



### Who decides whether my child needs to study Swedish as a second language?

It is the principal who decides whether your child needs to study Swedish as a second language. In order to make the right decision, the principal needs to receive an assessment of a child's language development. Teachers have made this assessment.

### Swedish as a second language

In primary school, there are two Swedish subjects: Swedish and Swedish as a second language. School students study either Swedish or Swedish as a second language.

Swedish as a second language is a separate subject with its own curriculum. Swedish as a second language is studied equally as much as Swedish.

*From Chapter 5 of the Compulsory School Ordinance: Swedish as a second language, Section 14*

*Teaching Swedish as a second language shall, if necessary, be provided for*

- 1. students who speak a language other than Swedish as their native language,*
- 2. students who have Swedish as their native language and who have been admitted from schools abroad, and*
- 3. immigrant students whose primary language of interaction with a guardian is Swedish.*

*The principal decides on the teaching of Swedish as a second language for a student.*

# Swedish as a second language



Hello to all parents and guardians!

The school has assessed your child's Swedish language skills.

The principal and the teachers have agreed that your child has the right to receive teaching in Swedish as a second language.

You can read more about how it works in this leaflet.

### **Why do some children need instruction in Swedish as a second language?**

Growing up with multiple languages is a great advantage in many ways. Multilingual children can use their languages in different ways and in different situations. They may speak different languages with different people. Being able to speak your native language well usually makes it easier to learn Swedish.

Children who are fluent in Swedish, both in pronunciation and grammar when they start school study Swedish.

Children who have grown up with multiple languages haven't necessarily had the same opportunities to develop their Swedish language skills before starting school. These children may need to develop their grammar and vocabulary in Swedish to speak Swedish very well. These children have the right to study Swedish as a second language.

### **Why is it good for children to be taught Swedish as a second language?**

It's very important that all students get the opportunity to develop a good and varied Swedish language in both speech and writing. This means being able to use Swedish language in many different ways and in many different contexts. Learning Swedish as a native language and learning Swedish as a second language are two different things.

Anyone who has learned a new language knows that it doesn't happen automatically. Learning a language for everyday use and for talking to friends can happen quickly. But learning Swedish so that you can keep up with all the school subjects takes longer. Swedish as a second language in these cases is beneficial and helpful for children. Teachers who teach Swedish as a second language are particularly good at helping students develop their second language.

### **How does the school know if my child needs Swedish as a second language?**

Teachers at the school keep track of your child's language development. There are different methods used for this.

If teachers notice that a student has a smaller vocabulary in Swedish, if they pronounce words differently or make grammatical errors, a language development analysis is carried out. Once the student's language has been analyzed, the principal decides whether the student should study Swedish or Swedish as a second language.

### **Differences between Swedish and Swedish as a second language**

There are no major differences between the Swedish National Agency for Education's syllabuses in Swedish and Swedish as a second language. The big differences are found in the actual lessons. There, students studying Swedish as a second language get to practice speaking and writing in Swedish much more. The linguistic errors made by students are often a sign that they are improving their Swedish.

When a student tries to express something that is difficult for them, it may be that their Swedish language doesn't quite keep up. You could say that their minds think faster than their mouths can speak. Teachers of Swedish as a second language take this into account when making assessments and setting grades.

### **What about grades?**

A grade in Swedish as a second language is worth as much as a grade in Swedish, it also gives the same eligibility as the Swedish subject to apply for all high school programs.

### **How long should my child study Swedish as a second language?**

Swedish as a second language is taught for as long as a child needs it. Some students need to study Swedish as a second language throughout their primary school years, while others only need a short time. Teachers carry out assessments of your child's language development.

At each personal development meeting, teachers will talk about your child's language and skills development.

**Ask your child's teacher if you want to know more!**