

Education in the Netherlands

When must children living in the Netherlands start attending school?

In the Netherlands, most children start attending school at the age of 4. Children between the ages of 5 to 18 are required to attend school as set out in the Dutch Compulsory Education Act.

You can register your child at a primary school close to your home or a school affiliated with the childcare facility. Your child may first attend a transitional class to learn the Dutch language.

Remote education for children between the ages of 5 and 12 is not permitted during regular school hours.

Children between the ages of 12 and 18 who do not speak Dutch will attend the Internationale Schakel Klas (ISK) [International Transitional Class] in the region where they live. Students attend this ISK for two years, on average, to subsequently transfer to secondary education or senior vocational education.

For children between the ages of 13 and 18, remote education will only be permitted subject to certain conditions if the school at which they are registered is willing and able to cooperate with this. The school at which the student is registered is responsible for the quality of the education.

Attending a school in the Netherlands is free but parents can be requested a voluntary contribution.

You, as the parent, are responsible for registering your child at a school. You must make sure that your child attends school every day. This means that your child must arrive at school on time and attend all lessons in accordance with the school schedule. Except when the school is closed.

If your child is ill, you must inform the school that your child will not be attending class that day.

If your child fails to attend school in accordance with the school schedule, this may have consequences for the parents and children aged 12 and over. Children aged 12 and over can be imposed a study order or community service and parents will be subject to a monetary fine.

However, the municipality will always first discuss the situation with you to determine why your child fails to (sufficiently) attend school and find an appropriate solution together.

For more information about education in the province of West-Brabant, visit:

www.rblwest-brabant.nl