



UNDERVISNINGENS  
MINISTERIET



Welcome  
to the Danish  
Folkeskole



**Welcome to the Danish Folkeskole  
(municipal primary and lower secondary school)**

Published by The Ministry of Education, 2010

ISBN 978-87-603-2853-4

Graphic design: Phoenix Design Aid

Photos: Still photographs from the film  
"Welcome to the Danish Public Schools"

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# Welcome to the Danish Folkeskole *(municipal primary and lower secondary school)*

*What is a lesson plan? When will your child be tested?  
What does the school expect of the parents? Find an  
introduction to the Danish Folkeskole and the answers to  
your questions in this folder and in the film “Welcome to the  
Danish Folkeskole”.*

## **Public school objectives**

Pupils' acquisition of knowledge and skills is the goal of education in the primary and lower secondary schools. Another goal is preparing pupils for continuing higher education. Yet another objective is preparing pupils for participation, responsibility, rights and duties in a free and democratic society. Laws pertaining to the public schools take their point of departure in collaboration between the schools and the parents.

# *The structure and content of the Danish Folkeskole*

The Danish primary and lower secondary school comprises 10 school years including one pre-school year (grade 0) plus grades 1 – 9. Public school education also offers the pupils an optional 10th grade.

## **Pre-school**

Play is a central element in pre-school education. As a minimum, instruction must include the following themes:

- Language and forms of expression
- Nature and natural phenomena
- The practical / the musical
- Movement and motor skills
- Social skills
- Community and cooperation

The language skills of all children are assessed at the start of pre-school in order to base instruction on each child's abilities and language competencies.

## Education in grades 1 – 9 is divided into 3 scholastic areas:

<b>HUMANITIES</b>	<b>PRACTICAL SUBJECTS AND MUSIC</b>	<b>NATURAL SCIENCES</b>
<b>Danish</b> (all grades)	<b>Gym</b> (all grades)	<b>Mathematics</b> (all grades)
<b>English</b> (grades 3 – 9)	<b>Music</b> (grades 1 – 6)	<b>Natural sciences</b> (grades 1 – 6)
<b>Christianity</b> (all grades except that in which pupils are preparing for confirmation)	<b>Visual arts</b> (grades 1 – 5)	<b>Geography</b> (grades 7 – 9)
<b>History</b> (grades 3 – 9)	<b>Sewing, workshop and home economics</b> (one or more grades in grades 4 – 7)	<b>Biology</b> (grades 7 – 9)
<b>Social studies</b> (grades 8 and 9)		<b>Physics/chemistry</b> (grades 7 – 9)

*(The public school act sec. 5-9)*

Instruction in Danish as a second language is provided, as needed, for pupils who require support with the Danish language.

### **Education in 10<sup>th</sup> grade**

10<sup>th</sup> grade is an educational opportunity for youngsters who need better scholastic achievement and clarification of vocational choice in order to complete an upper secondary education.



The 10<sup>th</sup> grade is comprised of a compulsory part and an optional part (*The public school act sec.19a – 19i*).

*A written lesson plan must be produced for all public school pupils in all grades from pre-school up to and including 7<sup>th</sup> grade. A lesson plan is a document drawn up by the school for each individual pupil.*

### **Lesson plans and education plans**

A written lesson plan must be produced for all public school pupils in all grades from pre-school up to and including 7<sup>th</sup> grade. A lesson plan is a document drawn up by the school for each individual pupil. The lesson plan is part of the regular status report to the pupil and the parents regarding the pupil's benefits gained from school attendance. The lesson plan is also extremely relevant in discussions of how the parents and the school can continue in their support of the pupil's education.



Pupils in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades must have a written lesson and education plan. In addition to an evaluation of the pupil, it is used to help the pupil choose scholastic and vocational direction upon completion of 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Tests**

The benefits of the pupils' education are to be regularly assessed. Compulsory tests in the following subjects will therefore be given in the indicated grades:

- Danish, with an emphasis on reading in grades 2, 4, 6 and 8
- English in grade 7
- Mathematics in grades 3 and 6
- Geography in grade 8
- Biology in grade 8
- Physics/chemistry in grade 8

In the future, optional tests of Danish as a second language will be available in grades 5 and 7. It is up to each school to decide which optional tests the students are to take.

### **Final examinations**

At the completion of 9<sup>th</sup> grade, pupils must take the compulsory public school final examinations.



Each pupil must take two examinations in the subject Danish and one examination in each of the following subjects: mathematics, english, and physics/ chemistry. In addition, each pupil must take two examinations in two other subjects, to be chosen by drawing lots. (*The public school act sec. 14*)

### **Continuous assessment marks**

Continuous assessment marks are not given to pupils in pre-school and in grades 1 - 7. But the pupils and the parents are to be regularly informed of the school's evaluation of the pupil's benefits of his/her education.



Continuous assessment marks are given at least twice a year in grades 8 and 10.

### **Absences and truancy**

All pupils who are registered at school must participate in instruction. Attendance during instruction is checked daily by the school.



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If a pupil is absent from instruction the parents must inform the school, in person or in writing, of the reason.

### **The school board**

Every school has a school board comprising representatives for the parents, the teachers and the pupils. The school board sets the principles for, among other things, the organization of instruction, collaboration between school and home, reporting of the benefits of pupils' education and school camp stays. The school board also determines the school's regulations and set of values (*The public school act sec. 44*)

### **School-home meetings and parent meetings**

School-home meetings – often twice a year – are a tradition in the Danish public schools. At these meetings the individual pupil and the pupil's parents usually speak with the pupil's homeroom teacher (Danish teacher) and math teacher about the pupil's scholastic progress and other topics regarding the pupil's schooling.

A parents' meeting is also held for all the class's parents together. Apart from the topics concerning scholastic issues, the meetings are often used as a forum in which parents set the general rules for the children in the class, for example, regarding birthdays. In the higher grades the parents often discuss attitudes regarding alcohol, parties, etc.

On the Ministry of Education's website, [www.uvm.dk/loveogregler](http://www.uvm.dk/loveogregler) you can find the Public School Act. Lov om folkeskolen, jf. lovbekendtgørelse nr. 593 af 24. juni 2009 – as well as all the executive orders, etc. concerning the Danish public schools.

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**See the film at [www.uvm.dk/velkommen](http://www.uvm.dk/velkommen)**