



What is primary school?

Primary schools in the Czech Republic fulfill internationally recognized norms of children's education. Children learn all the important information and skills needed for further education and for life in general. Schooling takes place from Monday to Friday according to the timetable. Classes are mixed, girls and boys are not taught separately in the Czech Republic.

In the first stage (school years 1 – 5) pupils learn to read, write, become familiar with the basic mathematics, nature, their environment, or history. Foreign language classes, computer skills, music, art, and physical education are also part of the curriculum. In the second stage (school years 6 – 9) students deepen their knowledge and learn disciplines such as physics, chemistry, biology, or more demanding Czech and international literature.

Primary school is also a place where children learn important social skills. Children meet, find new friends and develop their personalities, while preparing for their future personal, civic, and professional lives.

Who is it for?

Primary school is open to all children between the ages of 6–15. Foreigners have the same rights to primary education as Czech children. The only requirement is having been in the country for

a period of at least 90 days. Children without residence permit and/or with no Czech language skills will also be accepted.

Is it compulsory?

Yes, primary school attendance is compulsory for all children. It is determined by law and its breaking or disregard is a criminal act. If you are a foreigner newly arrived to the Czech Republic, do not be afraid to contact a primary school of your choice and ask for advice on when your child should commence his or her studies. School could offer your child an individual education plan and consult with you the best options for your child. Prior to commencing the first year of school it is also possible to arrange postponing the enrollment by one year if the child is not sufficiently fit physically or mentally. This needs to be confirmed by a medical specialist and educational and psychological counselling centre („pedagogicko-psychologická poradna“).

How to choose one?

Children usually go to the primary school close to their home. Each residential address has one allocated primary school in its near proximity to accommodate local children. You may also enroll your child elsewhere, but in your local primary school it is most likely that your child will be accepted.





There are both public and private primary schools in the Czech Republic. Public primary schools are free (it is only necessary to pay for school lunches, accessories, some textbooks, school trips contributions, etc.). In private schools there is a tuition fee, which can vary greatly. There are also specialized schools for children with mental, vision, speech, hearing, and other disabilities. During the second stage of the primary school children may also transfer to eight- or six-year gymnasium (secondary school). Time spent at a gymnasium is recognized as part of the compulsory nine year school attendance, the study is completed by the final exam („maturitní zkouška“, or „maturita“ in short). It is also possible to transfer to a gymnasium or other secondary school after completing the ninth year of the primary school, which leaves four years of secondary school study to complete it.

How to enroll?

Select one preschool, or more, that is close to you. You can check their websites or visit them in person to better decide which one you like best. You will find the list of preschools on the website of the municipality in which you live.

Enrollments to first year of school usually take place in April, so that there is enough time to get everything organised by September when school year begins. School year starts in September and ends in June. Each primary school makes public exact enrollment

dates and instructions, what to do and what to bring with you on the day. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. Check the website to get everything ready on time. If your child is older (for example, if you moved to a new city, or a new country), contact the school of your choice. They will tell you whether they have spaces available and give you information on the best way to enroll.

I don't know what to do, I can't speak Czech, I need help!

If you need any help in choosing the right primary school, with the procedures, documents, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us right away. We will gladly help by providing translations and other language services, we can take you to the school, or get all the necessary information for you. Most primary school employees speak some English, some may also speak other languages. However, it is always better to make use of our professional translators which we can provide for you for free.

Contacts

Centrum pro integraci cizinců | www.cicpraha.org

Meta, o.p.s. | www.meta-ops.cz

InBáze, z.s. | www.inbaze.cz

www.metropolevsech.eu

www.rodinaprorodiny.cz

