

## THE SCHOOL – Part 1

### Your son has just arrived in Italy?

In Italy schooling is a **right** and an **obligation** for all children and teenagers up to **16 years of age**.

To enroll your child, you will be asked for his “**codice fiscale**” - tax code and “**indirizzo di residenza**” - residential address, but if you do not have them, it is still your right to enroll him.

Enrollment in school is obligatory because in Italy there is compulsory education. The school term begins in September and ends in June but you can enroll your child at any time of the year.

### Which school can I enroll my son?

Get to the nearest school to your home and ask for the “**segreteria scolastica**” - school office. The school will help you to enroll with the documents required. It is also possible to enroll online, but only at specific times of the year.

The school will accept your child and evaluate the knowledge that he has developed in the country of origin. You must know that a child or a teenager can be collocated in the same age group, at most, a year before, or a year after, depending on his knowledge. The knowledge of Italian language will not affect the evaluation of your child. For example, if your child is 7, he can be collocated in the second grade but may also in first or third grade. For high school, you must prove that your child has attended at least 8 years of school in the country of origin.

It may happen that a school is full and there are no more vacant for new pupils. In this case, the school should help you find another one where you can send your child.

You can ask your school whether they makes use of “**mediatori linguistico culturali**” - cultural linguistic mediators, who can help you in filling-in the documents and in full understanding of your rights and duties. In many schools, there are also free Italian language courses for foreign pupils.

Upon enrollment, the school will ask if your child intended to attend Catholic religion lessons or alternative courses. It is your child's free choice.

You will be also asked if you let him have lunch at school. You can decide freely whether to enroll them for the canteen service or to have lunch at home. The school canteen offers different menus for pupils with allergies or diets related to religion or health. The cost of the meal depends on your income, which you can declare with a document called “**ISEE**”. Beware that if you do not have the documents in order, you cannot request for ISEE and therefore the fee of the canteen service will be automatically calculated at the highest rate.