

Phenomenal Helsinki

- the joy of learning and doing together

The City of Helsinki has prepared guidelines for the development of basic and upper secondary education in 2015 – 2020. The city aims to bring its pedagogy, operating culture and learning environments up to date in a situation where the foundations of vocational qualifications and basic and secondary education curricula are being reformed.

The new curricula will bring **phenomenon-based learning** to the forefront alongside subject-based learning. This means that students and pupils will be studying in a community-oriented and long-term manner, dealing with real problems and real-world phenomena. Their education will integrate the skills, objectives and contents of multiple subjects and be well connected to the surrounding community, society and work life, with particular emphasis placed on the sense of community and growing together.

Growing as a human being, studying, working and operating as a citizen require competencies that span across and combine different fields of knowledge and skills. As such, Helsinki will emphasise these **comprehensive skills of the future** in its education. Such skills include thinking skills, working skills, interaction skills, professional skills, everyday skills, participation and influencing skills and the building of a sustainable future.

Education will provide alternative means of studying while increasing freedom of choice and opportunities for choosing studies from other schools, degrees or institutions. The skills and competencies that pupils and students acquire elsewhere will also be taken into consideration in their studies. During their studies, pupils and students will document their competence in a personal digital portfolio. They will study in a **community-based manner along individual learning paths**.

The operating culture of the school will be characterised by **distributed leadership** and a learning community. Distributed leadership is a requirement for the school's success in a diverse and changing society, requiring all members of the community to take responsibility, commit to shared values, and develop problem-solving and decision-making skills as well as self-management. The school will be a **learning community** that develops through critical and constructive dialogue. The members of this learning community will share their expertise while developing and growing together. Pupils and students will also take part in the planning, realisation and evaluation of their school's operations.





The school will build **networks and partnerships** to support the growth and learning of children and young people, recognising the fact that the social learning environment is more extensive than the internal learning community of the school. Through these networks, children and young people will connect with different kinds of expert, working and operating cultures, learning to interact with different types of people. The school will adopt **a culture of sharing** characterised by shared development, by sharing experiences and expertise and learning from each other's practices, models and solutions.

The school will consist of flexible **learning spaces** that are suitable for different kinds of groups and working methods, and accessible to operators outside of the school as well. **The school** will also encompass **nature and urban Helsinki**, where problems and phenomena will be studied in real environments and with the collaboration of real operators and experts. Pupils and students will learn by operating in a community, in society and in working life.

Digitalisation will change the operating methods, processes, information management and interactions related to education, teaching and studying. Pupils will be expected to understand the principles of information technology, be able to apply them comprehensively and acquire the skills needed to operate in a digitalising society before moving on to further studies, entering the labour market and becoming independent citizens. Helsinki aims to comprehensively utilise the potential of digitalisation in the development of pedagogy, to which end the city will draw up a predictive **digitalisation strategy for education and learning**.

For more information, please contact: Head of Education Liisa Pohjolainen, tel. 310 86850, e-mail: liisa.pohjolainen@hel.fi

