

WELCOME

TO OULU INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

GUIDE FOR NEW FAMILIES



Structure of the School Day

8:15	Lessons according to timetables
9:45-10:10	Break
10:10-12:00	Lessons and lunch according to timetables
12:00-12:30	Break
12:30 -14:00	Lessons according to timetables
14:00-14:15	Break (Snack Bar open)
14:15-15:45	Lessons according to timetables

At OIS students spend their break times mainly outdoors, and therefore all students should wear weather appropriate clothing.

School lunch is provided free of charge to all students. Please add your child's dietary requirements in Wilma.

Students should not come into the school building too early and must leave the school premises the latest 30 minutes after their last lesson ends, unless they attend a school club or are in afternoon care. Students are not supervised before and after their school hours and thus guardians are responsible for their child.

School Terms and Holidays

Autumn term 6.8. – 19.12.2025

Autumn holiday 20.–24.10.2025

Independence Day 6.12.2025

Christmas holiday 20.12.2025– 6.1.2026

Spring term 7.1. – 30.5.2026

Winter holiday 2.–6.3.2026

Easter holiday 3.-6.4.2026

Vappu/1st of May 1.5.2026

Ascension Day 14.5.2026

Home - School Cooperation and Wilma

The main communication channel between home and school is called Wilma. Wilma is used for marking absences, lesson behavior, tests and project deadlines as well as schedules, assessment and pedagogical documents.

If you need to reach your child's teachers or other staff members, please send them a message through Wilma. Teachers will read and reply to messages in Wilma as soon as possible, usually between 8-16 on school days.

You can log into Wilma at <https://ouka.inschool.fi/>

Absences

Guardians must notify the school on the first day of the student's absence and continue to notify about the absence every day until the child returns to school. Please mark your child's absences directly in Wilma under Lesson notes – this way all teachers who are teaching your child can see them automatically. If you are travelling for holidays, you can apply for a leave of absence through Wilma.

Shoeless school

Our school is a shoeless school, which means that students will leave their outdoor shoes in the shoe racks by the main doors that lead to the break yard. It is, however, not mandatory to buy a pair of indoor shoes. Wearing socks is just fine as well.

Transportation to and from School

In Finland students are allowed to go to and from school without an adult escort if the guardians see that their child is responsible enough to make the journey independently.

Kasarmintie and the OIS driveway are very busy especially at peak times (8-9am). Guardians driving their children to school are asked to be extremely cautious on or near the school grounds. The speed limit for the OIS driveway is 10km/h. To keep the traffic flow as smooth as possible, please drive all the way up to the very end of the driveway to the student drop-off point.

Library Card

The school library is an important learning environment for all students. Therefore, all OIS students need a library card, which you can get free of charge in the Oulu City libraries. You can read more about obtaining a library card at <https://www.ouka.fi/oulu/library/library-card>

Language Studies

While living in Finland, learning Finnish is essential. All OIS students take Finnish lessons according to the Finnish National Core Curriculum for Basic Education. OIS offers Finnish as a Mother Tongue (FMT) and Finnish as a Second Language (FSL) lessons.

As per the Finnish Education law, all OIS students in grades 6 to 9 also study Swedish, which is the second official language in Finland.

The City of Oulu also offers optional language studies starting in grade 5. Your child's teacher will inform about the application process in grade 4.

In addition, the City of Oulu organizes voluntary mother tongue lessons based on the need that arises. You can ask for more information from the School Secretary Kati Tiikkainen (kati.tiikkainen@ouka.fi).

Health Care and Dental Care

In Finland you can receive free health and dental care at the Public Health Care Clinics during the weekdays and at Oulu University Hospital during evenings, nights and weekends. In a case of an emergency, please call 112. You can read more at <https://pohde.fi/en/front-page/>

OIS has a part-time nurse, whose main responsibility is to perform health checks. The school nurse also takes care of the children's vaccinations, not including the seasonal influenza and covid vaccinations. The school nurse meets students with pre-booked appointments, but also offers a few walk-in hours per week. You can check the current walk-in hours at OIS website.

If a guardian must stay home from work to look after a sick child under the age of 10 or 12, the school nurse can provide a certificate of absence for their employer. In that case, please call the nurse to get the certificate. The certificate cannot be provided afterwards.

The Principle of a Safe Childhood in Finland

The idea of a safe childhood is the founding principle of parenthood and the upbringing of children in Finland. Therefore, the use of disciplinary violence —both physical and mental— is forbidden by law in Finland. Instead, guardians are expected to listen, discuss and understand, as well as lovingly guide and respect their children.

“The relationship between child and parent is the most important relationship in a child's life. Children need to be cared for and made to feel that they are loved and respected for who they are. Children also need boundaries, and boundaries that are set out in a positive way create security. Parenting requires the ability to talk to, justify and negotiate with a child. Everyday routines such as bedtimes and meal times are permanent boundaries that allow everyone's energy to be focused on other things.” (Ensi- ja Turvakotien liitto. *Towards a Safe Childhood*. 2016.)

You can read more about the Principle of a Safe Childhood in the publication by Ensi- ja Turvakotien liitto called *Towards a Safe Childhood* https://issuu.com/ensijaturvakotienliitto/docs/towards_safe_childhood_4270f47b2f4b86

Translations of Wilma Marks

Lesson marks		Absence marks	
Kotitehtävät huolehdittu hyvin	Homework done well	Kilpailumatka	Tournament trip
Tsemppasit tänään	You did your best today	Lomamatka	Holiday trip
Plussia	Plus; positive mark	Myöhäst alle 15 min	Late less than 15 min
Kiitos	Thank you	Myöhäst yli 15 min	Late over 15 min
Otit vastuuta opiskelustasi	You took responsibility for your learning	Selvittämätön	Unclarified (requires a clarification from a guardian)
Työskentelit hienosti yhdessä toisten kanssa	You worked well with others	Terveyssyy	Health reason
Osait keskustella asioista	You were able to discuss	Koulutyöhön liittyvä poissaolo	Absence related to schoolwork
Kotitehtävät tekemättä	Homework undone	Luvaton	Unauthorised
Otit toiset huomioon	You considered others	Muu hyväksytty poissaolo	Other authorised absence
Eriyisen hyvää työskentelyä	Excellent work		
Autoit toisia oppilaita	You helped other students		
Olit hyvä kaveri (välitunnilla)	You were a good mate (during break)		
Positiivinen muutos koulutyöskentelyssä	Positive change in school work		
Opiskeluvälineet puuttuvat	Equipment missing		
Häiritsee työrauhaa	Disturbs the lesson		
On läsnä, mutta ei osallistu työhön oppitunnilla	Is present but does not participate		
Epäasiallinen käytös	Inappropriate behaviour		
Muu merkintä	Other reason		
Luntaus kokeessa	Cheating in test		
Läksyparkki	Homework/test done after school		
Tupakointi koulualueella ja/tai kouluaikana	Smoking in the school area and/or during school hours		
Oppituntia häiritsevän esineen poistaminen (lomake)	Confiscation of an object distracting lesson (form)		

