



Gemeente
Amsterdam



Starting Primary School: School Year 2018-2019

Enrolling and registering for
primary education in five steps

Starting Primary School

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Start

Children in the Netherlands can start primary school when they are four years old. Amsterdam has rules for enrolment for primary education. This policy is called the City Admissions Policy (*stedelijk toelatingsbeleid*).

Making a choice

There are different types of primary schools; public schools and independently-run state schools, all funded by the government. Schools can also have different educational approaches. To decide what suits your child best, it is wise to visit different schools before enrolment. To find out about the possibilities for visiting, enquire at the individual schools.

When your child is about three years old, you will receive a letter and an enrolment form (*aanmeldformulier*) from the municipality. You can enrol your child at any school in Amsterdam. Simply submit the enrolment form to your school of first choice. If there are more enrolments than available places at a certain school, rules determine which child has first priority.

Priority at a school

Children have priority for placement at the eight primary schools nearest to the child's home address. These priority schools (*voorrangsscholen*) are determined by the walking distance between the home address and the school. Priority is not the same as a guarantee (see page 2).

Your child might also have priority at certain schools where not the walking distance but a specific religious background counts. These schools are gbs Veerkracht, Rosj Pina, Cheider, Crescendo and De Morgenster. For more details, contact the schools.

The schools at which your child has priority can be found at schoolwijzer.amsterdam.nl (in Dutch and English). Simply fill in your address to find out which schools are closest.

Please note: 12 schools in Amsterdam are not participating in the City Admissions Policy. If you wish to enrol your child at any of these 12 schools, you must do so directly – visit the schools' websites for the latest enrolment information. Ten of these schools are located in the South district, one is in the Centre district and one in the North. Their names can be found at schoolwijzer.amsterdam.nl, although they will never appear as a priority school in the search tool.



Enrolment

You can only enrol at a primary school using the enrolment form. Personal details are printed on the form; check whether these are correct and make any changes if necessary (if the printed address is not correct, always enclose proof of address with the enrolment form). Fill in the form completely, putting your chosen schools in order of preference (your first choice at number 1, your second choice at number 2, and so on). Then sign the form and submit it to your school of first choice.

This school will send you a confirmation of your enrolment within a week. Check all the details on the confirmation thoroughly; if anything is incorrect, contact the school as soon as possible.

You have to enrol your child before the end of the enrolment period (*aanmeldperiode*), which depends on your child's date of birth. There are three enrolment periods each year. The letter accompanying the enrolment form shows which period applies to your child. You can also find the enrolment periods at schoolwijzer.amsterdam.nl (in Dutch and English).

Placement

The school will enter your enrolment in a computerised system. Your child will then be assigned a place. If the school has enough places for the number of enrolments, your child will automatically be granted a place. This happened for more than 90% of previous enrolments. If there are more enrolments than places available, children with priority receive a place first. The remaining places are assigned to children without priority.



Registration

Once the places have been allocated, parents receive a letter from the school at which their child has been placed. This letter contains a registration deadline. Make sure you formally register your child at the school in time! Once you have confirmed this place at the school, your child is formally registered.



Starting school

When your child is four years old he or she will start in group 1 at primary school. You can arrange the date of your child's first school day with the school itself.

Rules for priority

The rules for priority apply in the following order:

1. The child has an older brother or sister at the school of first choice at the time he or she reaches four years of age: admission is guaranteed;
- 2a. The child has a referral for Preschool and Early Education (VVE indicatie), attends the preschool connected to the school for at least 8 month 4 day parts, and the school is one of the eight priority schools based on address;
- 2b. The child attends an Integraal Kind Centrum (IKC) to which the school belongs for at least 8 month 4 day parts, and the school is one of the eight priority schools based on address;
3. The child's parent is employed at the school on a permanent contract;
4. The school is one of the eight priority schools based on address.

More information

Helpdesk Stedelijk toelatingsbeleid

toelatingsbeleid@bboamsterdam.nl / 020 251 8006

bboamsterdam.nl

The site of BBO (the association of school governing bodies in primary and special education) provides more information on the general school admissions policy, the available capacity per school and the results of previous placement rounds.

amsterdam.nl/schoolwijzer

At this site you can find an overview of every school in Amsterdam, and look up your child's priority schools based on address.

Enrolment schedule 2018-2019

Child's date of birth:

1 September to 31 December 2014

1 January to 30 April 2015

1 May to 31 August 2015

Closing date

8 March 2018

1 June 2018

1 November 2018

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