WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS

KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRY PLAN 2026–2027

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KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRY 2026-2027

What is Kindergarten gradual entry?

Kindergarten Gradual Entry is a developmental model of transition planning emphasizing the interconnected relationships among the child, teachers, family, peers and community that are developed across time (Pifiata & Kraft-Sayre, 2003).

All schools in the West Vancouver School District follow a Kindergarten Gradual Entry program.

What does Kindergarten Gradual Entry look like in West Vancouver?

In the West Vancouver School District, Kindergarten children will be welcomed into their new school on September 9, 2026 by their classroom teachers in small groups. During the Kindergarten Gradual Entry period, children will attend school for shorter periods of time to ensure a smooth and successful transition. You will be contacted by your child's school regarding the assigned attendance dates and the specific times for your child's gradual entry.

During your child's first two weeks of school (September 9-18) there will be many opportunities to personally connect with their Kindergarten teacher and other key school staff members.

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What does Kindergarten Gradual Entry mean for my child?

This means your child will have focused time to connect with their Kindergarten teacher and adjust to the new social and emotional realities of the elementary school context. This ‘gift of time’ will also allow children and teachers to work in small, personalized groups, as they settle into new school routines and relationships in kindergarten.

Teachers will be introducing children to classroom routines and procedures, easing the transition in a more individualized way so our children feel comfortable and valued as an important new members of our school communities.

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What does Kindergarten Gradual Entry mean for our family'?

The West Vancouver School District recognizes that a child's first teacher is their parent(s)/ caregiver(s). The Kindergarten Gradual Entry process offers families the opportunity to share valuable background knowledge with school personnel.

When are children ready for school?

In West Vancouver Schools we believe that all children are "capable and full of potential. All children are celebrated as strong, competent in their uniqueness, and having a secure sense of belonging. Children can experiment, investigate, and inquire in ways that are relevant and meaningful to them. They are provided with opportunities to enrich and deepen their relationships with place, land, and community. Within the contexts of their individual and cultural identities, children are listened to and valued for their ideas and knowledge." (Government of BC Early Learning Framework)

On Friday, September 18, 2026, all Kindergarten families are invited to a Kindergarten picnic. This is an opportunity for families to connect with other families and enjoy a picnic outdoors. More details to come!

We look forward to welcoming your child to school!

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KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRY 2026-2027

Week 1- Kindergarten Gradual Entry Begins

September 9-11, 2026

Monday September 7	Tuesday September 8	Wednesday September 9	Thursday September 10	Friday September 11
		FIRST DAY! Small group 2 hour session	Small group 2 hour session	Small group 2 hour session

Week 2- Kindergarten Gradual Entry Continues

September 14-18, 2026

Monday September 14	Tuesday September 15	Wednesday September 16	Thursday September 17	Friday September 18
Half day K 12:00 pm finish	Half day K 12:00 pm finish	Half day K 12:00 pm finish	Half day K 12:00 pm finish	Half day K 12:00 pm finish 12:30-1:30 pm K picnic for all Kindergarten families (invitations to come)

Week 3- Full Day Kindergarten Begins

September 21 - 25, 2026

Monday September 21	Tuesday September 22	Wednesday September 23	Thursday September 24	Friday September 25
Full Day Kindergarten	Full Day Kindergarten	Full Day Kindergarten	Full Day Kindergarten	Professional Development for teachers. School not in session.