

Integration in preschools and schools within Mjölby Municipality

The activities at Swedish preschools and schools are regulated by the Swedish Education Act which is established by the Swedish Parliament and by curricula issued by the Government.

The activities at preschools and schools aim to ensure that children and pupils acquire and develop knowledge and values. They must promote all children's and pupils' development and learning and encourage a lifelong lust for acquiring knowledge. The education must also convey and establish a respect for human rights and the basic democratic values on which Swedish society is based.

Schools should impart values such as the sanctity of human life, the freedom and personal integrity of each individual, the equal value of all human beings, equality between women and men and solidarity with the weak and the vulnerable.

The internationalisation of Swedish society and the increasing mobility across national borders places high demands on people's ability to live with and appreciate the values inherent in cultural diversity. Being aware of your own cultural heritage while participating in the common culture provides a secure identity which is important to develop, alongside the ability to understand and empathize with others and their values. School is a social and cultural melting pot which has the ability and the responsibility to strengthen this capacity in everyone who works there.

Preschools and schools perform are one of society's most important arenas for integration. The work at preschools and schools in Mjölby Municipality promotes core values based on respect for human rights and fundamental democratic values. This is partly done through approaches to teaching, but also through different forms of activities which do not only include the individual group, but instead concern major parts of the unit or the entire unit with all pupils.

School's approach

Due to different cultural backgrounds and different religious affiliations, certain aspects of preschools' and schools' activities can create uncertainty about what rules applies. The following examples demonstrate situations that may cause uncertainty, and offer support for the school, pupils and guardians.

The school's approach is based on the values that schools must represent and the impart, as well as on ensuring that pupils reach the nationally established learning objectives for their education.

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- **Time off for private matters**
The headmaster is, to a certain extent, able to grant time off for private matters, but not systematic time off from certain educational features. The ability to grant time off can also be limited if the pupil is deemed to be struggling to meet the learning objectives.
- **Meals**
At upper-secondary school, a vegetarian option is offered every day for those who do not eat meat products. Preschools and schools are able to cater for special diets to a certain extent.
- **Clothing at school**
What clothes pupils wear to school is mainly determined by the pupils themselves. However, the clothes may not hinder participation in education, or endanger the pupil or other pupils in class.
- **School work that involves girls and boys working together**
Based on the school's core values, a major part of tuition takes place in larger and smaller groups that include both girls and boys. That means that during school hours, pupils will sit next to and work together with pupils of the opposite sex, during regular tuition and during excursions, field trips etc.
- **Holidays that do not appear in the Swedish calendar**
Applying for time off is done in accordance with the normal procedure. The application is treated restrictively in accordance with the Swedish Education Act. Please see the Swedish National Agency for Education's legal guidelines "Frånvaro och ledighet" [Absence and time off]
- **The school's Christian and traditional celebrations**
This includes Easter, Christmas, Advent and Lucia.
If the pupil or guardian does not want the pupil to participate during traditional celebrations, pupils may attend alternative class at the school.
- **Physical education**
Like other classes, physical education and health classes are compulsory. Clothing during physical education is essentially determined by the pupils themselves, like at school in general. However, the clothes that are used may not hinder pupils' participation or endanger pupils during the class.

Showering after physical education and health class is obligatory. The school is responsible for ensuring that there are separate dressing rooms for girls and boys to get changed and shower in.

In conjunction with changing the facilities, schools may consider the possibility of installing isolated showers.

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A part of physical education and health education involves swimming lessons to ensure that pupils reach the objective of being able to swim by year six. As the swimming lessons take place at Lundbybadet's pool, the bath's general rules apply: Swimming wear or Burkini must be worn when in the pool. Some exercise clothes made out of lycra e.g. certain base layers may also be accepted. It is obligatory to shower and wash your hair before entering the pool.

- **Music classes**

Like other classes, music classes are compulsory.

- **Praying**

See information about time off for private matters.

This means that praying may not interfere with ordinary tuition, but may however take place during breaks. If possible, the school can refer to some form of public prayer room located at the school which is not associated with a particular religion.

- **Biology classes (sex and relationship)**

Like all other classes, biology classes are compulsory.

- **Art classes**

Like all other classes, biology classes are compulsory.