

## **HELLO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A NEW STUDENT TO THE SCHOOL!**

In all comprehensive schools, foreign language learning starts in the first grade. The name of the language is A1. Explore the language options with your child beforehand.

### **In Turku, English can be studied as an A1 language in all comprehensive schools.**

If a student is studying English as an A1 language, they can also choose an A2 language in the fourth grade. There are different A2 languages in schools. However, the study of Swedish starts at the latest in the sixth grade.

### **At Hannunniitu School, English or Spanish can be studied as an A1 language.**

The Spanish group starts if there are enough students. If a student is studying Spanish as an A1 language, they will start studying English in the fourth grade. In addition, Swedish starts in the sixth grade.

Please contact Timo Lehtinen, Head Teacher of Hannunniitu School, if your child wants to study A1 Spanish.

### **At Luostarivuori School, English or Swedish can be studied as an A1 language.**

The Swedish group starts if there are enough students. If a student is studying Swedish as an A1 language, they will start studying English in the fourth grade.

Please contact Juha Mäenpää, Deputy Head Teacher of Luostarivuori School, if your child wants to study A1 Swedish.

***You must choose a language when you enrol your child in school.***

### **For further information, please contact:**

Marja Haastola, development teacher of language teaching in Turku basic education (primary schools), tel. +358 40 482 7927 [marja.haastola@edu.turku.fi](mailto:marja.haastola@edu.turku.fi) (for enquiries about language learning or language paths)

Head Teacher Timo Lehtinen, Hannunniitu School, tel. +358 400 944 245 [timo.lehtinen@edu.turku.fi](mailto:timo.lehtinen@edu.turku.fi) (Inquiries related to A1 Spanish at Hannunniitu)

Deputy Head Teacher Juha Mäenpää, Luostarivuori School, Martti and Kerttuli units tel. +358 44 907 4631 [juha.maenpaa@edu.turku.fi](mailto:juha.maenpaa@edu.turku.fi) (Inquiries related to the A1 Swedish at Luostarivuori)

## **In Turku, it is also possible to study different languages in language classes**

### **Bilingual teaching in language classes**

You can apply for English, French, German and Finnish-Russian classes when you enrol in the first grade. Applicants are invited to a language class test.

In bilingual education, it is not necessary to have a full command of the foreign language. Approximately 25% of the teaching of subject content is in the target language throughout comprehensive school. In addition, the A1 language of the student is the same target language. However, the student learns to read and write in Finnish in grades 1 and 2. You can read more about language classes at <https://blog.edu.turku.fi/kieliluokat/en/front-page/> and <https://www.turku.fi/en/daycare-and-education/basic-education/determination-school/special-classes/language-classes>.

### **Swedish language immersion**

Usually, students apply for the Swedish language immersion class after language immersion pre-school, but you can also apply for it when school starts. You can apply for the class when you enrol for the first grade. All applicants are invited to a language class test.

During the programme, the student receives at least 50% of the teaching in Swedish. In early childhood education and pre-primary education, the share of language immersion is almost 100%, in grades 1–2 around 90%, in grades 3–4 around 70% and in grades 5–9 on average 50%. The student's A1 language is Swedish. In grades 1 and 2, the student learns to read and write only in the immersion language. You can read more at <https://www.turku.fi/en/daycare-and-education/basic-education/determination-school/special-classes/language-classes/swedish>.

### **Further information is available from**

Sirkku Alin, Development teacher for bilingual education in Turku basic education, tel. +358 40 358 0328, [sirkku.alin@edu.turku.fi](mailto:sirkku.alin@edu.turku.fi)

### **Information evenings for language classes (see also school websites)**

**Tue 9.1.2024 at 18.30** Turku International School <https://sites.utu.fi/tis/>

**Tue 9.1.2024 at 18.00** Puolala School, Kauppiaskatu 14 (English, German and Finnish-Russian) <https://blog.edu.turku.fi/puolala/>

**Wed 10.1.2024 at 18.00** Vähä-Heikkilä School (French) <https://blog.edu.turku.fi/vahaheikkila/>

**Thu 11.1.2024 at 18.30** Luostarivuori School Martti unit (Swedish immersion) <https://blog.edu.turku.fi/martti/>

**Thu 11.1.2024 at 18.30** Turku Teacher Training School (English) <https://sites.utu.fi/tnk/>

A student starts English as an A2 language in Grade 4 if they choose a language other than English as an A1 language in Grade 1.

The parent or guardian arranges transport to school if the student applies for a school other than their nearest one on the basis of language.

## **Teaching a student's mother tongue (MAI)**

If a student's mother tongue is not Finnish or Swedish, they can apply for MAI (mother tongue instruction). A student who has learned a language abroad, for example, can also apply for MAI. Currently, 28 different languages can be studied as mother tongues in Turku. The teaching complements basic education and is two hours a week. You can register for MAI via Wilma under "Applications and decisions (MAI application)".

You can read more at: [www.turku.fi/monikulttuurinenopetus](http://www.turku.fi/monikulttuurinenopetus) (Finnish only)