FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT KINDERGARTEN

Saanich School District

Please contact your neighbourhood schools, through teachers and administrators, with any questions or concerns you may have.
Please check the Saanich School District Website for full details.

1. What is the process for registering my child for Kindergarten if I live within the school catchment area?

- Registration week usually takes place the last week of January at your neighbourhood school.
- After January, please check https://saanichschools.ca/kindergarten-registration-fall-2025

2. If I live beyond the school catchment area, what is the process for registering my child for Kindergarten?

- Parents and guardians wishing a **transfer to an out-of-catchment school** and living within the Saanich School District need to first register at their neighbourhood school and complete an ***Application for Out-of-Catchment*** form.

3. Where do I register for French Immersion?

- Parents registering children for **French Immersion** programs should do so at Keating School (for residents in the Central and South Zone, i.e. Keating, Brentwood, Cordova Bay, Lochside and Prospect Lake) or Deep Cove School (for North Zone residents, i.e. Sidney, **ḴELSET** and Deep Cove). French Immersion registrations are the second week of January, with the possibility of a Lottery two weeks later.

4. What are the school catchment area boundaries?

- **To identify your Catchment School**, please see our School Locator Tool **here**.
- School contact information can be found for each school at saanichschools.ca/our-schools
- Or contact Reception at the School Board Office (250-652-7300). We can enter your address into the computer and your neighbourhood school will be identified.

5. What is the District Policy regarding placement of students following registration?

- Administrative Procedure 305 – 'Student Enrolment and Choice' sets direction and states the belief that students within the school catchment area should be placed in their neighbourhood schools, when space is available. This policy also identifies a priority order for entitlement.
  - live in the school's catchment area.
  - are assigned to a school by District administration.
  - have a sibling already enrolled in the school.
  - have approved enrolment in a Board-designated program.
  - are in-district, but living out-of- catchment for the school.
  - are from outside the Saanich School District.

6. Can I wait until my child is 6 and then enroll him/her in school?

- Yes. Kindergarten is an optional program. Parents can choose to defer their child's start to the following year.
- Parents are required to have their children registered for school or homeschooling by the calendar year in which they turn 6. If parents decide to delay school enrolment for the 5-year-old, they should discuss with the principal the best placement for their child when they enter school at age 6.

7. If my child is registered in Kindergarten, can he or she attend less than full-time?

- According to the *School Act*, school attendance is not mandatory for 5-year-olds. Therefore, even though you may have registered your child in a Kindergarten program, it is not mandatory that he or she attend kindergarten all day every day.
- The District recognizes the need to be flexible regarding the amount of time a parent wants the child to attend each day. We expect you will work together with school administrators and the kindergarten teacher to determine what is best for your child.

8. What is gradual entry?

- Kindergarten students begin with a gradual entry process, initially coming to school for shorter days. The gradual entry process supports your child's transition from home and/or pre-school to the school environment.
- Shortened sessions with a smaller group of children provide the teacher an opportunity to get to know the children and to introduce them to their new environment in a personal way.
- For a variety of reasons, children need different lengths of time to adjust to group situations. Positive social interaction can be facilitated and encouraged by beginning in a smaller group.

9. How will you make sure my child will be safe—in the classroom and on the school grounds?

- The safety of all children in Saanich schools is of utmost importance. The Saanich School District is committed to creating safe, caring, orderly schools with environments for learning.
- "Being safe" in school has many meanings, including physical safety and well as emotional, social, and psychological safety. Parents and guardians can be assured that all social identities (racial, cultural, gender) are valued. All children and families are welcomed into Saanich schools! Our similarities and differences strengthen us and give us reason to celebrate.
- All children will be supervised during play and eating periods. While the kindergarten teacher may not directly supervise your child's playtime (as may have been the case when he/she was in pre-school), supervising school staff will be in attendance. In addition, there may be times when the kindergarten teacher takes the children outside for playtime, time during which she/he will interact with the children and support their development through outdoor play.
- All schools have a school "Code of Conduct" based upon respect for all people, children and adults alike, to support the development of acceptable social behaviour.
- If you have questions or concerns about safety or the well-being of your child, you are encouraged to contact your child's teacher or an administrator at the school for more information.

SAANICH SCHOOLS