

Swedish
school for
new arrivals

Engelska



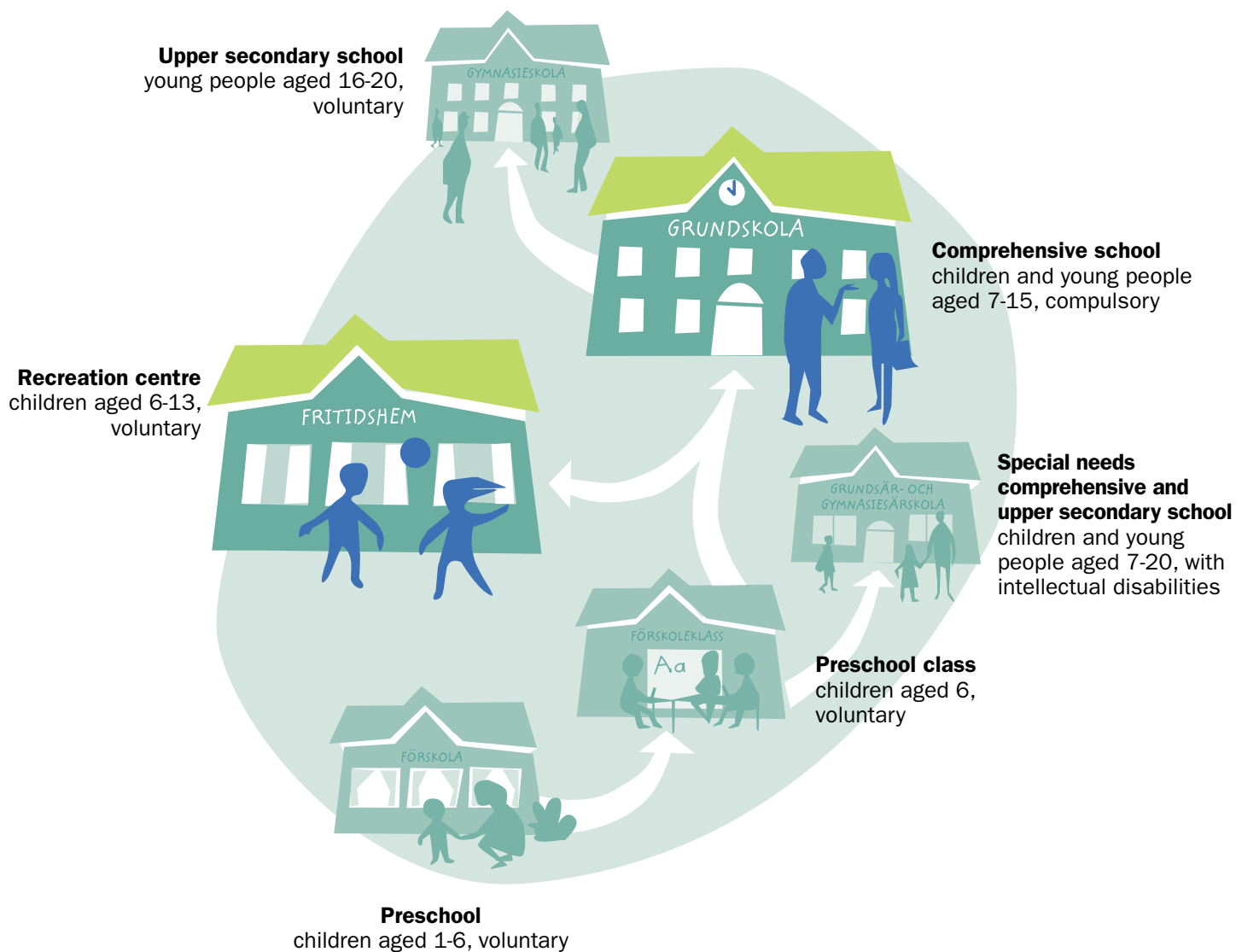
For children and young people aged 7-15

Comprehensive school and recreation centres



Skolverket

This is the Swedish education system



Children may attend preschool from the time they are 1 year old. Play is an important element of preschool. When they turn 6, children may attend preschool class. Both preschool and preschool class are voluntary.

All children attend comprehensive school from about the age of 7. Comprehensive school is compulsory, and compulsory schooling applies for years 1-9.

Most young people then attend upper secondary school for three years. New arrivals who have

received a permanent residence permit are entitled to begin their upper secondary education before the end of the spring term in the year they turn 20; for asylum seekers this limit is the year they turn 18. However, there are also certain requirements for recognised grades from earlier education.

Upper secondary school prepares pupils for university or university college, or for going on to employment without further education.

All children attend comprehensive school

Comprehensive school is compulsory in Sweden. All children attend it for nine years. Most children begin year 1 in the autumn of the year they turn 7. Each academic year consists of one autumn term and one spring term. If a child has an intellectual disability, he/she can instead attend special needs comprehensive school, which is adapted to each pupil's circumstances. Read more about special needs schools in another brochure.

There are also special schools for children with certain functional disabilities, such as deafness, or with a combination of several functional disabilities. Teaching at special schools is adapted to pupils' needs, and their education covers ten years.

Comprehensive school is free. That means there is no payment for tuition, textbooks or other school material. School lunches are also free. Pupils have access to school healthcare, study and career guidance, and a school library.





Shared learning goals

Choose between independent or municipal schools. Regardless of the school you choose, the learning requirements are the same. Teaching at all schools is governed by the Education Act and the curriculum.

In addition to learning, your child will practise mixing with other children and understanding them. All pupils must show respect for those around them. They are taught that everyone has the same rights,

regardless of gender, religion, functional disability or sexual orientation. Democracy and human rights apply in school just as they do in the rest of the Swedish society.

Is your child's native language not Swedish? Do you speak that language at home? If so, your child is entitled to native language teaching. This can be carried out as a language choice, the pupil's choice or as lessons outside of normal school hours.

Grades from year 6

School grades are awarded from year 6. Your child will then receive grades each term until the end of year 9, when the final grade is awarded.

The grade shows how the pupil's knowledge corresponds to the set requirements. If a pupil has difficulties achieving these goals, he/she is entitled to receive special support.

On the basis of their final grade, children then apply to upper secondary school. The minimum requirement is a Pass grade in eight subjects; for entry to upper secondary programmes that prepare pupils for higher education, children need at least a Pass grade in twelve subjects.

There are six points on the grading scale: A, B, C, D, E and F. A is the highest grade and E is the lowest grade for Pass. F is a fail.

Knowledge requirements determine grade

Schools adopt knowledge requirements that determine the minimum knowledge that a child must have acquired, and grades are given on the basis of these requirements. The same requirements apply for all schools. If pupils run the risk of not fulfilling the knowledge requirements, they are entitled to special support.

National tests are held in certain subjects, from year 3. National tests help the teacher assess your child's knowledge and to award fair grades.

At least once a term, you and your child meet with the teacher. This is known as a personal development dialogue, and involves talking about how things are at school and if your child is happy there. It is an opportunity for both you and your child to influence the situation and receive advice on how your home environment can be supportive of your child's education.



Important rules in comprehensive school

Comprehensive school is compulsory. Attendance is a prerequisite for learning. As the child's guardian, you are responsible for ensuring that she/he goes to school and is present at lessons. Pupils go to school from Monday to Friday. Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays are days off. The children have holidays during the summer and at Christmas.

If your child needs to have time off, or if you would like him/her to be released from some part of the curriculum, you must speak to the school Principal. However, compelling reasons are required, and your child's possibilities of meeting the knowledge requirements may not be put in jeopardy.

If your child is absent and you have not notified the school of this, the school must inform you the same day. Such unmotivated absence is registered and listed on your child's grade certificate.

Teaching also imparts norms and values. Schools must counteract abusive behaviour and promote equality. Security and calm study conditions are important. Pupils who disrupt the class will be rebuked by the teacher. If that does not help, the pupil may be sent out of the classroom for the rest of the lesson or be given detention (i.e. made to stay at school after the end of the school day). However, the teacher will first of all try to resolve the situation by reaching an understanding with the pupil.

Choosing a school

You and your child are free to choose a school, within your municipality or outside it. Municipalities have their own schools, but there are also independent schools. All schools are free, so there are no fees to pay.

Independent schools may be run as a business, a foundation or an association. They are open to all, and the knowledge demands and focus of teaching are the same as in municipal schools.

Some schools specialise in certain areas. For example, a school might offer sports classes or apply a particular pedagogical system.

Your child will first of all be offered a place at the municipal school that is closest to your home. But you are free to choose another school, independent or municipal, provided there are places available.



Recreation centre after school

Parents are entitled to the opportunity to work or study. To allow for this, your child may spend time after school at a recreation centre. Recreation centres are often located in or near the school. Staff at the recreation centre and the school cooperate to ensure that the time your child spends there is safe and enjoyable. Recreation centres offer educational group activities intended to support and stimulate pupils' development.

Recreation centres receive children from pre-school class until the year they turn 13. Unlike schools, recreation centres charge a fee for looking after your child. The municipality determines the level of the fee.

Children aged 10-12 may also participate in open recreational activities. This may be a good alternative if you are not working or studying. You and your child decide when and how often he/she participates.

You are important

You are the person who is closest to your child. Speak to your child's teacher or other staff members at school if you have any concerns. Each term you will also meet with your child's teacher for a personal development dialogue. It is important that the school works in collaboration with the home. The personal development dialogue is a good opportunity to talk about how your child is doing at school and if she/he is happy there.

At open parent-teacher meetings, all the parents and teachers meet for a more general discussion about school activities and plans. Your questions and opinions are important here too!



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