



## Information to parents of a foreign origin

Your child is welcome to Flúðaskóli.

We place emphasis on welcoming new students and arranging the school structure in accordance with the needs of each and every one in order for everyone's talents to be best appreciated.

### **Program of primary schools in Iceland**

The role of the primary school is to prepare students for life and work in a democratic society which is constantly developing.

In Iceland education is compulsory for all children from 6 - 16 years of age and the school program is in the hands of the municipalities.

The school year is 180 days per year, from the end of August and until the beginning of June.

Schools issue a school calendar where information is published about holidays and school events.

When a child starts school in Iceland it needs to have received an identification number. Information about prior schooling, a health certificate and a vaccination certificate must follow an application for admittance to school.

Prior to school attendance the parents, along with the student, attend a reception interview at the school. There they meet the principal and

the supervisory teacher where the main points of the child's school attendance are reviewed.

In September every year standardized tests are held for grade 4, 7 and 10. 4th and 7th graders take a test in Icelandic and mathematics, 10th graders in Icelandic, mathematics and English. It is possible to apply for an exception for children who have been in Iceland for a short time.

### **Flúðaskóli**

The school's motto is "respect – knowledge" and the school's employees aspire to fulfill it. Flúðaskóli emphasizes outdoor teaching and has an outdoor classroom in a nearby wood, a shelter and fireplace are on site. The school is also a participant in the project Health Empowering Primary School.

The school uses mentor.is, which is a powerful information tool and makes it easier for custodians to follow their children's studies.

In Flúðaskóli an emphasis is placed on the wellbeing and safety of students and that no one is discriminated against on the basis of origin, gender, residency, class, religion or disability.

An emphasis is placed on students showing initiative, independence and self-discipline.

All children have a supervisory teacher who monitors their wellbeing and shares information with parents. Parents turn to him/her first concerning whatever has to do with the child's school attendance. The Flúðaskóli school administration can also be contacted.

The school provides an interpreter if needed.

A screening for reading is conducted in 3rd, 5th and 9th grade.

All students of the school receive lunch four days a week, which is paid for separately.

Students in 1st – 7th grade can have milk and fruits as a morning and afternoon refreshment if they have a subscription. Students in 8th – 10th grade can purchase morning refreshments at the 10th graders' shop or buy coupons for fruits or vegetables.

The younger students (1st – 4th graders) are offered to stay in an after-school center when school is finished on Mondays through Thursdays. Parents pay for this service.

### **What is the parents' role?**

In order to ensure the child's successful integration in a new country, the parents and the school need to work closely together.

Parents' associations are active in all grade schools and class representatives are elected from the group of parents. Parents of children with a foreign background are encouraged to participate in the parents' activities.

Custodians are welcome to visit the school and observe the children's activities, but it is necessary to consult with the principal or the respective teacher regarding such visits.

The custodians' responsibility for their children's school attendance is great. It is their duty to:

- See to it that the children attend the school/school bus punctually
- See to it that the children always bring the equipment which the learning requires
- support and monitor their children's learning
- let teachers know if a child is harassed or feels uncomfortable at the school
- speak tactfully with the children about the school and its staff.

A good collaboration between the school and the home is very important.

If a positive attitude is instilled in the child at home, it is more likely to feel comfortable at the school and do well in its studies.

### **Flúðaskóli's service providers**

*The school- and welfare services of Árnes Assembly;* they employ educational consultants, a speech therapist, psychologists and social workers and the school can call on them regarding diagnosis and consultation.

*The Health Care Center at Laugarás;* it employs doctors and nurses.

A school nurse, under the auspices of the Health Care Center, comes to the school once per week and is then available for an interview as well as providing students and parents with counsel.