school's webpage closer to the second application cycle.

Please note that applicants from Helsinki are given priority over applicants from other municipalities.

Admission criteria

- Child has native English skills.
- Guardians are committed to support the child in the IB framework.
- Both legal guardians of the child must agree to the application.
- Applicant's permanent address is within the city of Helsinki.
- *Prospective Grade 8 (MYP4) and Grade 9 (MYP5) students will also need to have an adequate level of Finnish (CEFR A1.2) in order to attend English language acquisition classes at Ressu Comprehensive School. They will be required to take a language test in Finnish in addition to the aptitude test in English.*

Application details



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All tests are by invitation only. If the prospective student meets the admission criteria, please fill out an application form, found on the school website, and return it according to the instructions in the frame of the registration time. Applications which arrive before or after the registration time are not accepted.

Application deadlines: please check the updated details on our website.

Please note: the school place can only be confirmed once the school has a confirmation of student's Helsinki address. This means that the applicant must have an address in Helsinki by the time of the aptitude test.

Special needs in the aptitude test

If a prospective student has any diagnosed special needs and/or requirements, a doctor's certificate or a psychological evaluation must be sent to school minimum one week prior to the aptitude test.

Accepting the school place

Once the student has been offered a place at Ressu Comprehensive School, guardians need to either accept or reject the offer within two weeks. The school starting time cannot be postponed, the student needs to be present from the beginning of the academic year. Only existing students, who have been studying at Ressu Comprehensive for a minimum of one academic term, have the right to apply for a leave of absence. Such a leave of absence is discretionary and can be granted for a maximum three months. If a student is absent during the Spring term, the guardians must confirm the return of the student prior to the end of May in order for the school to be able to allocate the school place to another applicant.

Preparatory Class

Helsinki city preparatory class (Grades 7-9) operates within Ressu Comprehensive School. This is a separate Helsinki city programme, which does not follow the IB-framework and is intended for students with no Finnish skills. Preparatory education lasts for up to one year. Preparatory education groups study the Finnish language and key concepts of other school subjects. Every student receives their own study plan. At the earliest possible stage, student practises these skills with mainstream Finnish-speaking classes in as many



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subjects as possible. When the student's language skills are adequate, they can move to regular classes at the level corresponding to their age and skills in their local school. There is no aptitude test for the preparatory classes. For more information about enrolment in preparatory education, see the Education Division website.

<https://www.hel.fi/helsinki/en/childhood-and-education/comprehensive/what-how/preparatory/enrol-preparatory-education/>