

Preschools and schools in Hässleholm Municipality

The Department of Childcare and Education is responsible for preschools, educational care, leisure-time centres, compulsory school, upper secondary school, education for students with learning disabilities and arts school.

When you are working or studying, up to the age of 12 your child is entitled to a place at a preschool, at a leisure-time centre or in educational care. If you have a child aged 1-6, you are also entitled to a place if you are looking for work or are at home with younger siblings. There is some charge for a place at a preschool or leisure-time centre. Children aged 3-6 years are entitled to a free preschool place for 15 hours per week.

Hässleholm has 25 compulsory schools with associated leisure-time centres, around 50 preschools and an upper secondary school. There is compulsory education for students with learning disabilities at several compulsory schools, and upper secondary school for individuals with intellectual disabilities is also available. All children in Sweden must attend compulsory school, and this schooling is free of charge. As a parent or guardian, you are responsible for ensuring that your child goes to school.

From the year in which your child turns six, he or she will have a place at a school close to where you live. For the first year, your child will attend preschool class. The preschool class is a voluntary year, but the majority of children in Sweden take advantage of the preschool class as a way of preparing for school. In the year that your child turns seven he or she will begin the nine years of compulsory education.

On completing compulsory school, there is the option of going on to upper secondary school or, if over the age of 19, other forms of education. For young people who come to Sweden aged 16-20, Hässleholm offers education at Ungdomscentrum. Ungdomscentrum is a preparatory upper secondary school that places an emphasis on education in the Swedish language. In addition to Swedish, students at Ungdomscentrum study other subjects in order to qualify

for a national programme at upper secondary school. To qualify for upper secondary school, you need at least eight grades, one of which must be in Swedish as a second language. To find out what it takes to make the grade, visit <http://www.skolverket.se/laroplaner-amnen-och-kurser/grundskoleutbildning/grundskola/svenska-som-andrasprak>

Depending on the distance to the school, free school transport is provided. As a parent or guardian, you can choose a different school for your child, but you will then have to pay for any transport to and from that school.

Free meals are provided for children and students at preschool and school. The meals may be adapted for those children who require this for medical or religious reasons.

Schools at compulsory and upper secondary level employ a school nurse and a school doctor, as well as a school psychologist and a welfare officer.

Code of conduct and equality

To ensure that everyone at preschool/school is happy and able to develop, each school has a code of conduct and an equality policy that applies to the school's staff and children/students.

At school it is forbidden by law to discriminate against anyone on the grounds of gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion or other belief, disability, age and transgender identity or expression.

It is also forbidden to be derogatory or offensive to others. Violence, whether verbal or physical, is strictly prohibited in preschools/schools. We resolve conflicts by talking to each other. Adults are on hand in all contexts.

Partnership between home and preschool or school

As a parent or guardian, you are always welcome to stop by the preschool, leisure-time centre or school. The partnership between you and the preschool/school is important for your child's security and development. At the school, you will be given login details for the computer program Schoolsoft,

where you will find information about your child's learning, as well as general information about what is happening at the school.

The preschool/school has a supervisory responsibility. If your child is going to be absent from preschool/school, you must inform the school before the start of the school day. The school will contact the police or social services if we are unable to contact you in connection with an unreported absence. This is for your child's safety, and it is therefore also important that the preschool/school always has your up-to-date contact details.

The preschool/school will invite you to a parent/teacher meeting to discuss your child's progress in terms of the goals and knowledge criteria set by that institution.

As a parent or guardian, you are always welcome to make your views known. The school's collaborative bodies – parents' council/parents' association/local board – provide you and other parents with a forum to get involved and make a difference.

If you would like to find out more about schools and preschools in Hässleholm, visit www.hassleholm.se.

More information about preschools and schools in Sweden can be found in the National Agency for Education's brochures *The preschool is for your child*, *The school is for your child* and *Your child's leisure time is important*. You will receive these at the enrolment meeting at your child's preschool/school.

Mother tongue tuition

A student who has a parent or guardian with a mother tongue other than Swedish is offered mother tongue tuition in that language if

1. the language is the student's everyday language at home and
2. the student has basic skills in the language.

The headteacher makes the decision on mother tongue tuition. There is a condition that at least five students in the municipality must want to study the same language and a suitable teacher in that language must be available.

For students with a national minority language, mother tongue tuition is to be offered even if the language is not the everyday language used at home. Tuition is to be provided in minority languages whatever the number of students.

Swedish as a second language

At the headteacher's discretion, Swedish as a second language may replace the subject of Swedish for:

- 1. students whose mother tongue is not Swedish,*
- 2. students who have Swedish as their mother tongue and who have been taken in from schools abroad, and*
- 3. immigrant students who have Swedish as their main everyday language with one parent or guardian.*

The entitlement to tuition in Swedish as a second language applies no matter what language skills the student has, since all students have a right to tuition based on their own circumstances. A grade in the subject of Swedish as a second language is equivalent to a grade in Swedish and the subject can be studied throughout a child's schooling.

Tutoring in the mother tongue

Tutoring is a support measure that the school can set up if the student is in need of such support. The tutoring may be organised in various ways, depending on the nature of the need.