

The Catholic School



THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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"God is like a smoking hot oven. Full of love." Martin Luther 1532.
Drawing by Julius, 5th grade.

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

There are 22 Catholic schools in Denmark. Each individual school is independent with its own history and identity. Many of the school's histories go back more than 150 years. Some were originally established as local parish schools for the parish's Catholic children, while others were established as more open educational institutions, such as "ordensskoler" in the larger cities, which welcomed children from all parts of Europe. These schools' self-understanding and mission were often broader and on offer to the public at large. Regardless of the difference in origin and self-definition, the Catholic schools have always had a number of features in common, such as morning assembly, prayers and various church services. Moreover, the Catholic schools, both in the past and today, have a well-defined philosophy in terms of how children and humans are perceived, as well as educational ideals.



AIMS

The Catholic schools have two basic aims, which are interconnected and prerequisites for each other.

TO HAVE GOOD SCHOOLS IN DENMARK – FOLLOWING THE GENERAL DANISH AIMS

All Catholic schools in Denmark aim to be of service to society and the community through the education and formation of future generations of Danes. The students must be equipped to deal with the world. This means that there needs to be a well-developed professional academic environment, where teachers and social educators are well-educated and up to date in their fields, as well as in teaching perspectives/pedagogy, and with a reflective view of the relationship between faith and knowledge. The Catholic school insists on being a modern school.

Staff at Catholic schools should have both the desire and competence to open the world up to the children. The children should also experience trusting relationships, for it is through these that they will feel empowered to open up to others and the world.

However, the Catholic school should not only indiscriminately reflect the given reality, but it should maintain that not all opinions or trends in society are equally good. In a world that calls upon solidarity, justice and peace, it is crucial that the school's values are constantly made clear and concrete in the everyday. It is the aim for the students to be motivated to self-reflect, to take a stance and to act.

A school's collective "subject knowledge" is therefore never value-neutral but always made up of a particular attitude to life, fellow man and the world. It is this attitude and approach to life, deeply rooted in the school's values, which should go hand in hand with academic content. When this succeeds, the Catholic school's formation ideal is on its way to becoming realised.

What are
our aims?

HUMANITAS – BECOMING HUMAN

Every person is fundamentally good and unconditionally dependent on trusting relationships with others. To succeed as a human, it is crucial that one experiences the ability to be, to dare to be, oneself. From a formational perspective, the Catholic schools hope to offer an ambitious and caring school environment, where the individual student is imparted both the courage and skills to live a life in love of fellow man and in love to God.

Man's religious questions, searching and longing are a necessary reality and are part of the things that concern us all. At a Catholic school, Christianity has a special position, as it is there that the school's self-understanding rests. At the same time, it is crucial that the Catholic school does not aim to "produce" righteous Catholics but to qualify the students' reflections upon their own lives with unconditional respect for the individual student's personal and spiritual development.

It is a daily task for all people to make choices to make the world a more human place, and this is the Catholic schools' greatest wish – to qualify the students' desire and ability to use themselves for the benefit of others and the world; in order to achieve greater freedom, justice and peace.

What
do the
students
think?

We are allowed to express our
own opinions. The grown-ups
give us a lot of time to think
about things. *Mette, 8th grade*

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WHERE ARE THE SCHOOLS?

There are a 22 catholic schools.
See where....



FAKS

Foreningen af Katolske Skoler i Danmark
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faksnet.dk

What do the students think?

Here we hear the voices of students from various catholic schools:

I believe the school is founded in love and that someone will be there to help, no matter the problem *Chili, 6th grade*

I know that there are many who believe in God and I am one of them. *Nana, 5th grade*

I think we are good at taking care of each other. In comparison to many other schools, it is very seldom that I hear anything about bullying at our school. It gives everyone freedom and peace of mind to be themselves. *Salvador, 8th grade*

In our extravagantly fantastic school you will learn to have ideals in life. *Nicolas, 8th grade*

I think we are learning well but also that our teachers are learning alongside us. *Helene, 5th grade*

The reason that our teachers do their job so well, is because they are 100% prepared each and every day. *Jason, 8th grade*

At this school you do not have to believe in God if you do not want to. *Helene, 5th grade*

Most of the teachers are very nice, but to be honest, there are some I don't particularly like. *Olivia, 8th grade*

Like many in my class who believe in God, I am a believer. That is why I think it is lovely that we have our own church. *Oliver, 8th grade*



**Where
are the
schools?**

