

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.fi*

Created November 2016

Reviewed January 2020

To be reviewed December 2020



ADMISSION POLICY

RESSU COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

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 students follow the same curriculum, which is underpinned by the IB-frameworks.**

Finnish stream

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

English language acquisition stream

Ressu Comprehensive English language acquisition classes are intended for internationally mobile families living in Helsinki. Students come from a wider Helsinki area, and are subject to aptitude tests. 1st grade class is capped to 26 students and other classes to 25 students. Language of instruction is mainly English (80%).



ADMISSION POLICY

RESSU COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Grade 1

All children residing in Helsinki, who have turned six during the calendar year, will receive a letter from Helsinki Education Department in December. This letter contains more information regarding 1st grade. At Ressu Comprehensive, like other Helsinki city schools, once students start Grade 1 in August they will have turned, or will turn, 7 during the Autumn term. Guardians wishing to enroll a child younger than this are encouraged to enroll their child in a pre-school. It is possible in exceptional cases to contact a private educational psychologist to obtain a certificate of maturity.

An information evening is arranged for prospective Grade 1 and Grade 7 parents in January 2020. More details will be available on our website closer to date.

Aptitude tests

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

February test

The February test is for prospective first and seventh graders only. The aptitude tests focus on student's ability to communicate in English.

The 1st grade 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 (comprehensive) and an interview.

The 7th grade test is a group test and is for applying only for Ressu Comprehensive school.

Approximately half of the places are filled based on the February test and the rest remain vacant until August. Applicants, who are not yet admitted after February test, remain on the waiting list. All applicants living in Finland at the time of the February test must participate in this test.

Application form needs to be returned to the school secretary by email or by post. The registration time for the February 2020 test is from Jan 3rd to Jan 23rd.



ADMISSION POLICY

RESSU COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Families, who move to Finland during Spring/Summer with grade 1 or 7 aged children have a chance to enroll their child to take the Grade 1 or Grade 7 tests in August. The remaining Grade 1 and Grade 7 places will be allocated based on the aptitude tests (taking into consideration the February scores).

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 2020 test is arranged for prospective students in Grades 1-9, and the places are filled the same day. The tests focus on communication skills in English (comprehension, grammar, age appropriate writing including spelling). Interviews are held only for prospective Grade 1 students, who have moved to Helsinki after the February test.

Application form needs to be returned to the school secretary by email or by post. Registration time is only from April 1st to June 12th.

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

Admission criteria

- Child has native or near native English skills and guardians are committed to support them in the English language acquisition classes. Guardians need to be committed to support the child also in his/her Finnish language studies. If the family is planning to stay in Finland for a longer time, please note that **if the child is to complete their comprehensive school in Finnish they will have wider possibilities for further education in Finland.**
- 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.*



ADMISSION POLICY

RESSU COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Application details

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

Application deadline for the February 2020 test is January 23rd, and for the August 2020 test June 12th. Please check the updated details on our website.

Once you have submitted the application form you can expect the following: Provided that your application form is complete, you will receive an email within a few days *after the application period has ended* stating a date for an aptitude test (PYP and MYP) and an interview (Grade 1 only).

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 a week. 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 of one academic term. If student is absent during the spring term, the guardians must confirm the return of the student prior to the 15th of June in order for the school to be able to allocate the school place to another applicant.



ADMISSION POLICY

RESSU COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Preparatory Class

Helsinki city preparatory class (Grades 7-9) operates in the same building with Ressu Comprehensive School. This is a separate Helsinki city programme, which does not follow the IB-framework and 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 his/her own study plan. At the earliest possible stage, student practices these skills with mainstream Finnish-speaking classes in as many subjects as possible. When the student's language skills are adequate, he/she can move to regular classes at the level corresponding to his/her age and skills in his/her local school. There is no aptitude test for the preparatory classes. Application form to preparatory class can be printed from the Helsinki Education Department's website. The form can also be filled in at the Helsinki Education Department's Information office. (Source: *Helsinki Education Department*)