

Overview

Population

The estimated population of Romania is 19 426 550.

Climate

Romania has four seasons.

Owing to its distance from the open sea, Romania has a continental climate. Summers are generally very warm to hot, with average maximum temperatures in Bucharest being around 29 °C (84.2 °F), with temperatures over 35 °C (95 °F) not unknown in the lower-lying areas of the country. Winters are quite cold, with average highs even in lower-lying areas being no more than 3 °C (37.4 °F) and below -15 °C (5 °F) in the highest mountains.

Education System (for Romanian children)

Age 3-6 Kindergarten

Age 6-14 Primary School

Age 14-18 Secondary School

From 18 years Higher Education

- College: 4 years
- University: 4-6 years

Kindergarten is optional under the age of six.

Compulsory schooling usually starts at age 6, with the "preparatory school year" (*clasa pregătitoare*) which is mandatory in order to enter the first grade. Schooling is compulsory until the tenth grade (which corresponds with the age of sixteen or seventeen). The school educational cycle ends in the twelfth grade, when students graduate receiving the baccalaureate. Higher education is aligned with European Higher Education.

The academic year is from September to mid-June. For grades five to twelve, a 1 to 10 grading system is used with 10 being the best, 1 being the worst and 5 being the minimum passing grade.

SEN: Only a small proportion of children with special needs have the opportunity to attend a regular community school where the majority of children do not have special educational needs. Most SEN children must attend a segregated school.

Education System – main differences and implications for schools

School starting age

Although some kindergarten schools may include learning of subjects such as foreign languages and music, children spend most of their time playing. In the last year of kindergarten children begin preparing for primary school.

School day

The school day is from 8 am to 1-2 pm in primary schools and 3-4 pm in secondary schools. Lessons last for 45 minutes with 10-15 minute breaks between them. Schools also offer after school (homework) clubs and other extracurricular activities such as sports, music etc. until 4 pm.

Primary school classes are taught by a single teacher (*învățător*) for most subjects. Additional teachers are assigned only for a few specialised subjects (Foreign Languages, Introduction to Computers, etc.).

The number of students in one class varies between 10 and 30, with no teaching assistants. Most schools use blackboards and whiteboards; interactive whiteboards and computers in classrooms are rare.

Children are encouraged to work independently, rather than doing collaborative/group work.

Usually each group has its own classroom. Each group has its own name, usually the grade followed by a letter of the alphabet (for example, VII A means that the student is in the 7th grade in the 'A' class).

Curriculum

There are up to 15 compulsory subjects (usually 8–13) and up to 5 optional subjects (usually 1 or 2). However, unlike in the United Kingdom or France, these optional subjects are chosen by the school and imposed on the student – they are known as School Decided Curriculum (*Curriculum la Decizia Școlii – CDȘ*) and are usually extensions to the compulsory subjects.

For primary school children the subjects taught are literature, grammar, maths, environmental studies, music, art, and PE. History is taught from age 11; biology, geography and physics from age 12, chemistry from age 13.

In primary schools foreign languages are taught from age 9-11 (usually English, German and French); although some schools and kindergartens offer foreign language education earlier.

Literacy

Primary school children use 3 lines at all times for any written work (similar to the British handwriting books) as opposed to using just one line.

Independent writing starts much later, usually from age 9-10. In the first year of independent writing children are expected to write 8-10 simple sentences.

Maths

Multiplication is taught from age 8 while division is taught from age 9.

Some mathematical signs differ in Romania. With multiplications they write a 'dot' instead of the x; the division sign is two dots above each other “:.”; decimals are written using commas rather than a full stop.

Methods taught for multiplication and division are different from those taught in English schools.

Competition between schools exists, as well as nationwide academic contests (known as *olimpiade* – olympiads). These are used to promote the best students. These contests are highly popular as they bring many advantages to the students taking part in them.

Cultural sensitivities

In the 1990s school uniform in Romania became mandatory at primary school level. However in secondary and higher education students are free to choose what they wear, but they still have to respect the dress code imposed by the school.

Nowadays, some Romanian schools are trying to bring back uniforms although this is difficult as most students have become used to the idea of choosing what they would like to wear.

In Romania there are schools where children wear uniforms but not everywhere.

Parental involvement and attendance in Romania

Romanian children have to repeat a school year if they do not achieve the expected minimum grade. The responsibility to achieve lies mostly with the parents; often parents have to pay for private tuition especially in Maths, Romanian or foreign languages to ensure their child achieves the expected grades.

Children are tested almost on a weekly basis, with regular feedback to the parents, who are used to regular feedback through frequent whole class and individual parents' evenings.

Children take all text books and exercise books home every day for homework so parents can see what they have been learning. In the UK Romanian parents often feel 'left out' or poorly informed about their child's progress and what they are learning at school - a home-school diary is very effective to put parents' minds at rest.

Parents also help their children with homework on a daily basis.

Language differences that may cause problems with Literacy

Spelling

Unlike in English, the names of the days and months are not written with capital letters in Romanian.
Romanian sounds are written as heard.
The Romanian alphabet has seven vowels: A, E, I, O, U, Ă and Î

Punctuation

Quotation marks are written differently: „Are you OK?” she asked.

Word order

Romanian is Latin based therefore there are lots of words in Romanian which are similar to English words (cognates) and can be decoded easily like: mine=mină; sun=soare; family=familia; school=școală etc.
In Romanian the word order is less rigid.

Gender/Articles

An intrinsic characteristic of Romanian nouns, as in all Romance languages, is their gender. However, whilst most Romance languages have only two genders, **masculine** and **feminine**, Romanian has a third, **neuter**.

The definite article in Romanian is attached at the end of the word.

Exp. *Frate**le*** = frate + **le** (*engl. the brother*)

Useful classroom words

Greetings

Welcome	Bine ați venit
Hello	Bună
Thank you	Mulțumesc frumos
Please	Te rog frumos
Goodbye (formal)	La revedere
Bye (casual)	Pa, Salut
Morning	Dimineață
Afternoon	După masă
Are you OK?	Ești bine?

School Routine

School playground	Curtea școlii
School office	Birou
Hall	Hol, sală
School	Școală
Assembly	Întrunire, meeting
Toilets	WC, toaletă
School field	Teren de școală
Classroom	Sală de clasă
Registration	Matricolă
Computer suite	Sala de calculatoare
Tutor group (class)	Grup de tutore
Break time	Pauză
Outside	Afară
Inside	Înăuntru
Fire drill	Exercițiu de incendiu
Packed lunch	Prânz la pachet
School dinner	Prânz la școală (gătită)
School nurse	Asistentă medicală
First aid room	Cameră de prim ajutor
Staff room	Camera personalului
Lunchtime	Pauză de masă
School uniform	Uniformă școlară
Library	Biblioteca
Reading book	Carte de citit
Library book	Carte de bibliotecă
Copy	Copie
Label	Etichetă
Colour	Culoare
Pen	Stilou
Pencil	Creion
Yes	Da
No	Nu

Days of the week

Monday	luni
Tuesday	marți
Wednesday	miercuri
Thursday	joi
Friday	vineri
Weekend	Sfârșit de săptămână

Numbers

Zero	zero		
One	unu		
Two	doi	20	douăzeci
Three	trei	30	treizeci
Four	patru	40	patruzeci
Five	cinci	50	cincizeci
Six	șase	60	șaizeci
Seven	șapte	70	șaptezeci
Eight	opt	80	optzeci
Nine	nouă	90	nouăzeci
Ten	zece	100	sută
How many?	Câți?		
Câte?			

Instructions/Questions

Work with a partner

Lucrează cu un partener.

Use your dictionary Folosește dicționarul.

Do you understand? Înțelegi?

Talk about this at home

Vorbiți acasă despre acest lucru.

Translate these words at home

Traduceți aceste cuvinte acasă.

You can write in Romanian.

Poți/Puteți scrie în limba română

Write in a sentence Scrie propoziții

Fill in the blanks Completați spațiile libere.

Annotate Explică

Highlight A evidențiază

Draft Schiță

Please be quiet Liniște, *te rog!*

Come here please Vino aici *te rog!*

Sit on the carpet Așezați *pe covor.*

Where does it hurt? *Unde te doare?*

Well done! Felicitări! Bravo!