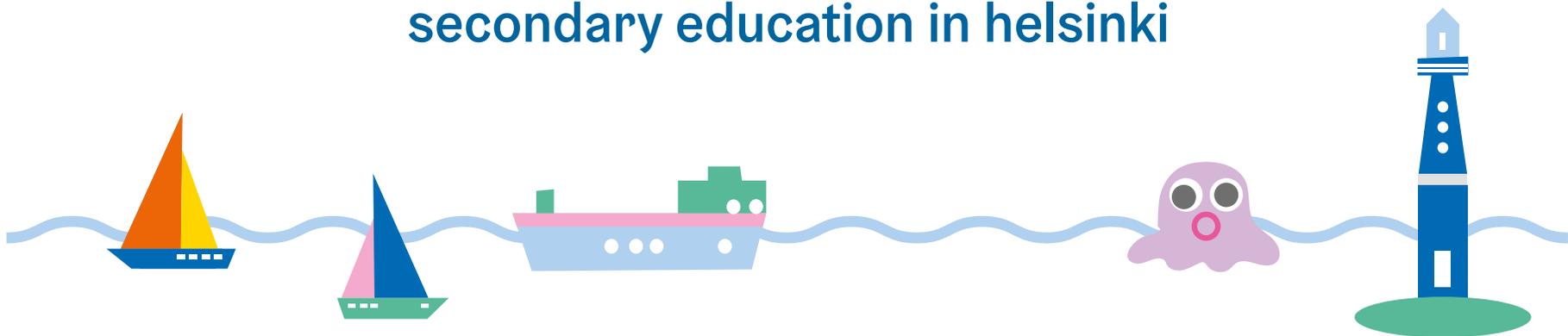


Helsinki



Cultural Education plan for early childhood, basic and secondary education in helsinki



For the reader

Childhood and youth are precious times for laying the foundations for a good future. Helsinki wants to be the world's best and most equal place for all children and young people to learn and have equal opportunities to grow up to be happy adults and realise themselves.

Helsinki's Cultural Education Plan will contribute to this goal through experiences and the creation of art and culture. Every child and young person, regardless of their place of residence or socio-economic background, must have equal opportunities to experience and create art and culture.

Cultural education supports the growth of children and young people, helps to deal with difficult issues and strengthens the experience of inclusion. Cultural and artistic experiences evoke emotions and raise new perspectives on familiar matters.

At its best, cultural education can generate a spark that grows into a lifelong interest in art and culture.

Art and cultural education and experiences strengthen the skills and hopes of children and young people for the future, providing tools to interpret the changing world and helping to understand its different phenomena.

Cultural education gives hope and the basis for a dream of a sustainable and good future.

Helsinki's Cultural Education Plan is needed to make these skills and experiences accessible to all children and young people in Helsinki. Therefore, I would like to encourage all early childhood educators and teachers to read Helsinki's plan for cultural education and to promote every child and young person's right to enjoy the world of art, culture and creativity.

Nasima Razmyar
Deputy Mayor, Education Division



1. Helsinki, a city for art and culture

Art and culture are integral to the growth and development of every child and adolescent. They strengthen cognitive skills, offer new perspectives on familiar things and help better understand the world and its different phenomena. They also teach many important skills in all areas of life, such as creativity, courage, empathy and critical thinking.

From the point of view of art and culture, Helsinki children and young people are in an exceptional position. Helsinki offers a huge number of new and inspiring environments to experience and learn new things and participate in the making of the world. The city also has a wide range of art and cultural heritage operators, many of which offer children and young people interesting content for early childhood education, school or study days.

However, not all children and young people have access to diverse cultural experiences due to, for example, the socio-economic situation of their guardians or the family's lack of interest and knowledge of the art and cultural content available to them. Cultural education and the cultural education plan are needed to ensure that art and culture would play an equal part in every child and young person's life so that they have an opportunity to form a lifelong connection with art and culture.



2. Cultural education plan promotes the equal right to cultural experience

Helsinki aims to be the world's best and most equal place for all children and young people to learn and have equal opportunities to grow up to be happy adults and realise themselves. In terms of creating and experiencing art and culture, Helsinki's Cultural Education Plan supports this goal by promoting equal opportunities for children and young people to experience culture and art during their time in early childhood, basic and secondary education.

Based on Helsinki's cultural offer and heritage, the cultural education plan serves as a guideline between cultural and art educators and cultural actors. The plan describes how cultural, artistic and cultural heritage education should be implemented as part of the municipality's early childhood, basic and secondary education. The plan makes art and cultural education in Helsinki goal-oriented.

Helsinki's cultural education plan is particularly intended as a joint tool between the Culture and Leisure and Education divisions and the actors in the field of arts and culture. The cooperation aims to develop and maintain regular and easily accessible policies, communication services and networks. They contribute to providing high-quality cultural education for all age groups in early childhood education, schools and secondary education.



3. Based on the City Strategy

Helsinki's cultural education plan covers the contents, methods and event environments of cultural heritage, cultural heritage education, and art and art education.

The plan supports the implementation of the Helsinki City Strategy 2021–2025: A Place of Growth. The objectives of cultural education for the four-year period are as follows:

- To provide equal opportunities to experience culture around the city.
- To ensure equal opportunities for all children and young people to engage in hobbies regardless of their place of residence or socio-economic background.
- To use the whole city as an environment for learning and cultural education. To promote close cooperation between different cultural sectors and educational institutes.
- To emphasise the value of culture and art in education and leisure time.
- To make Helsinki the capital of reading and literacy.



4. Measures and networks in the cultural education plan

Serving as a joint tool between early childhood, basic and secondary education actors in the culture and arts sectors, the implementation of Helsinki's cultural education plan will be promoted in particular through the following networks and measures:

The Kultus.fi web service compiles cultural and artistic content for children and young people for the needs of early childhood education and schools. Cultural education has its own newsletter, containing extracts from Kultus' contents and other current issues in cultural education.

The Helsinki cultural education forum brings together artistic and cultural operators and education professionals in Helsinki. It is a network of cultural operators and educators for learning, development, cooperation and discussions of topical cultural education issues.

The City of Helsinki's cultural routes provide equal opportunities for all children and young people in Helsinki to experience arts and culture. Cultural routes include art and cultural content suggestions suitable for all early childhood education age groups, basic education school grades and secondary education students.

Culture coordinators are school teachers and professionals who convey up-to-date cultural education information to their colleagues. Each Helsinki school has its own cultural coordinator acting as the contact person between the school and cultural services.

Long-term and systematic steering and working group work between the **Education and Culture and Leisure** divisions enables the implementation of equal cultural education. The steering group is chaired by Pirjetta Mulari, Chief of Children's Culture and Director of Annantalo.



5. Cultural routes provide ideas for art and cultural visits

Cultural routes are designed to strengthen the status of art and culture in education and ensure that all Helsinki children and young people have access to a wide variety of cultural content and events. Cultural routes suggest art and cultural content appropriate for each age group or grade and support the objectives of cultural education.

Cultural routes offer contents that are already part of the activities of daycare centres and schools, as well as new ideas for future established content. Cultural routes include, for example, visits to libraries and museums, art tours, events, introductions to performing arts and much more. Early childhood educators and teachers can modify the cultural route plan to suit the needs of their respective groups and carry out more than one cultural visit per age group or grade if they wish. Cultural education visits are not tied to specific subjects. Preferably, the children and young people are to participate in the planning and choosing of the visits.

The cultural route in secondary education offers students diverse cultural contents. It fosters wellbeing through arts and culture experiences. The cultural route covers both general upper secondary education and vocational education and training. The route can be modified according to the needs of the educational institution.



Kouluna koko kaupunki - Kulttuuria kaikille!

Tapahtumia, taidetta, kirjoja, juhlia, teatteria ja vaikka sirkusta!



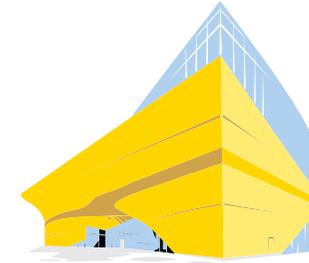
1. Ik Kirjastovierailu lähikirjastoon



2. Ik Tokaluokkalaisten taideretki Juhlaviikot, Kiasma, Kaupunginorkesteri ja Musiikkitalo.



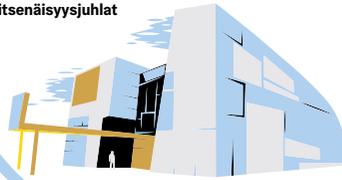
3. Ik Kirjavinkkaus lähikirjastossa



6. Ik Teatterivierailu, tanssiesitys, sirkus tai muu esittävän taiteen tapahtuma



4. Ik Pormestarin itsenäisyysjuhlat



5. Ik Helsinki Biennaali / Helsinki Design Week



7. Ik Kirjavinkkaus



8. Ik Museovierailu

9. Ik Koululaisnäytökseen tai elokuvafestivaaleille osallistuminen / Konsertti tai musiikkifestivaalilla vierailu



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6. Principles guiding cultural education

Cultural education aims to promote the creation of personal relationships to art and culture among children and young people, develop life skills and understanding and strengthen creativity, broad-based learning and active citizenship. The following principles guide the cultural education plan:

Equality

All children and young people have the right to art and culture. The cultural education plan provides equal opportunities to experience art and culture regardless of their family's socio-economic situation, cultural background, disabilities or other reasons.

Focus on children and young people

Childhood and youth are unique, significant and sensitive periods in our lives, affecting up to adulthood and old age. The growth of a child or young person to a strong, expressive and self-determined individual requires a safe and diverse growth environment that supports agency. Cultural education promotes the achievement of these goals.

The future belongs to children and young people

Cultural education provides tools to interpret and change the world. It also helps to understand different phenomena. Cultural education offers meaningful and sustainable life content to counter the throwaway culture. It also strengthens children and young people's hope for the future and lays the foundations for a dream of a sustainable and good life.

A lifelong relationship with art and culture

Cultural and art education inspires children and young people. It can be a start of a lifelong relationship with arts and culture. With cultural and art education, children and young people learn that different forms and diversity of culture can be a potent source of joy and power. Cultural education also influences the habits and interests that are formed in childhood and follow us through life.

Freedom to self-expression

Participation in cultural education gives a new channel to be heard, express feelings and have experiences of success. Children and young people get to form their own interpretations of the art and cultural contents and also create new content.

Inclusion and participation

Inclusion is an important part of the planning, implementing and assessing of cultural and arts education contents. Through self-expression and having their voices heard, children and young people can experience strong inclusion and participation. Cultural education builds a bridge between the individual and society, paving the way for becoming active citizens and understand different expressive traditions. Cultural and art education introduces children and young people to a wide range of artworks and encounters dealing with diverse society and humanity. It encourages children and young people to understand others and create their own stories as members of the community and society. It also offers opportunities for identification and experiences of belonging across the boundaries of time and place. The artistic and cultural content offered throughout the city strengthens the sense of ownership and makes the city feel familiar.



7. The right to art and culture

All children and young people have the right to art and culture. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Finnish Act on Cultural Activities in Local Government form the international and national legal basis for cultural education and the cultural education plan.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is a human rights convention applying to all under 18-year-olds, with Article 31 stating the right of the child to participate in cultural life and the arts. According to the convention, every child must have the opportunity to participate in cultural services regardless of his or her place of residence or socio-economic background.

The Finnish Act on Cultural Activities in Local Government governs the activities through which local authorities promote the creation, pursuit and accessibility of the culture and arts, use of cultural and art services and cultural education and cultural heritage. For example, the Act states the following objectives:

- 1) support people's opportunities for engaging in creative expression and activity and for producing and experiencing culture and art
- 2) promote equal opportunities for all population groups and further their participation in the culture, arts, and education.



8. Key concepts of cultural education

Cultural education refers to the art and cultural contents, locations, methods and activities that are part of children and young people's early childhood or school education or studies. Guided art, cultural and cultural heritage education supports children and young people's opportunities for creative expression and to experience and create culture and art. It also develops their creativity, multiliteracy and prerequisites for learning. Cultural education brings together different subjects and themes. In addition to artistic and practical subjects, it applies to all early childhood education and teaching.

A cultural education plan is a plan for how cultural, art and cultural heritage education is implemented as part of early childhood education and teaching in a municipality. It is prepared and implemented with early childhood education, schools, culture, and art operators. A cultural education plan is based on implementing the curricula for education and early childhood education and the municipality's cultural offer and heritage with a child-oriented and inclusive perspective. The plan makes art and cultural education provided in early childhood, basic and secondary education goal-oriented. It also guarantees equal opportunities for all children and young people to participate in art and culture.

Cultural heritage education aims to support the development of knowledge, skills and cultural identity. Cultural identity defines how people identify themselves in a cultural context. It helps to understand and accept not only our own roots but also other cultures. Cultural heritage education also supports cultural literacy, a part of multiliteracy skills. Cultural heritage education can occur in memory organisations, such as museums, libraries and archives, or in different cultural environments.

In this context, **children's culture** refers to the culture produced for children by professionals or professionals in cooperation with the children. Children's culture includes, for example, basic education in art. It also refers to the culture created by children through play, for example. The key principles and premises for children's cultural activities include quality, equality, child orientation and art and cultural education.

Multiliteracy refers to the skills and ability to interpret, produce, combine and evaluate different kinds of texts and messages in a written, spoken, printed, audiovisual or digital format. Cultural education provides room for children and young people's creativity and simultaneously promotes multiliteracy development.

Art education refers to multisensory learning of different life phenomena. The learner's active role is an essential part of art education activities. Learning is based on experiences, experimentation and doing things yourself. Art education develops the skills and senses of children and young people. It is simultaneously learning about art and learning through art in the context of different art forms.



