

*Welcome to
Parents' Evening*



**Together we grow,
encounter and
raise our children!**

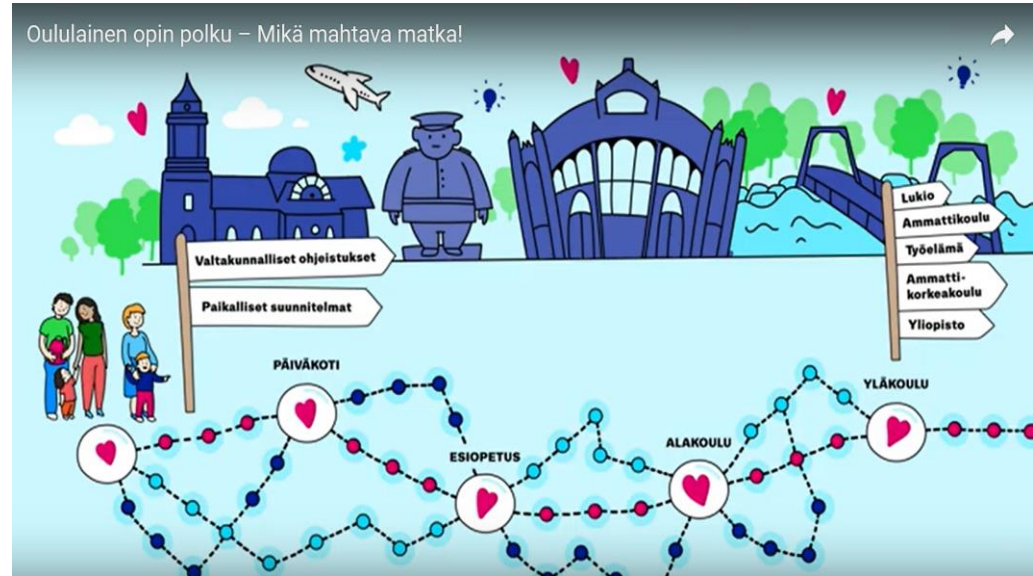


OULU

Shared path of growing and learning

Welcome to the shared path of growing and learning

- The path of learning in Oulu area.
- Supporting children's transition phases
- Thoughts or questions of the video?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW_ssl2M3s4&t=14s

Englanninkielinen tekstitys löytyy videon asetuksista.



Lapset puheeksi; Let's talk about children -discussions

- In the city of Oulu, families are offered the Lapset puheeksi discussion, in which the child's everyday issues related to home, daycare and school, as well as hobbies and free time are discussed together.
- Lapset puheeksi discussion is a means of getting to know each other and it helps to increase a common understanding of important issues for children and young people, which affect their wellbeing and the flow of everyday life.
- The LP discussion can be held **when the child transfers to the 1st and 7th grade, or when the child's or the family's situation changes or when concerns arise.**
- [Lapset puheeksi – YouTube](#) (6:41) (only in Finnish)

Supporting the child and the family

- Families are supported by the school's teaching staff, Student Welfare and Youth Services professionals.
- Sometimes the support of stakeholders other than the school's are needed. In accordance with the City of Oulu community effectiveness model, there is multidisciplinary cooperation to support the families' needs.
- Together with the family, we determine which professionals are needed to support the family (for example, professionals from Child and Family work, Social Services, Health Care or organizations).
- Support may be needed especially when there is a change in the family's life, for example a divorce, a parent's illness, unemployment, or if the child or young person has problems at school or at home.
- The goal is to support the child or young person's development and better everyday life at an early stage.



Every school day matters

- Student absences have increased in recent years in all grade levels. We work closely with guardians to ensure that the student's schooling goes smoothly. We use the newly-introduced attendance support model, which includes procedures for supporting student attendance and preventing, monitoring and addressing school absences.
- **The role of the family is important.** At home, guardians monitor their child's schooling and make observations about school-related problems, changes in behavior or absences. The model has a separate section for families, which contains information for guardians on **how to act in a situation where going to school is a challenge.**
- Guardian is responsible for their child to complete of compulsory education (Compulsory Education Act § 9)



Attendance

- We expect guardians to see that their children attend school every day, are punctual and properly equipped.
- **Absences can be authorised for illness, religious observance, bereavement or other special circumstances.**
- If the reason for absence is other than illness, guardians should apply for leave of absence. Application form can be found in Wilma > Hakemukset (Applications).



Absences due to illness

- Download Wilma app.
- Click the emoji with thermometer in the mouth.
- Add the needed information

Attendance

- Notify the Class/Homeroom Teacher of an absence **well in advance**. The Class/Homeroom **Teacher authorizes any absences up to five days**, any longer absences are applied from the Principal.
- Guardians are advised **not to take family holidays during school times**.
- Students are expected to ask their teachers for homework for each day of their absence.
- Teachers do not prepare lessons, extra homework or give tutorials for students whose families choose to extend holidays.
- If the absence is longer than one month, guardians apply for **suspension of compulsory education** (oppivelvollisuuden suorittamisen keskeyttäminen). The form to apply can be found in Wilma > Hakemukset. In the application, you will need to provide information on how your child's education is arranged during the absence.

School attendance is directly related to academic progress

Harrastamisen aarrearkku, Hobbies in schools



- Free hobby activities for gr 1-9 students during the school day.
- In all schools and is based on the hobby wishes of children and young people.
- You can find the schools' hobby calendars on a common electronic platform, through which you can also register for **clubs offered at your own school, or for clubs in nearby schools**, if there is room in them.
- Schools also offer hobby groups and clubs implemented with the City's club funding. Schools inform about their own clubs at the beginning of each term (see Wilma).
- **Welcome to try out a new hobby - Check out available clubs [via this link](#)**



Safety Skills Education in schools in Oulu

- The Finnish Basic Education Act demands that there is a plan on protecting students from bullying, harassment, and violence in each municipality.
- Safety skills taught at school:
 - Emotional and interaction skills (Tunne- ja vuorovaikutustaidot)
 - Coping skills (Selviytymistaidot)
 - Digital safety skills (Digiturvataidot)
- With the help of safety skills education, as a parent you support your child's well-being and teach your child to act in threatening situations in both the real world and the digital world.
- Every child has the right to grow up in safety, and the responsibility for safety always lies with us adults.
- **You are your child's most important safety skills educator!** Emotional, interaction and safety skills are practiced and strengthened throughout the study path.

Support for parenting: www.turvataitokasvatus.fi/vanhemmille

In English: <https://www.turvataitokasvatus.fi/briefly-in-english>

Material also available in Swedish, Somali, Arabic and Dari



**Digiarjen
suositukset
perheille**

*Kurkkaa suositukset
ja muu materiaali*

turvataitokasvatus.fi

A promotional graphic for digital safety education. It features a cartoon character of a blue smartphone with a smiling face, arms, and legs, standing on a purple and blue background with pink and blue curved lines. The text is in white and black, with the website URL in bold black.

Anti-Bullying Policy at OLS

- **Zero-tolerance** -> We take immediate action taken if we suspect, or are reported of, bullying during school time.
- We follow an anti-bullying procedure by the City of Oulu.
- Parents will be kept up-to-date about the process.
- School has no authority to order punishments and school rules do not apply **on the way to school or home.** School may, however, support guardians to find solutions -> eg. services of the school psychologist or school social worker
- Guardians are responsible for resolving incidents occurred **during free time** (birthday parties, Internet etc.) or on the way to school or home.



Assessment

Objectives:

- to guide and encourage learning and to develop student's self assessment skills (formative assessment).
- to describe, to what extent the student has reached the goals set for the subject (summative assessment).

Assessment in Basic Education is based on learning, competence, working and behaviour.

Working skills are the skills developing during basic education

- to work independently as well as with others
- to plan and assess one's work
- to take feedback into account and act accordingly
- to act responsibly, trying one's best and
- to act constructively in interactive situations.

More information on assessment:

<https://www.ouka.fi/oulu/oulu-international-school/curriculum1>

(see the column on the right for class-specific info)

Finnish Language

- OIS students learn Finnish as a mother tongue (**FMT**) or Finnish as a second language (**FSL**).
- FMT and FSL have different curricula. The assessment is also different. FSL students study either in the FSL group or are integrated to FMT group.
- The assessment system is the same as in other Finnish schools where all subjects are taught in Finnish and students thus learn Finnish in every lesson.
- In FSL the focus is more on developing students' language skills and using the language as a tool of interaction and learning.

Finnish Language

- Read, listen and speak Finnish every day. Go to libraries, watch TV shows, get a Finnish speaking hobby and friends....
- Finnish reading fluency should keep on improving for the first five years of basic education, and it only happens by reading.

*Knowing Finnish
opens doors to:*

- *Finnish higher education*
- *Job opportunities*
- *Integration in the Finnish society*
- *and much more!*

Reading

- Students' reading comprehension skills develop when they read books in their free time encouraged by parents.
- The vocabulary and diverse linguistic structures acquired from books are important for the development of content comprehension.
- The level of literacy of thousands of young Finns is so poor at the end of basic education that it limits their lives and may obstruct their paths to further studies and working life.
- The differences in literacy skills are increasingly dividing young people into those who do well in their lives and those who do not.

*Every 10th
young person in
Finland has poor
level of literacy.
The gap between
girls and boys has
increased.*

What do you as a family do to support your child's reading skills?

Communication

Wilma: absences, lates, undone homework, supportive measures, guidance discussions etc.

-> Update your Wilma and make sure it works!

- OIS Handbook, OIS website, Facebook, Instagram
- Development meetings start in September. Invitations come through Wilma from class and homeroom teachers.
- Apply for longer absences through Wilma → Hakemukset /Applications.
 - Consider carefully before applying for longer absences during school time.

Drop-off point



- Drive carefully!
- Speed limit 10km/h.
- Drive all the way up to the very end of the driveway (near the PYP entrance) to the student drop-off point.
- Do not stop or park your car in any of the teachers' parking spaces.
- Taxis only on Valjastehtaankatu.

At home...

- Name all possessions (clothes, shoes, hats, gloves...).
- Make sure your child sleeps 8-10 hours.
- Enjoy dinners together as a family, talk about table manners and encourage children to taste different kind of foods.
- Support your child with their homework.
- Discuss the successes and challenges your child may have faced at school.

OULU INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

2023 - 2024



*Joy of learning in a diverse and caring
environment*

Before and after school...

- Students are not supervised and thus are the responsibility of their guardians before and after their school hours.
- Students should not come to the school building too early, and after school they are expected to go to either **afternoon care, an organised club activity, or home** within 30 minutes.
- Students are not insured more than half an hour before and after school.



Reviewing the future of the IB programme in Oulu International School

- Most of the international schools (c.11) in Finland follow only the National Finnish curriculum without the IB programme.
- In Finland, only OIS and Ressu School in Helsinki implement the IB programme in a gr 1-9 comprehensive school.
- Related to the future of the IB programme at OIS, the Education Department of the City of Oulu is conducting a *child rights impact assessment*.
- Child rights impact assessment is a tool to predict the impact of any proposed law, policy or budgetary allocation, which affects children and the enjoyment of their rights. The objective of the assessment is to find the best solutions for the children.
- An online survey for guardians is sent through Wilma today.
- Guardians' answers are taken into consideration in the review.
- Students will answer their own survey at school within one week.
- This assessment is done in order to consider the need of the IB programme in Basic education in the Finnish context at OIS.



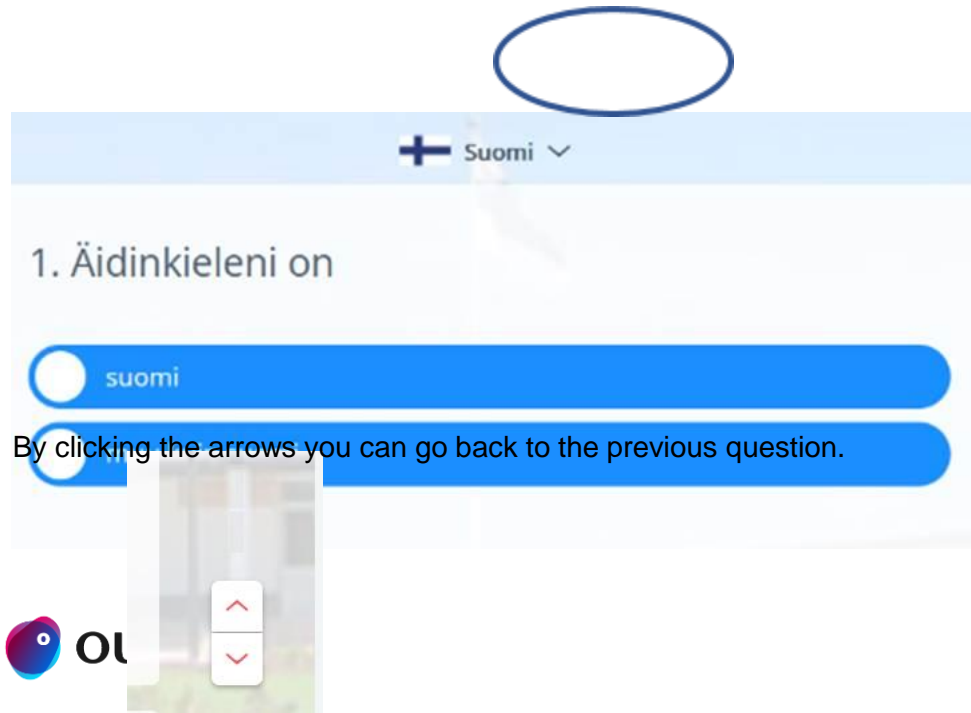
Reviewing the future of the IB programme in Oulu International School



- IB programme -specific features are:
 - Project based learning
 - Criterion based assessment (in addition to the criterion from the Finnish national curriculum) → more assessment tasks
 - Conceptual learning (Key concepts)
 - Producing academic texts in gr 7-9
 - Learning without school books
 - MYP Personal Project in gr 9 and PYP Exhibition in gr 6
- Many of these features can already be found from the Finnish National Curriculum.
- Please take a moment to answer the survey and give your valuable feedback to the school. (QR code and link will be added here)
 - Last time, in 2021, we received less than 70 answers.
- As a result of the review, OIS continues to follow both the National Finnish Curriculum and the IB-programme, or just the Finnish National Curriculum in English.

Reviewing the future of the IB programme in Oulu International School

You can change the language of the survey (see the picture):



Parents' survey link:
<https://zef.fi/s/coofb43u/>



Welcome to OISPA!

- OIS Parents' Association OISPA consists of parents representing different classes.
- They organize fund raising and other activities for the benefit of the school, and share any school-related thoughts and ideas from the class community with the school.
- OISPA feels that they have a special duty towards our many international families to welcome them to the Finnish culture and society and support them through their integration.
- Chair of OISPA is Holly Conolly. Contact Holly by email hollyberrycooks@gmail.com. You can find OISPA group @OIS Parents' Association from Facebook. Welcome to join!



Welcome to Path of Learning in the City of Oulu!