SCHOOLING IN FRANCE
The education system in France is organised in 4 main levels - nursery school, elementary school, secondary school (“collège & lycée”) and higher education. Read this document designed by the CASNAV (academic centres for the education of new arrivals and travellers’ children) to find out more. The French school system includes three types of schools:

- Public / State institutions run by the government
  Public/state schools are entirely free. The French education system has been based on the principle of secularism since the 19th century. Education is compulsory from the ages of 3 to 16.
  For more information on the key principles of the French education system, [click here].

- Public/State schools under contract and subject to government control

- Private non-contractual schools, subject to inspection by the government

Within the private schooling system, there are a variety of schools – for example, faith-based, bilingual, international, offering alternative teaching methods (Montessori or others).

To find out about all the educational institutions in your region, [département] or town, go to: [https://www.education.gouv.fr/annuaire]

THE SCHOOL YEAR
The school year starts in September and finishes at the end of June/start of July. A standard school week runs Monday through Friday from 8.30 am to 11.30 am and from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm. In some schools, children may attend school on Wednesday mornings. Outside school hours, childcare facilities are provided: morning and evening care, canteens (for lunch) and supervised study (after classes in primary schools).

There are 5 periods of holiday in the year. Metropolitan France is divided into 3 zones - A, B and C - which group together the different educational regions. A [calendar of the current school year] will give you the precise breakdown of the holiday periods.

EDUCATION FOR NON-FRENCH SPEAKING CHILDREN
In order to accommodate as best as possible children who do not speak French (known as ‘allophones’), educational units for newcomer allophone pupils (UPE2A) have been established. Through these units, pupils can be enrolled in a class corresponding to their age and level, while benefiting from additional teaching in French depending on their needs.

The child’s level of proficiency in French is assessed upon arrival in order to organize a coaching programme.

Upon arrival

ENROLLING YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL
To get support when enrolling your child in a school, you can contact the CASNAV of your [département].

Look at the public service pages for more information about enrolling non-French speaking children in a nursery, primary or secondary school (collège or lycée).

CHILDCARE OPTIONS
Your child is too young to go to school before the age of 3. There are different childcare options for children aged 2 months to 3 years.

To find a childcare facility, contact your town hall or check the dedicated site of the Caisse d’Allocations Familiales.

- Community childcare: public crèche, the micro-crèche or the parental crèche
  The cost of public crèches is calculated according to your income. Ask for information about fees when you register your child.

- Kindergartens
  Kindergartens welcome children aged two to six. They are somewhere in between a crèche and a nursery school.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN
- The leisure centre: for children and teenagers
  The leisure centre welcomes children during extracurricular periods (school holidays or a full day without school except at weekends) and school periods (morning or evening childcare before or after classes).
  Specialist childcare staff offer leisure activities such as arts and crafts, indoor and outdoor games, cultural and sports activities, etc.
  Contact your town hall to enrol your child at a leisure centre. A financial contribution will be requested. It is calculated according to the family income.

For further information on leisure centres, [click here].