

Menntaskólinn við Hamrahlíð



School mission and vision statements

Hamrahlíð College's school curriculum conforms to [The Icelandic National Curriculum Guide for Upper Secondary Schools](#) (2012) and is based on The Upper Secondary Schools Act ([nr. 92 2008](#))

Strategy, mission and vision

“The objective of the upper secondary school is to encourage the overall development of all pupils and encourage their active participation in democratic society by offering studies suitable to the needs of each pupil. The upper secondary school prepares pupils for employment and further studies. It shall strive to strengthen its pupils' skills in the Icelandic language, both spoken and written, develop moral values, sense of responsibility, broadmindedness, initiative, self-confidence and tolerance in its pupils, train them to apply disciplined, autonomous working methods and critical thought, teach them to appreciate cultural values and encourage them to seek further knowledge. The upper secondary school shall strive to communicate knowledge and train pupils in a way that provides them with skills to carry out specialised work and with solid foundations to pursue further education.”

-Article 2 of The Upper Secondary Schools Act, as quoted in *The Icelandic National Curriculum Guide for Upper Secondary Schools* (2012)

The school curriculum of Hamrahlíð College reflects the school's educational vision and applies the school's instructional policy. It is continually being developed and is subject to annual review. It is intended to be a source of information for students, parents and guardians, faculty, staff, and other interested parties connected with the school.

The school's mission and vision are evident in its policies and procedures, which include:

- To promote the comprehensive development of all students and their active participation in a democratic society by offering every student a program suited to their needs.
- To ensure the continual development of programs and to offer a wide variety of courses, which encourage specialization in different disciplines.
- To establish a climate which prioritizes the health and well-being of students.
- To offer a variety of support services appropriate to the needs of the student body.
- To promote and foster the school's core values in all aspects of the school's operations. The core values are *knowledge, responsibility, respect, and open-mindedness*.
- To assist the school's Student Council (NFMH) in encouraging students to have an active and healthy social life.

The school's core values

The four values were selected by the whole school community in spring 2019. Discussions took place at the annual school assembly, in groups assigned to the task, and at teachers' meetings. The values were presented to the school board in September 2019 and subsequently published on the website.

Knowledge - responsibility - respect - open-mindedness

- **Knowledge**

We are curious and eager to learn. We seek knowledge and strive to share it. We form opinions based on the thoughtful weighing and reasoning of issues. We use ingenuity and technology to solve projects. We are independent and critical learners in our search for knowledge.

- **Responsibility**

We understand our rights and responsibilities. We conduct our work and studies with honesty and ambition. We take joint responsibility for the school's work and activities. We work collaboratively and collectively to protect the interests of students, teachers and all staff.

- **Respect**

Those who treat others with respect, gain the respect of others. We cultivate self-respect. We treat everyone in the school with respect, regardless of their roles. We respect different points of view and perspectives on life. We respect the school's reputation.

- **Open-mindedness**

We see ourselves as part of a whole. We aim to cultivate open-mindedness towards different perspectives and ideas. We strive to broaden our outlooks, which in turn promotes creativity. Our guiding principle is to strive to put ourselves in other people's shoes. We are tolerant, caring and empathetic towards others.

September 12th 2022
Steinn Jóhannsson headmaster