

Schooling in France

Education in France is compulsory for all children between the ages of 3 to 16.

In the public sector schooling is free of charge, co-educational and non-religious. Due to the principle of catchment areas, children are allocated to schools according to their home address. Schools in the private sector are fee-paying and the principle of catchment areas is not applied.

The French educational system is divided into 4 levels :

L'école maternelle : nursery school. *L'École maternelle* teaches pupils **from 3 to 6 years old**. It is sometimes possible for a two-year-old to attend *l'école maternelle* if places are available. It is divided into 3 classes depending on the children's age: "petite section", "moyenne section" and "grande section".

L'école élémentaire : primary school - *L'École élémentaire* is for pupils aged between 6 and 11. It is made up of five year groups: CP, CE1, CE2, CM1 and CM2.

Le collège : junior high school/ lower secondary school. *Le collège* teaches pupils aged 11 to 15 who have been through primary school. It is a four-year programme consisting of the sixth, fifth, fourth and third grades ("sixième", "cinquième", "quatrième" and "troisième"). At the end of the « troisième », pupils sit the « brevet des collèges » examinations.

Le lycée – senior high school/ upper secondary school. *Le Lycée* teaches students who have passed the "brevet des collèges" and wish to carry on academic, technological or vocational studies. It is made up of the three final years of secondary education (classes are known as "seconde", "première" and "terminale"). In the last two years of the lycée students prepare for the « baccalauréat » aka « le bac » - the examination that qualifies the successful candidates for entrance to university.

Many children who move to France do not necessarily speak French. Before integrating the French state school system, pupils who have just arrived in France take an evaluation test. Pupils who need support are taught in special teaching teams(UPE2A) that allow them to be enrolled in classes with their French peers.

REGISTRATION

The following documents are required to enrol your child in a French school:

- Your child's birth certificate translated into French by a sworn translator
- Your child's vaccination record book
- Proof of address dated less than 3 months
- The ID papers (passport and residence permit) of the parent accompanying the child.

You should also bring, if applicable, your children's school records if they attended school in another country.

Enrolment in a nursery or primary school

To enrol your child in a state nursery or primary school, you need to go your local town hall with the required documents. A registration certificate will be issued at the town hall and you will be invited to contact the headteacher of the school which your child will attend.

To enrol your child in a private nursery or primary school, you should contact the school of your choice directly.

The Centre de Mobilité Internationale de Brest has made every effort to ensure that the information mentioned above is accurate and it cannot be held responsible for any possible errors.

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For more information regarding enrolling your child in a primary school in Brest, please read the following booklet published by Brest town authorities - (It is only available in French).

https://www.brest.fr/fileadmin/imported_for_brest/fileadmin/Documents/publications/Pratik_EcolesInscription2020.pdf

For more information regarding schooling in France :

https://cache.media.eduscol.education.fr/file/Livrets_bilingues/14/7/ENAF_depliantAnglais_545147.pdf

https://cache.media.eduscol.education.fr/file/Livrets_bilingues/11/9/ENAF_depliantArabe_545119.pdf

https://cache.media.eduscol.education.fr/file/Livrets_bilingues/15/9/ENAF_depliantRusse_545159.pdf

There are 68 state primary schools and 18 private primary schools in Brest.

For information regarding state primary schools in Brest :

https://www.brest.fr/fileadmin/imported_for_brest/fileadmin/Documents/publications/livret_enfant_ecole_2019.pdf

Downloadable booklets about state primary schools in Brest:

<https://www.brest.fr/petite-enfance-et-enfance/aller-a-l-ecole/les-ecoles-maternelles-et-elementaires-a-brest-1902.html>

List of private primary schools in Brest : <https://www.enseignement-prive.info/onglet/ecole/brest-29200>

Enrolment in a *collège* or a *lycée*

You should contact the **Inspection Académique** in Brest (5 rue Yves Collet – tel : 02 98 43 84 24 - email : ce.0290136r@ac-rennes.fr). You will be given an appointment with an orientation advisor from the nearest centre known as C.I.O. Depending on vacant places and the place where you live, your child will be directed to a school and class for his or her level.

If you opt for a private *collège* or *lycée*, you can enrol your son/daughter in the *collège* or *lycée* of your choice provided there is space and that your son/daughter's application is accepted.

There are 9 state *collèges* and 6 private ones in Brest.

List of state *collèges* : https://www.education.gouv.fr/pid24302/annuaire-resultat-recherche.html?college=2&lycee_name=&localisation=1&ville_name=Brest+%2829%29&public=1

List of private *collèges* : https://www.education.gouv.fr/pid24302/annuaire-resultat-recherche.html?college=2&lycee_name=&localisation=1&ville_name=Brest+%2829%29&prive=2

There are 10 state *lycées* and 7 private ones in Brest.

List of state *lycées* in Brest : https://www.education.gouv.fr/pid24302/annuaire-resultat-recherche.html?lycee=3&lycee_name=&localisation=1&ville_name=Brest+%2829%29&public=1

List of private *lycées* in Brest: https://www.education.gouv.fr/pid24302/annuaire-resultat-recherche.html?lycee=3&lycee_name=&localisation=1&ville_name=Brest+%2829%29&prive=2

Please note that *Lycée Amiral Ronarc'h* has an international section for bilingual Spanish speakers who can sit the Spanish version of the OIB (International Option Baccalaureate).

Lycée Sainte-Anne has an international section for bilingual English speakers who can sit the British version of the OIB (international Option Baccalaureate).

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