



Härnösands  
kommun

# Welcome to primary school



## Would you rather listen instead?

Here you can find the complete brochure divided into chapters. Listen to any part you want.





## What is the primary school?

Your child will begin preschool class the year they turn six. After preschool class, they will begin first grade in the primary school. One year later, they will move up to second grade, and so on until ninth grade.

Children who can't stay at home by themselves after school can spend time at an after-school center, or fritids as it's called in Swedish. After-school centers are for children between 6 and 13 whose parents are working or studying.

Children can spend time at the after-school center before and after school, and during holidays. However, they cannot spend evenings, nights, weekends or holidays at the after-school center. Exceptions can be made for children whose parents work evenings, weekends or nights and have no one else to look after them. For them, there is an overnight daycare called nattis. Read more about nattis at [harnosand.se/nattis](https://harnosand.se/nattis)

All this, preschool class, grades 1-9 and the after-school center are part of the primary school.

School is free of charge in Sweden. But if a child needs a place in an after-school center, the municipality will charge for it. The amount you need to pay depends on your income.

Material or equipment that children need at school, such as books, tablets or computers can be borrowed at no cost. But it's important that children are careful with the equipment they borrow. For example, if the borrowed computer that students in grades 7-9 receive breaks down or gets lost, it will be your responsibility as a parent to pay for it.

## You are important

You play an important part as a parent for your child to do well at school. The school would like to get in touch with you and talk to you about your child's education. This is so both you and the school can work together to make your child's time spent at school as good as possible. Being involved and up-to-date on all the information from the school, making sure your child has slept properly, eaten breakfast and brought everything necessary with them to school is important for a successful school day.



## Compulsory school attendance

School is compulsory in Sweden. This means that children have to go to school. As a parent, you are responsible for ensuring that your child comes to school.

There must be a valid reason for your child not showing up at school, such as illness or that they are on a leave.

## The school year

A school year always starts after the summer and consists of an autumn term and a spring term. The autumn term starts in August and ends in December. The spring term starts in January and ends in June. The exact dates for each school year can be found on [harnosand.se](http://harnosand.se) under the tab Barn och utbildning.



## Select a school

As a guardian and parent, you can make a choice for which school you want your child to attend. You have the right to choose from all the schools in the municipality, but there may not be a place available at the school you want. However, your child always has the right to a place at a school close by.

Do you want a place in a different municipal school other than the one near where you live? In this case, you should submit your request directly to the school of your choice. If your child is starting preschool class, the request for another school must be submitted by 1 February.

Härnösand municipality has eleven municipal primary schools, one independent school and one state school for the deaf and hard of hearing.

## Schoolity learning platform

Schoolity is a web-based learning platform that staff, students and parents can use to communicate with each other, view attendances and absences and students' schedules. The learning platform is there to help students and staff with their daily school work. It also makes it easier for you to see how your child is doing at school. It's available in both Swedish and English and you can choose which language you want to use.

To use Schoolity, you need login credentials. Find out more about how to get them at [harnosand.se/schoolity](https://harnosand.se/schoolity). If you need help with Schoolity, you can contact Härnösand municipality's Service Center.

## Absence and illness

If your child is unable to attend school because of illness, you need to notify the school. You can do this with the help of Schoolity. You need to make a notification every day your child is not at school.

If your child needs to leave school at any time during the school day, to go to the doctor or dentist for example, you need to inform their class teacher or mentor of this.

## Leave of absence

If your child needs time off school, you must apply for it well ahead of time. You can do this using a form which is available at [harnosand.se](http://harnosand.se). Your child will not be allowed to take time off if the school thinks that the requested amount of time off will have too much of a negative impact on their school work.

A student cannot get more than 10 days off in a school year. This means that longer trips have to be planned and carried out during the holidays.



## Non-permitted absences

Schools have a responsibility to know where all school children are during school hours. If your child doesn't come to a lesson and you haven't notified them of an illness or requested a leave of absence, you will get a notification of a 'non-permitted absence'. This means that your child is absent from school without permission.

It's very important that you make sure to let us know if your child is ill or will be away from school for any other reason. If there is no notification from you as to why your child is not coming to school, the staff will try multiple ways of contacting you until they reach you. First by calling, emailing or sending a text message, and then by visiting your home. If they still cannot find your child or find out why your child is not at school, they may end up having to contact the police or social services.

If your child has a lot of absences, the school will contact you for an interview.

## **The Education Act and the curriculum**

The Education Act sets out the rights and obligations of children, students and guardians. The act also outlines the demands of the person in charge of the school, which is the principal. Your child attends a municipal school, which makes Härnösand municipality the responsible authority.

The Swedish National Agency for Education is a government agency that decides what children should learn in school and in which grade they should be taught that. You can read about what they have decided in the curriculum.

All schools in Sweden must follow the curriculum. It is the basis on which schools build and develop their educational activities.

## **Grades and assessments**

In grades 1-5, students receive so-called assessments in each subject in the spring term. The assessment says whether the student has reached the level of knowledge for the grade.

Students receive their first grades at the end of the autumn semester in the 6th grade. After that, students will receive a new grade every term until the spring term in 9th grade when they receive their final grade. The final grade is what students will use when they apply to high school programs.

The grading scale is from A to F, where A is the highest grade and F means fail.

## **Student health services and support**

The school has something called student health services. These include medical, psychological, psychosocial and special education interventions. School doctors, school nurses, psychologists and counselors work in student health services. There is also staff there who has special education expertise.

Student health services staff help students live healthy lives, for example through health talks and vaccinations.

The school health services enable your child to get vaccinated according to the Swedish childhood vaccination program. It consists of vaccines that protect against 11 different diseases: rotavirus infection, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, infections caused by *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, severe disease caused by pneumococcus, measles, mumps, rubella and human papillomavirus (HPV).

## School subjects

In primary school, students study the following subjects: Swedish, Swedish as a second language, English, mathematics, art, music, handicrafts, home economics, physical education and health, social studies, religion, history, geography, biology, physics, chemistry, technology, extracurriculars, and modern language class where students can choose their language, such as Spanish, German or English, as well as native language class, if possible. Students don't study all these subjects at the same time, they vary from term to term and from year to year.



### Swedish as a second language

Swedish as a second language is a separate subject with its own curriculum, and is equal to the Swedish subject. Students whose native language is not Swedish may be entitled to receive teaching in Swedish as a second language. Studying Swedish as a second language can address things that are specific to learning a second language, such as pronunciation, word order and comparisons with the student's native language. It's the school that decides whether the student has the right and the need to be taught Swedish as a second language.





## **Native language teaching and tutoring**

The student's native language plays an important role in developing their language, thoughts, identity and personality. Having strong native language skills makes it easier to learn Swedish, other languages and other subjects.

Your child can receive native language teaching. If you want your child to be taught their native language, you must apply for it. You can do this through an e-service on the municipality's website. [harnosand.se/modermalsundervisning](https://harnosand.se/modermalsundervisning).

## **Physical education and swimming lessons**

Physical activity, healthy habits and a meaningful spare time are important for your child's well-being. The curriculum includes physical education and health as a subject. Its purpose is to provide your child with positive experiences of sports, exercise and outdoor life. The curriculum also states that your child should learn to swim.

All children should participate in physical education and swimming lessons. As a parent, you have an important role to play in making sure that your child has sports clothes, swimwear and a towel packed with them on days when they have physical education at school. Children need to change their clothes before physical education and shower afterwards.

If your child cannot participate in physical education for some reason, you must inform their teacher.



## Personal development meetings and parent-teacher meetings

The school would like to meet and talk with parents every term. Once a term there is a personal development meeting. This involves you and your child having a meeting with a teacher or mentor to talk about how your child is doing at school.

Once every term, usually in the early autumn, there's also a parent-teacher meeting. In this meeting, the school would like to meet all parents of students in a class and talk with them about the school and the coming school year.

You are welcome to come and visit the school. But before doing so, you must ask your child's teacher and sign in at the school reception when you arrive.

## Food

Your child gets lunch at school. The lunch is free of charge. In the vast majority of schools, there are several dishes to choose from, as well as different types of vegetables. Children who need a special diet for medical reasons, such as allergies, can get it if you provide a medical certificate. If your child is vegetarian, vegan or needs special food for religious reasons, you must inform the school of this, but you do not need to submit a certificate.

[harnosand.se/specialkost](http://harnosand.se/specialkost)



## School transport

If your child lives far from school, if the road to school is dangerous or if your child has a functional impairment, your child may be entitled to school transport. This means that your child can travel between their home and school free of charge.

There are several types of school transport available. Your child may receive a bus pass and travel on a regular bus, or a specially ordered bus, minibus or taxi. More information can be found at [harnosand.se/skolskjuts](http://harnosand.se/skolskjuts).

If you have received a school transport for your child and it's not working well, please email: [trafikenheten@harnosand.se](mailto:trafikenheten@harnosand.se)

## **Mobile phones**

Children in preschool and up to 6th grade are not allowed to use mobile phones during the school day. The school therefore wants children to leave their phones at home. If they still choose to bring their phone, they can hand it to a teacher at the beginning of the school day and then get it back at the end.

Students in grades 7-9 are not allowed to have mobile phones in class.

## **Notification requirement**

If someone suspects that a child is being abused, they can report it to the municipality. This is called a report of concern. For example, there may be concerns that a child is being beaten or that a child is not getting the proper care.

Anyone in a profession that involves working with children and young people has a legal obligation to report concerns if they suspect that a child is being harmed in the course of their work.

## **After-school centers**

After-school centers are open on weekdays from 06:30 to 18:30.

Children have the right to be in an after-school center when both parents are working. You must let us know in advance what times your child needs to be in the after-school center.

Four times each school year, the after-school centers have planning days. Substitutes are working on these days, and many schools require you to make an extra notification if your child needs to be at the after-school center on these days as well.

If your child no longer needs a place in an after-school center, you must give at least 14 days' notice.

## **Taking photos and filming at school**

Staff working in the school may take pictures and record videos of their activities. This is done for a number of reasons, such as to document the students' development and to help teaching. As a parent or guardian, you are not allowed to take photos or record videos at school.

You will be given a form to fill out if you consent to having your child appear on pictures on the municipality's website and social media. The form is called *Consent to publication of personal data, photos and videos. Preschool – grade 9.*

## Forms and e-service



Special diet



Native language education



Consent to  
publication/GDPR

## School Contact Information



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