



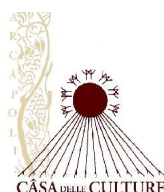
Comune di Cervia



Comune di Ravenna



Comune di Russi



TO FOREIGN PARENTS

HOW THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WORKS IN ITALY



Preliminary information for
admission of your children

This booklet has been translated into 7 languages:
Albanian, Arabic, English, French, Russian, Rumanian and Macedonian.

English Text

WELCOME

TO RAVENNA AND ITS SCHOOLS

This little booklet gives us an opportunity to greet you and to help you to understand how the Italian school system works.

You can enrol your children immediately, even if the academic school year has already begun.

You need to know that all children have the right to attend school, even if they are not yet fully registered according to law for residence purposes.

(ONU International Convention on Children's Rights, Article 28)

HOW MANY YEARS OF SCHOOL

Compulsory school education (*) lasts for 10 years:

- 5 years of primary school
- 3 years of middle school
- 2 years second phase of specialisation in preparation for high school

Nursery: ages from 0 to 3

Nursery school

(Kindergarten) ages from 3 to 6

Primary school (*)	ages from 6 to 11
Middle school (*)	ages from 11 to 14
2 years specialisation in preparation for high school (*)	from 14 to 16

High School ages from 16 to 19

Compulsory school is free of charge.

At primary school books are given free of charge; families have to buy notebooks, pens and pencils, paints...

THE DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR ENROLLING IN SCHOOL

- **Birth certificate** (If you do not have this document, bring your passport and/or residence permit).
- **Vaccination certificate** (A visit to the health assistant will be arranged for you and they will certify the state of good health of your child and organise any further vaccinations needed).
- **Documents from previous schools** (If you do not have these documents then the parent has to declare, under their own responsibility, the classes attended by the child in the country of origin).

At the time of enrolling forms have to be filled out for:

- Choice of the type of school
- Teaching of the Roman Catholic religion
- Enrolment in school dinners
- Enrolment in pre-school and post-school activities

Enrolment in the school bus system

SCHOOL HOURS

In many schools the parents can choose between two possibilities:

- 1) 40 hours per week from Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm with school dinners.
- 2) 27 or 30 hours per week from Monday to Saturday, with home times in the afternoon determined individually by each school.

The lessons begin at 8.30 am (in some schools 8.00 am)
It is important to be punctual.

Find out the times of you child's classes immediately.

HOW TO ENROL YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL DINNERS

In almost all the schools there is a school dinner service. The parents pay a fee for their child's lunch.

For reasons of health or religion it is possible to request a special diet at the time of enrolment at the secretary's office of the school.

FOR PARENTS WHO START OR FINISH WORK LATE

To help families that have unusual working hours, some schools organise PRE-SCHOOL (from 7.30 to 8.30 am) and POST-SCHOOL activities (from 4.30 to 5 pm).

TEACHING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION OR ALTERNATIVE CHOICE

In Italian schools teaching of the Roman Catholic religion is optional. Therefore at the time of enrolment the parent has to declare whether they intend for their child to have:

- Teaching of the Roman Catholic religion.
- Educational group activities
- Individual study and/or research activities with the assistance of a teacher
- Leave the school.

WHAT IF YOU LIVE A LONG WAY FROM THE SCHOOL

It is possible to request school transport in a mini-bus paying an annual fee.

THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school year lasts for about 9 months.

It begins in the middle of September and ends in the middle of June.

There are two holiday periods:

Two weeks at Christmas (usually from 23 December to 6 January)

One week around Easter (in March or April)

Then there are some isolated holidays distributed throughout the year.

The school will inform in writing you whenever there is something in your child's school diary.

It is important always to check the school diary!

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Whenever your child does not go to school the parent has to explain the reason.

In the case of illnesses lasting more than 6 days a medical certificate stating that the child has recovered is necessary for the child to return to school.

WHAT DO THE CHILDREN LEARN AT SCHOOL

The Italian language.

A foreign language (*from the first year of primary school: English; in the second year another foreign language may be added*)

Mathematics

Science and technology (*general science and computer*)

History

Geography

Social studies

Art (*art activities and art education*)

Physical Education (*Motory education, physical education*)

Music

HOW SCHOLASTIC RESULTS ARE EVALUATED

Every school year is divided into two parts (two terms of four months).

In January and June the teachers evaluate the scholastic results of the child and prepare a school report which is given to the family.

PARENT – TEACHER MEETINGS

During the school year meetings are organised between the parents and the teachers. These are very important occasions for speaking together and getting a better understanding of the school curriculum.

Parents and teachers can work together for the education of the children and their successful integration.

INTERVIEWS

Every teacher informs the parents of the day on which they can meet to talk about the child, his/her difficulties and progress, in an individual interview.

The parents may also ask for an interview with the teachers.

If you wish to talk about your child ask for an interview with the teacher without delay.

INTRODUCTION OF YOUR CHILD INTO THE SCHOOL

For introduction into the new class, getting to know the school and for help in the initial stages, your child will be accompanied by a cultural mediator who (almost always) speaks your language.

Usually the mediator also meets the family.

You also can request a meeting with the mediator.

Furthermore the teachers will organise personalised teaching activities for oral and written Italian.

In some schools there are specialist teachers whose job it is to teach Italian to foreign children.

REMEMBER!

If you have some doubt or difficulty you can always contact your child's teacher.

There are also many services available for the family:

- the **"Casa delle Culture"** intercultural documentation centre, open from Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm where courses are available for adults to learn Italian, computer and English free of charge;
- the **"centro Ababa"**, open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and Friday from 2.30 to 5.00 pm, is a place for foreign women and mothers also with small children;
- the **newspaper library (emeroteca)** with books and newspapers from various countries of the world, is open from Monday to Friday 8.30am - 12.30 pm and Friday and Saturday 3.00 - 6.00 pm and Sunday 4.00 - 7.00 pm;
- **"La scuola sotto gli alberi"**, a **centre of recreational activities** for children (ages from 6 to 11), is open in July and August. For more information contact "Casa delle Culture";
- **foreigners office** is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.15 am - 13.15 pm and Tuesday, 14.30 pm - 18.30 pm;
- **CTP**, permanent territorial institute for adult education organizes free Italian courses; for enrolling in school contact the teachers Monday 17.00 pm - 19.00 pm.

The addresses and telephone numbers are in the city guide services.

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COME
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