



## Welcome to Akureyri!

Welcome to Akureyri Elementary Schools!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to your child in the Elementary schools in Akureyri.

### The School Department of Akureyri

The department is located in Glerárgata 26, 1st floor.

The Director of Education is Karl Frímannsson.

Teaching advisor for children with Icelandic as their second language is Helga Hauksdóttir

Departments tel: 460-1455

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Through the homepage of the school department,

<https://www.akureyri.is/is/thjonusta/menntun> parents can register their kids into one of the elementary schools (if they already have an ID-Nr. – if not please contact us!)

The school department is the head of all preschools, elementary schools and the Music school of Akureyri.

In Iceland, all children between 6 and 16 are required to attend school. Elementary schools are governed by the municipalities. In Akureyri we have 10 elementary schools. Two of them are located on the two islands of Eyjafjörður, Hrísey and Grímsey and one of them is a special school for kids with some behavioral difficulties. The other seven schools are spread across the town; Brekkuskóli, Giljaskóli, Glerárskóli, Lundarskóli, Naustaskóli, Oddeyrarskóli and Síðuskóli.

In the town of Akureyri the smallest school has about 200 students and the biggest about 500 students.

Children of foreign origin have the right to attend their neighborhood school, but can also apply to attend a different school if they want to, for some reason. It is preferred that your child already has an ID-nr. before it is enrolled into elementary school (but you can still apply even if you don't have an ID-nr.) In all schools we have students of foreign origin, but usually they are under 10%.

Until the year 2012 we had a special department for foreign children in one of the schools. It was a decision of the school board to change that arrangement and from the fall of 2012 all foreign students attend their district school when they arrive.

All students with Icelandic as their second language receive a special help in Icelandic. The Icelandic assistance takes place mostly in the classroom with the youngest kids but in small groups or individually when the students are older.

The first step in your child's school experience, is an introductory meeting at the school. The child's supervising teacher regularly communicates with parents and advises them on how to best assist their child in its studies.

Our web for teachers who teach foreign students is <http://erlendir.akmennt.is> and parents can also often find useful information there.

The first foreign language taught in Iceland is English, usually from grade 5 (10 years – but many schools start earlier) and our second foreign language is Danish, from grade 7 (12 years).

We recommend that our foreign students not to learn Danish, but have Icelandic/native language lessons instead.

When attending upper secondary school/high school – framhaldsskóli - (from 16 – 19 years) students can have their native language evaluated instead of Danish.

### Maintenance of the native language

We encourage our students and their parents to use their native language at home and books in all languages are welcome in the schools, e.g. when the students are given time for pleasure reading (sometimes maybe 15 minutes pr. day).

In Reykjavík, foreign parents are having an organization, [www.modurmal.com](http://www.modurmal.com) and on their homepage you can find groups for different languages and contact them in your native language through e-mail [modurmal@modurmal.com](mailto:modurmal@modurmal.com)

The main role of the organization is to offer teaching in the members native language.



### After school care

All schools in Akureyri offer after school care for kids in grade one to four. It's open after school time and until 16:15.

Parents have to sign an agreement in which they confirm what days/hours their child is attending after school care. If parents want to change the agreement they have to let the school know before the 15th of each month before the change is supposed to take place. Parents pay for minimum 20 hours pr. month, 7.940 krónur, each hour costs 397 krónur (Jan. 2020).

### School lunch

All the schools offer hot meal at lunch time. The menu is to be found on the schools homepages. The menu is constructed in cooperation with the national health care system. Usually we have fish twice a week, meat or some meat dishes twice a week and soup, yogurt or some light meal once a week. Vegetables and fruits are always available. Twice a month meat course is exchanged with some vegetables dishes.

The price for one semester (August – December /Jan.-May) is around 38.000 iskr. – or 457 kr. each meal (price from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020).

### **Schedule of the school year**

We have 180 days in the school year. School usually starts around August 20th and the last day of the school year is in the beginning of June. Each school organizes the schedule of the school year as it best suits the needs of the school, including these 180 days. The school can mark ten special schooldays on the schedule shown with a different color. These ten days can e.g. include interviews with parents, ski day or other outdoor activities, first and last days of the school year, which are usually shorter than normal days etc.

All schools have two short brakes each year, usually in October and in February/March. During the school year teachers have five days to plan and organize their teaching. These days are also marked with a special color in the school calendar and then the kids have the day off, but the after school care is open, at least in the afternoon.

### **Lessons per week**

Students in grade one to four have thirty 40 minute lessons per week , in grade five to seven there are 35 lessons per week and from grade eight to ten there are 37 lessons per week. Each school can change the extent of the lessons, but on the whole every student is having the same amount of lessons per week each school year.

### **Standardized Tests/Examinations**

All students in Iceland participate in standardized, web-based tests three times during elementary school; in grade four, seven and nine/ten. The tests in grade four and seven are in Icelandic and Mathematics (in September) and in grade nine/ten in Icelandic, Math and English (in March).

The purpose of the examinations in grade nine/ten is mainly two-fold. Firstly, to inform to what extent students have grasped the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for further education. Secondly, to give parents, teachers and school administrators an indication as to the educational status of students. Further informations:

[https://mms.is/sites/mms.is/files/foreldrabref - enska.pdf](https://mms.is/sites/mms.is/files/foreldrabref_-_enska.pdf)

### **Beginning literacy – an interactive approach**

Beginning literacy, used in most schools of Akureyri, is a teaching method aimed towards teaching basic reading to young children. The main incentive of Beginning literacy is that children will become well adapted at reading as early as possible in their academic career. Foreign parents are supposed to place importance on reading for their children and encourage them to read in their own, native language. The better a child knows it's native tongue, the easier it becomes to grasp a new language. Further information:

<http://erlendir.akmennt.is/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/enska.pdf>

## **Elective subjects for older students**

Students in grade eight to ten can choose three to four subjects from a list of diverse subjects, the schools are offering. They are encouraged to go through all possibilities, think about them and find out what subjects they really want to deal with the following winter. The schools endeavor is to have as much variety in the subjects as they can, in their attempts to meet as many different wishes from the students as possible.

Some of the subjects are located in other schools and then students have to go to some other school to take part. We see that as an opportunity to get to know other schools and meet other students.

Most of the elective subjects are taught in the end of the school day.

## **From elementary school to high school (framhaldsskóli) chances of flexibility**

Most students go from elementary to high school after ten years. But if the results from the Standardized Tests in grade nine show an excellent competence of the student, parents can wish for earlier entrance to high school (that's from grade nine). It is the principal of the elementary school who is responsible for the decision and evaluation of the competence of the student when he graduates from the elementary school.

## **The culture of the schools**

In all the primary schools the focus is on wellbeing of each individual.

Teachers are in touch with parents through the net, especially the website,

<http://mentor.is> All parents and students can have access to the web, by using their ID number and a password they are given from the school and it is a necessity for parents to check the page for messages from the teachers.

Parents are always welcome in the school, without notice. They can just drop in and stay for a few minutes or as long as they wish. Some teachers prefer to know beforehand when parents are planning to visit.

Usually there is not much homework, except in reading in the first grades, but here we have a little difference between schools and teachers. The amount of homework also depends on how well the students use their time in school – if they can't follow up with the plan in the lessons, often they must finish at home. But if they work hard enough, they can finish the work at school. In general we can say that teachers are putting less emphasis on homework now than before, but we encourage parents to follow up with the homework of their children and discuss with the teachers if they want some more homework.

Teachers generally emphasize aspects such as cooperation, activity and creativity in students work and sometimes the classrooms can look a bit chaotic when you come to a visit.

All students go swimming once a week and we have sports twice a week.

We also put emphasis on art and craft and the students learn to sew and knit, cook etc.

## **Sport and Leisure Subsidy-2020**

The town of Akureyri provides a sport- and leisure subsidy for all children and teenagers born in the years from 2003 to and including 2014.

Everyone that has their lawful domicile in Akureyri can claim this subsidy. It can be used from 1. of January until 31. of December each year. The amount of the subsidy is up to

40.000 krónur per child (can vary from one year to another).

Parents can spend the subsidy to pay for various kinds of sports activities, for music- and art schools and for shorter courses and workshops, (further information can be found in the folder on the subject from the elementary schools). The subsidy can also be used as a partial payment for summer camps.

When parents pay for their children's sport- and leisure activities they have to give notice if they want to utilise the subsidy as part of the payment. It will subsequently be subtracted from the total amount due.

### **Regulations about children playing outside in the evenings**

From first of September until first of May:

Kids, 12 years and younger are not supposed to play outside after 20:00

Kids from 13 – 16 are not supposed to play outside after 22:00

From first of May until first of September:

kids 12 years and younger are not supposed to play outside after 22:00

Kids from 13 – 16 are not supposed to play outside after 24:00



# Brekkuskóli

Tel: 414-7900

homepage: [www.brekkuskoli.is](http://www.brekkuskoli.is)

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Principal:

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Head of department:

Stella Gústafsdóttir, [stella@akureyri.is](mailto:stella@akureyri.is) (in sick leave)

Heads of departments:

Sigríður Magnúsdóttir, [siggamagg@akmennt.is](mailto:siggamagg@akmennt.is)

Aðalheiður Bragadóttir, [heidab@akmennt.is](mailto:heidab@akmennt.is)

Secretary:

Steingerður Zophoníasdóttir (Denna), [steingerdur@akmennt.is](mailto:steingerdur@akmennt.is)

After school care:

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## Important!

Please let us know every day your child is not attending school, due to sickness or some other reasons we must know about.



# Giljaskóli

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**Glerárskóli**

Skapandi skóli

Hugur - hönd - heilbrigði



# Glerárskóli

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Secretary:

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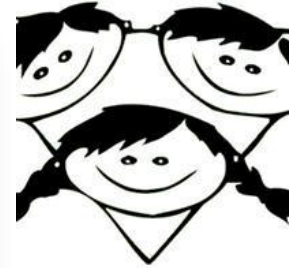
Afterschool care:

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# Lundarskóli

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# Naustaskóli

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# Oddeyrarskóli

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# Síduskóli

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## Hlíðarskóli

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## Grimseyjarskóli

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