



Finland study visit

Tuesday 17 – Saturday 21 September 2019

About the study visit:

Children in Scotland is delighted to offer you the unique opportunity to learn first-hand about education, society and life in Helsinki, Finland, as well as the chance to exchange knowledge and best practice with a range of delegates from across the Scottish children's sector workforce.

The trip is open to anyone engaged in education, childcare and the welfare of children, young people and families – from early years practitioners to educational psychologists, head teachers, academics and administrators.

Here's what previous delegates from our October 2018 trip thought:

This has been a fantastic learning experience which was coordinated with precision.

I am already applying so much to my work in Early years and believe we can learn a huge amount from what I experienced

I met some wonderful fellow professionals and made some really interesting connections with people who share my values and beliefs about what good quality provision looks like for a child and their family in the Early Years.

Quotes from participants on our previous Finland Study Visit (October 2018)

Trip was excellent – very glad I went.

Thank you for a wonderful experience which was incredibly well organised and has allowed me to return to my post full of enthusiasm as to what we can improve

I would definitely recommend any Children in Scotland study visits to colleagues.

I expected to return with lots of new information, knowledge and enthusiasm...this was fully achieved.

Lovely to work as a team and too meet lots of interesting practitioners from Scotland – so much good learning.

Organisations and initiatives included:

This study trip focuses on sharing best practice in education and learning, as well as covering a range of other fascinating projects, policies and interventions that support children and young people in their everyday lives. Within the overall programme, you will have the opportunity to select your preferred study visits, thereby allowing you to shape the experience according to your specific interests and professional setting.

The following list offers a sample of the organisations visited on our previous study visits to Finland. Many of these will feature within the September 2019 trip (though we are still in the process of confirming the itinerary/programme, in liaison with our Finnish contacts):

- [Ministry of Education and Culture](#)

The Ministry of Education and Culture is one of the twelve ministries forming the Finnish Government. It participates in the work of the Government by planning, outlining and implementing its policies and has overall responsibility for the development of education, science, cultural, sport and youth policies, and for international cooperation in these fields. The main objective of the Ministry is to provide citizens with possibilities for personal development through education and cultural services, to guarantee the skills needed in the labour market, to reinforce the national culture, and to promote international cooperation.

- [Central Union for Child Welfare](#)

The Central Union for Child Welfare (CUCW) is a central organization that works as an active and unifying force in matters relating to children's rights on a national and European level. The CUCW aims for a situation where children's needs are a priority in decision-making and children's rights are implemented in full. Its mission is to develop child welfare and to promote cooperation between nongovernmental organizations, municipalities and state authorities.

- [Aseman Lapset \(Children of the Station\)](#)

Aseman Lapset is a non-political, non-religious, national not-for-profit organisation, working to create a personal and living interaction between adults and young people. Its activities are aimed at preventing children and young people from getting into a vicious circle of drug use, crime, and/or antisocial behaviour. Its overall goal is to support the healthy growth of children and young people and the natural interaction between young people and adults. Aseman Lapset's various programmes include its youth club, street mediation work, and a number of initiatives aimed at promoting safe adult contacts and the sharing of common spaces for all.

- [Finnish Education Evaluation Centre](#)

The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) is an independent government agency responsible for the evaluation of education. Its aim is to implement evaluations related to education, education providers and higher education institutions (HEIs). FINEEC's duties include supporting education providers and HEIs in issues related to evaluation and quality assurance, as well as to develop education evaluation, in an effort to support learning while ensuring the quality of education. The evaluations also produce information for local, regional and national decision-making on education as well as development work and international comparison.

- [International Childcare and Education Centre \(ICEC\) Play'N'Learn](#)

The ICEC has 8 centres (all situated in the Helsinki area), each of which are dedicated to early years education and childcare for children under the age of seven. Its approach to education is one which recognises the importance of both whole class teaching and of giving the

children the freedom to experiment and explore, using hands on activities to complete the learning process.

- [Me & MyCity](#)

Me & MyCity is a Finnish education innovation that has received international acclaim. Its story began in 2009. Me & MyCity is a learning concept aimed at school children, covering citizenship, working life and entrepreneurship. The Me & MyCity learning environment is a miniature city where students work in a profession and function as consumers and citizens as part of society. The learning concept includes teacher training, learning materials for ten lessons and a day-long visit to the Me & MyCity learning environment. Sixth-graders aged 12 to 13 participate in Me & MyCity under the direction of their teacher. There is also a programme for older age groups.

- [City of Helsinki's Mediation Office](#)

The Helsinki Mediation Office offers an alternative for settling and resolving cases arising from offences and disputes. The service is free-of-charge, voluntary, alternative, reasonable and confidential, and can be discontinued by the parties at any stage of the process. Mediation can be initiated by the police, prosecutors and by the parties involved in the case or by the parent or legal guardian of an under-age party.

- [Saunalahti Joint Comprehensive School](#)

Opened in August 2012, Saunalahti School has steadily grown to approximately 800 pupils, and caters for pre-primary age groups through to 9th grade (age 16). It is a local school, open to all, and prides itself on emphasising each pupil's strengths and striving to maintain the joy of learning. Saunalahti places children and young people at the heart of learning and activities. An individual learning plan is provided for each pupil, helping to ensure every opportunity to reach his/her own best potential. Instruction during pre-primary and early years is not tied to grades. The School focuses on sustainable development as well as on art and physical education as part of different learning processes. These themes have been considered when designing the facilities.

- [Heureka Science Centre](#)

Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre introduces the public to science and technology in an engaging and interactive way. Heureka first opened its doors to the public in 1989. Today, Heureka is one of Finland's most popular recreational centres, attracting an average of nearly 300,000 visitors each year. The Centre's operations are subsidised by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the City of Vantaa. Its vision is to offer an entertaining way to become enthusiastic about science; to learn and to spend time together. The centre works closely with schools and offers a variety of programmes. Heureka is also continuously involved in international and national learning and teaching development projects.

- [Vesala Comprehensive School](#) (age 7-15 years)

Located in eastern Helsinki, about 30 minutes from the city centre, most of Vesala's 850 pupils arrive from the neighbouring suburban area. Around 40% of the pupils have an immigrant background, and the socioeconomic status of the area is considered lower than the average. Vesala Comprehensive provides pupils with quality basic education and places emphasis on nature and science. The school has a large greenhouse with a variety of species of plants and animals. Special education/ASN provision also occupies an important role at Vesala. Annually, around 80-100 integrated pupils study in mainstream classes and 5 special education classes offer specialised education in smaller groups. There are also two preparatory classes for immigrants and two 'work-focused' classes.

- [Helsinki Mission](#)

Helsinki Mission is a social organisation active in issues regarding the welfare and protection of children and young people, as well as various other projects to tackle poverty and isolation within society. The organisation works in partnership with various agencies, including the City of Helsinki Social Services Department, as well as with educational institutions – primary schools, vocational schools, polytechnics and universities. It runs several key projects, including family support activities, a youth crisis point, and intergenerational activities.

- [Poutapilvi Day Care Centre](#)

There are about 120 children in Day Care Centre Poutapilvi, aged between one and six. Dayclubs Poutapilvi and Puimuri belong to the same day care unit. Poutapilvi's philosophy centres around enabling children's joy. A positive environment and attitude guides all of Poutapilvi's activities with the children in its care. Its goal is to allow all children the right to be a child and to become accepted and loved just as they are.

- [Finnish Schools on the Move programme](#)

Finnish Schools on the Move is a national programme aiming to establish a physically active culture in Finnish comprehensive schools. Schools and municipalities participating in the programme implement their own plans to increase physical activity during the school day. The Programme is one of the key projects in the field of knowledge and education of the Government of Finland. The goal is that "the Schools on the Move project will be expanded across the country to ensure one hour of physical activity each day". The method promotes sitting less during lessons and exercising more during break times. The aim is not to increase the number of PE classes, but instead to encourage learning through being active during other classes and break times. Currently, more than 90% of municipalities and 80% of comprehensive schools are involved in the programme.

- [KiVa school – Anti-bullying programme](#)

KiVa is a research-based antibullying programme that has been developed with funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The effectiveness of KiVa has been shown in a large randomized controlled trial. In Finland, KiVa is widely implemented: almost all comprehensive schools in the country are registered KiVa schools implementing the programme.

- [Playful Learning Centre](#)

A design, development and evaluation space for new digital learning tools and educational innovations aimed at preschool, primary and secondary schools. The lab is a collaborative hub – a playground of development – for researchers, industry, teacher education, teachers and educators from various sectors, parents and children themselves.

Costs

The cost to attend is £1250 for Children in Scotland members and £1350 for non-members*.

**membership entitles you to a range of benefits and starts at as little as £50 a year*

The price will include:

- Return flights from Edinburgh to Helsinki
- Airport transfers
- Accommodation for four nights including breakfast*
- Travel in and around Helsinki (using public transport)

- Children in Scotland staff members to accompany group
- Entry fees to attend visits to more than 10 organisations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Learning & Events team by emailing events@childreninscotland.org.uk or by calling 0131 313 8828.