

Reception classes (for migrant children)

Silkeborg Kommune

Dear parents

Welcome to the municipality of Silkeborg, where your child will be starting Danish primary and lower secondary school

In this little pamphlet you will be able to read about some of the areas, where you might have questions

Other questions will be best answered at the school, which you are always welcome to contact.

It's our belief that through dialogue and knowledge about one another we can help your child to have the best possible school life..

Phone number (School):

Website:

Contact person:



The objective of municipal primary and lower secondary school

“The objective of municipal primary and lower secondary school is, that the students acquire knowledge and skills.”

“The objective is also, to prepare them for further education.”

“Furthermore, the municipal primary and lower secondary school should also prepare them for participation, joint/shared responsibility, rights and duties in a society of freedom and democracy.”

“The legislation on the municipal primary and secondary school is based upon a collaboration between the school and the parents.”

Compulsory education

In Denmark we have compulsory education. All education in the municipality lower and secondary school (public school) is free of charge.

All children from the age of six must be taught according to the compulsory education system.

In Denmark children start school in grade 0, which is preschool.

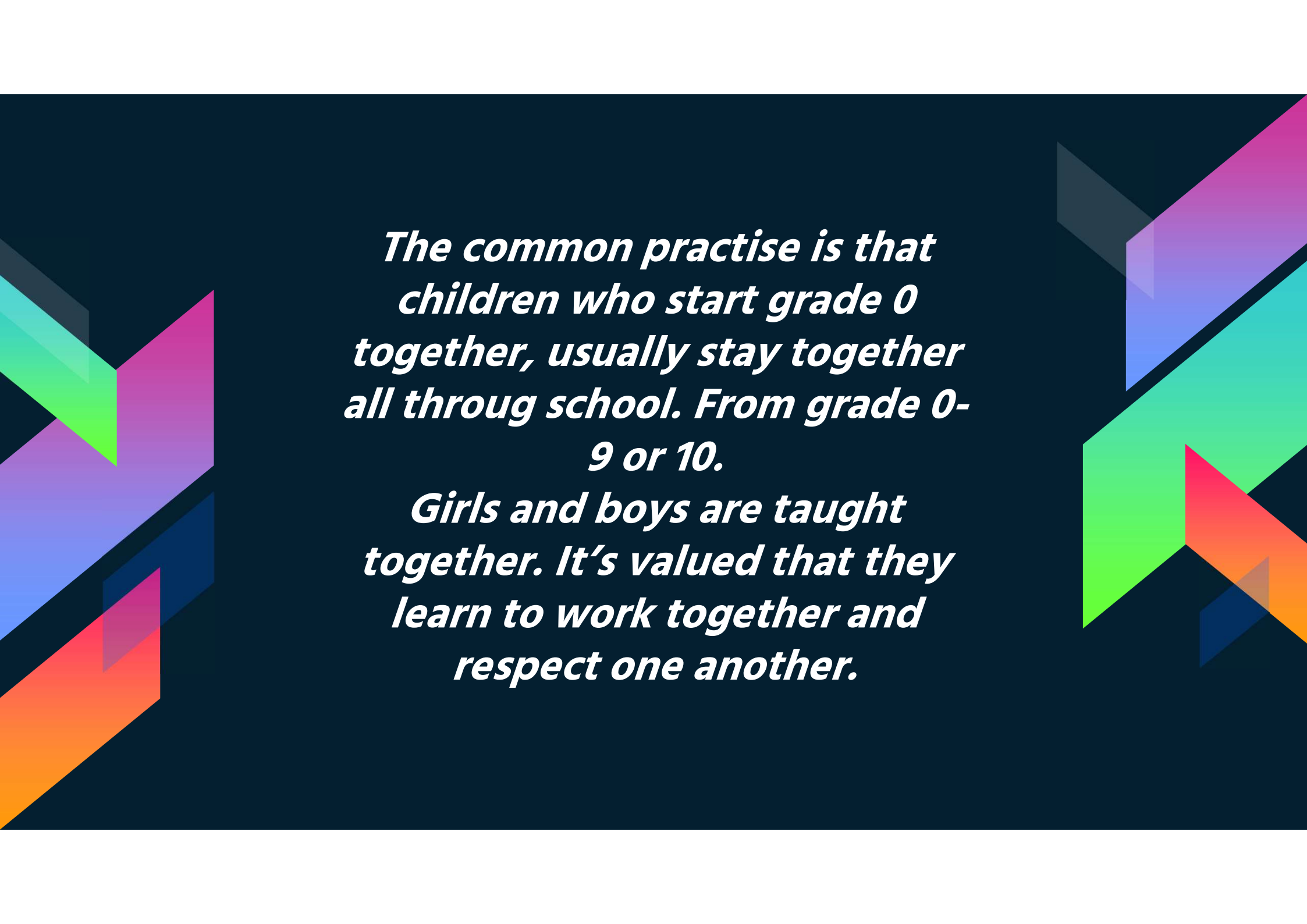
After that, they continue on in:

Elementary : grade 1-3

Middle school: grade 4-7

High school: grade 8-9

Grade 10 is optional and available for everybody.



The common practise is that children who start grade 0 together, usually stay together all throug school. From grade 0-9 or 10.

Girls and boys are taught together. It's valued that they learn to work together and respect one another.

Basic education in reception classes (for migrant children)

- › Migrant children, who have just arrived in Silkeborg will naturally not speak or understand much Danish yet. Therefore they start school in a reception class, where all their first lessons will take place.
- › The students will have lessons in Danish and also in the school's other subjects.
- › There will also be an emphasis on Danish society and traditions, these are elements the students will need a knowledge about, when they start the regular grades.

A good beginning

- › In the reception class the student will have a good beginning of school life in a new country. There are so many new things to be learned.
- › In the class there will be fewer students than in a regular class and the teachers will have had special training in working with Danish as a second language.
- › The students obtain a good foundation to build upon, both language wise and academically.
- › From the beginning they will be linked with an age corresponding class- there will be alternating lessons between the reception class and the regular class.

School placement

The aim is, that a child who start reception class, will attend the school which :

- › Is closest to the family/child's home, if possible in the same school district as the home.
- › Have a reception class with students in the same age group
- › Have room for all siblings in a family

When possible, other considerations about school placement are taken into account, for example other family members, which the student would like to go to school with.

Admission at the school

- Before the student start school the family is invited to a visitation meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify the student's school and family background
- After the visitation meeting, a consultant will contact the school, where the student shall attend reception class.
- The family is then invited to a meeting at the school, where they can meet the teachers and possibly the principal of the school.
- During this meeting the parents and student will receive information about the school and a date for the school start is set.
- It is very important to ask questions about things you might not understand or have doubts about. If you after the meeting have further questions, don't hesitate to contact the school. The teacher can tell you when and where to call or email.

Transportation:



Your child is eligible for free transportation if:

1. Your child has more than a certain distance between home and school:

- 0.-3. grade: 2,5 km.
- 4.-6. grade: 6,0 km.
- 7.-9. grade: 7,0 km.
- 10. grade: 9,0 km.

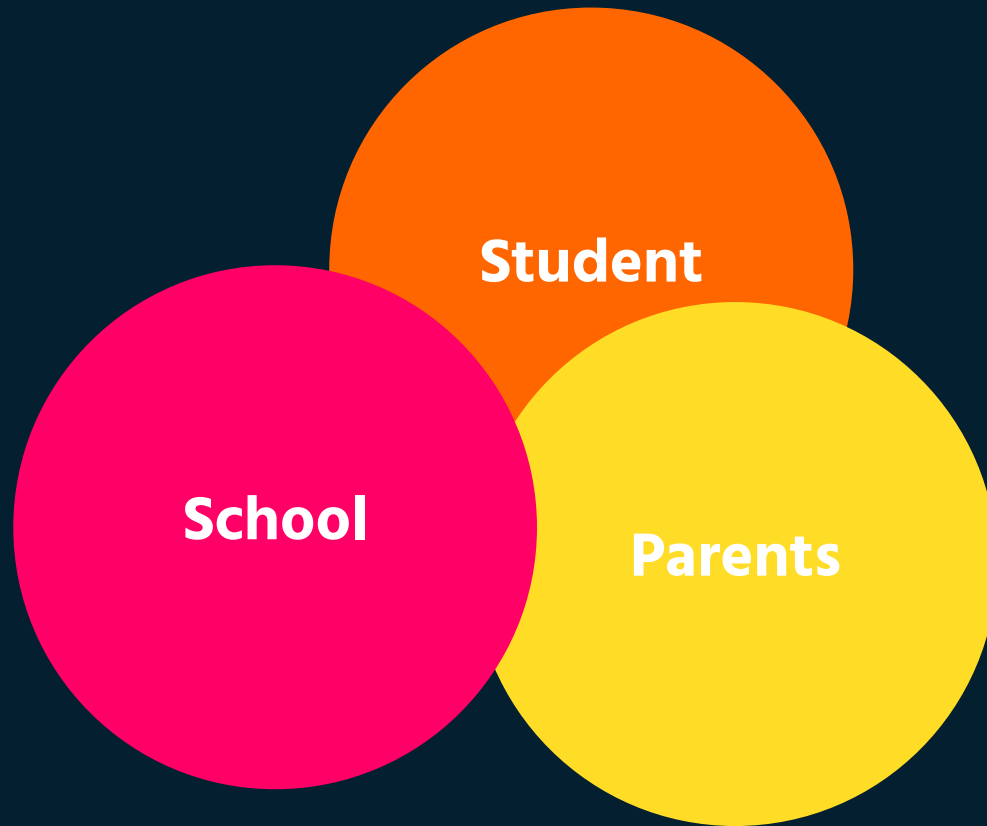
2. Or if your child has to travel along- or cross a high traffic road to come to school- no matter the distance. The school will help arrange transportation.

Link to the municipality's website- transportation to and from school:

<http://silkeborgkommune.dk/Borger/Boern-skole-og-familie/Skoler-SFO-og-klub/Skoleveje-og-buskort>

The transportation can either be by school- or public bus. The aim is that all students learn to use public transportation, whenever possible.

School/Home collaboration



School culture in Denmark

School systems around the world are very different. If you, yourself, haven't attended school in Denmark, there might be things which you will wonder about. The following statements can characterize school culture in Denmark.

- Teachers and pedagogues value that the students are inquisitive, curious and independent in class.
- Written and individual student plans are made, which describe both the academical and social level of achievement.
- The teacher and student will ongoing talk about what the next level should be.
- The school expects the parents to teach their children to be on time and have their things in order (books, clothes and lunch)
- School in Denmark is not only class room teaching, it also includes field trips, camp and other experiences. All the experiences are part of the teachings in different subjects and all students are expected to attend.

School culture in Denmark

It is highly valued that all children thrive in their school environment. This is considered a common goal for both teachers and parents to strive towards.

The tone amongst the students, both in class and out of class is highly prioritized. There will be different social events, both during and after school hours. For example events, where the parents are invited to come to the school, and the students showcase something they have done, or an event where both parents and students meet for an activity and afterwards have dinner together. The teachers have an ongoing focus on the students' well being, always in close collaboration with the parents. It's therefore important, that the school is informed, in case something relevant happens in the family, which might have an effect on the student's school life.

Parent- teacher collaboration

As a parent of a child in a reception class, you play a crucial role in your child's start of school life in a new country.

It's important to show interest and ask about the school day. Your native language, or the language used in the home, is a great resource.

Good examples:

- Read together. The child reads aloud in Danish and explains in their native language.
- Talk in your native tongue, about the day's events.
- Give the child room to show and tell about what they are doing in school. Can be both written and oral exercises.
- Look at the pictures in the school books your child have brought home, or books from home. Ask what the different things are called in Danish.

At Sølystskolen there is Home work café Monday- Thursday from 6:30 pm- 9.30 pm. It's for children from the age of 14. If your child is younger, you are welcome to bring them, if you accompany them.

Parent- teacher conference

A parent-teacher conference takes place at the school, usually in the home room, where your child have most lessons. It's the home room teacher and the parents for the most part, other teachers who have connection with the student might be invited to participate, if it is relevant. During the meeting the teacher will give an account on the academical and social status. The parents will also have an opportunity to talk about how they see the school, the daily life and other important issues concerning the child. It's very important, that at least one of the parents participate, preferable both.

Parents' meeting

There will be meetings, where all the parents of a class is expected to participate. Different topics will be addressed, the teachers will tell about the class work and progress or focus point. Both academically and socially.

Parents' council

You can choose to take part in the parents' council of your child's class. Usually it will consist of about 3-4 parents, the home room teacher and possibly other teachers from the school. It is a collaboration between the school and the parents for a class, their job will typically be to arrange different events to promote the class spirit and social well being of the whole class.

Beginning a new school – check list.

Starting school- check list for the parents and student:



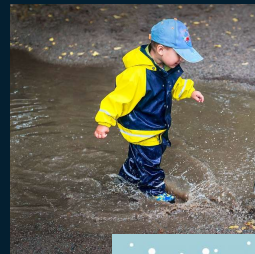
School Bag



Sports clothes and shoes (both for inside and outside)



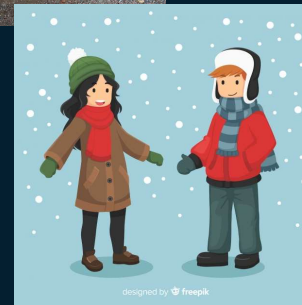
Pencil case



Rain wear and rubber boots



Lunch box and water bottle



Thermo- or winter wear



Sports bag

It's always a good idea to check with the school if anything else is needed.

Interpreter

Can be used when necessary. For meetings, phone calls and written messages. The municipality have a collaboration with ViTolker

<https://vitolker.dk/>

It's the school/municipality who are responsible for booking and payment.

SFO/Club(school-based leisure time facilities)



SFO/klub (school-based leisure time facilities) is an offer all families can use. It's for 0-6 graders. The children will have different activities after school. For example games, playtime, fieldtrips. All activities are in- or close to the school. The children are always accompanied by adults/pedagogues. For children who are new in Denmark this is a great way of getting more acquaintances and the chance to learn more Danish.



Phone numbers & contacts:

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Other contacts:

You and your child will meet:

Health care/ School nurse

All schools have a health care program.

All students will be given a health check.

Height, weight, vision and hearing will be monitored.

The health care program can also guide parents and children, regarding healthy food/living and they take interest in the child's well-being in school.



Dental care

All children will be given a check up at the school dentist. It is either at the child's school or a school nearby.

The parents will be contacted about a coming appointment. Dental care is free up until the age of 18.



You and your child might meet:

PPR (pedagogical, psychological counselling)

PPR is an option, where you can have professional, specialized help for our child. This collaboration might occur if a child for example suddenly becomes sad, have difficulties concentrating or struggle to find friends. There can also be a collaboration concerning the child's language- for example if the child have corresponding difficulties in both the native language and the second language.

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