

## **In Turku, basic education is continuing as classroom teaching, as flexibly as possible and avoiding unnecessary contact**

**Classroom teaching in the City of Turku's basic education is being organised 14-30 May 2020 in accordance with government guidelines. In teaching, both the indoor and outdoor facilities of schools will be diversely utilised.**

In primary schools, the movement of pupils occurring during the school day will aim to minimise contact with other teaching groups and pupils. In organising teaching, teaching groups will remain in the same room with the same teacher as much as possible during the day.

In secondary school teaching, the pupils will remain in the same groups but, when the teachers move between different groups, the principle of keeping contact to a minimum will be observed. With regard to optional subjects, schools may deviate from the normal groupings of the school year for safety and in order to minimise the risk of infection.

### **In principle pupils must attend classroom teaching**

The Basic Education Act obliges pupils to attend teaching unless they are temporarily granted exemption for a special reason. Permission for exemption may be applied for from the headteacher, and the school will consider granting such permission on a case-by-case basis. Pupils must not attend school if they are ill. Parents/guardians must report the absence of their child for reasons of illness as soon as possible. The illness of a pupil or the fact that a pupil or a family member belongs to a risk group are acceptable reasons for absence. A responsible physician will make an assessment on whether a pupil or family member belongs to a risk group.

Schools will not organise remote teaching for children remaining at home during the remainder of the school year.

### **Special teaching arrangements**

For a pupil's health-related reason, the organiser of teaching may make a decision for him/her on special teaching arrangements by which teaching can be provided remotely. Remote teaching may become topical, for example in the case of pupils belonging to risk groups, suffering from long-term illness or requiring special protection from infections. The decision on such an arrangement will be based on the assessment of the responsible physician.

### **Classroom teaching may be partially replaced by online teaching at school in order to avoid movements of staff**

The movement of teachers between different units will be avoided. Teaching will be carried out as classroom teaching on the premises of a single school. If necessary, the teacher may also teach a lesson remotely so that the pupils are simultaneously in another school building under the supervision of someone else. This may be the situation for so-called rotating teachers.

If necessary, the teacher responsible for the subject may plan the whole teaching session but instruct another teacher to deliver it. The other teacher will hold the lesson at a time suitable for his/her working schedule, which will avoid teachers having to move between units.

### **School meals**

School meals will be provided within Turku's basic education with as much flexibility as possible, taking into account the facilities at each school and the numbers of pupils. The schools will plan and implement the provision of school meals themselves in the best possible way taking account of safety. School meals can be served, for example, in the dining hall, in classrooms or other indoor or outdoor facilities, requiring compliance with official guidelines.

## **Breaks at schools**

With regards to breaks, school days can be organised differently from the normal practice in order to avoid unnecessary close contact. During breaks, teaching groups will be situated in their own break areas or at other locations designated for breaks. In the schools, teachers will be responsible for supervising breaks.

## **Transport for pupils**

Transport plans for pupils will be prepared this week by Föli and services will begin on 14 May. A sufficient number of buses will be mobilised so that all pupils moving to temporary facilities can also be catered for. At present, there is no national regulation about emergency arrangements for school transport. In practice, it is very challenging to organise very significant changes to school transport within the framework of the available fleet of vehicles and waiting times, so that there will not be too many people in the vehicles. If they so desire, parents/guardians have the option of transporting their child themselves and of receiving transportation benefit for this. Further information about transport is available from Seija Aitala (...@turku.fi), el. 040 7751731, and at the link:

<http://www.turku.fi/en/daycare-and-education/basic-education/schools-and-services/school-transport>

## **Familiarisation visits to schools**

Familiarisation visits to primary schools will be cancelled for the spring, if the present guidelines concerning the assembly of large groups of people remain in force. Schools may organise such visits in a week 33 if they observe the safety guidelines. Familiarisation visits to secondary schools were already held in January.

## **Support from pupil welfare services**

In the emergency conditions of the present spring term, the need for pupil welfare has increased and schools are now being asked to take this into account. The situation concerning the competence of pupils, support for learning and school attendance and needs related to pupil welfare will also affect teaching arrangements next autumn.

## **School time during the remainder of the school year 14-30 May 2020**

Schools will observe normal school time and timetables based on work schedules according to the prevailing situation. Pupils will receive teaching in accordance with the curriculum and the only deviation from this will be on Friday 29 May, which will be a special themed day.

The school year for basic education will end on 30 May 2020. In order to avoid the risk of infection, schools will not hold normal end-of-year ceremonies.

## **Further information about school attendance: From the headteacher of your own school**

Best regards,

Tommi Tuominen  
Service Area Director, Basic Education