

THREE-YEAR PRIORITIES

FOR THE REVISED EDUCATION AND RECREATION
STRATEGY OF FJARÐABYGGÐ, 2020-2022



THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

Local authority bodies shall adopt learning community methodology. A learning community comprises a group which shares a vision and interest in education, so that its members work together, support each other and strive to share ways to analyse and improve their practices, besides introducing new practices that may ensure greater success. In a successful learning community, the overriding culture encourages and upholds continuous education among the personnel, with the mutual aim of improving operations. Support for employee development grows, and the employing body begins cooperating more extensively with other bodies.

THE EAST ICELAND MODEL

Fjarðabyggð shall implement the so-called East Iceland model, which involves the cross-disciplinary cooperation of social services, child protection services, school education services and primary health care. The aim is to coordinate the operations of all involved professions, to simplify and accelerate assistance for students and parents, and to support employees working in education and recreation.



SUMMER AND WINTER BREAKS

Every Fjarðabyggð recreation centre shall offer a diverse summer break programme lasting five weeks and consisting of exercise, games, sports and outdoor recreation - not to speak of fun. The summer break programme shall extend to children who have just finished any of their first four years in compulsory school. In addition, Fjarðabyggð compulsory schools shall lengthen their winter breaks.

SENIOR CITIZEN HEALTH

The municipality shall arrange assorted fitness programmes for senior citizens, with special hours at exercise gyms as well as instruction, counselling and services that target the health and living standards of senior citizens.



SUMMER WORK PROGRAMME

Fjarðabyggð municipality shall offer creative employment for young people during the summer. While opportunities for a young person to deal with a task that excites her/his interest and passion are integral to prevention programmes, such jobs also serve the municipality, for instance in connection with cruise ships and village festivals. By arrangement, the summer work programme shall furthermore provide its employees on assignment to social organisations and local authority bodies in Fjarðabyggð.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to make the recreational opportunities available in Fjarðabyggð even more accessible, the municipality is introducing the NORA system for information, services and fee payments regarding leisure activities. Not only will NORA give parents a handy overview of the municipality's entire course offerings for children, but it will also serve for applications and recreation subsidy payments.

TRANSPORTATION

Since efficient transportation is a key to progress in multi-core communities, improvements are called for in public transportation. From the individual perspective, it has to be possible to reach employment, services and recreation in other villages. With a view to the future, it is important to link Fjarðabyggð villages to each other in a public transportation net so as to utilise better the existing infrastructure and human resources.

IMMIGRANTS

Strengths and opportunities lie in Fjarðabyggð's pluralistic society. Personnel working in educational and recreational bodies shall exploit the municipality's broad range of resident backgrounds by means of activities that increase knowledge and openness when dealing for instance with culture, traditions, holidays, languages and religions. Weight must be given to Icelandic instruction for immigrants and to assistance with the mother tongue studies of bilingual children. Keeping in mind that cooperation with their parents is crucial, schools and recreation bodies should take the initiative.



A HEALTH-PROMOTING ENVIRONMENT

Fjarðabyggð is a member of the Health-Promoting Society. As part of this national and even global campaign, the municipality shall continue developing playgrounds in all of its core areas, as well as paths for cyclists, walkers and hikers.

GROUP WORK

For many years, Fjarðabyggð community and recreation centres have offered favourable opening times, in addition to organising mutual events with other centres. During coming years, the organisation of group activities shall be added to the priorities of each centre.

CREATIVE SUMMER COURSES

Many children are extremely interested in creative activities; this interest shall be met by increased offerings of creative courses over the summer, for example in dance, drama, the visual arts and other art genres.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Fjarðabyggð owns a great number of facilities related to education and recreation. While some of the structures are new, others are over a century old. In some cases, considerable maintenance is called for, including major as well as minor tasks, so that these tasks need to be prioritised and added attention paid to maintenance.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Within the next three years, pre- and compulsory school meals shall become free of charge. The initial step was taken in the autumn of 2018, when prices were lowered by a third. Menu decisions shall conform to Directorate of Health recommendations, which in turn take note of general Nordic nutrition recommendations. Providing Fjarðabyggð children with free pre- and compulsory school meals will benefit both their parents and our health-promoting community.





FJARÐABYGGÐ



Illustrations: Hafsteinn Hafsteinsson // Layout: Gjallarhorn