

Garðabær Multicultural Policy

Introduction

The term 'immigrant' refers to foreigners who have settled in Garðabær and whose native language is not Icelandic.

Guiding principle

All Garðabær residents, irrespective of nationality or origin, shall enjoy equal rights in their interactions with Garðabær public bodies and have the opportunity to play an active role in the community.

Information dissemination and access to services

Garðabær focuses on making sure that immigrants are provided with information on the town's activities, Icelandic society and their rights and obligations.

This is done by ensuring that:

- informative material is available on the website of the Garðabær local authorities;
- forms and pamphlets from Garðabær public bodies are translated into other languages;
- the public bodies of the town use the services of interpreters when necessary;
- good relations are maintained with those involved in the affairs of foreigners.

Schools

Garðabær endeavours to fulfil the educational needs of the children of immigrants.

This is done by ensuring that:

- schools prepare plans for the reception of immigrants;
- schools receive expert advice on the affairs of immigrants;
- focus is placed on multicultural teaching methods;
- focus is placed on strengthening Icelandic-language teaching for the children of immigrants in Garðabær nursery schools and primary schools;
- customised curricula are prepared for children whose native language is not Icelandic;

- focus is placed on communications between the home and the schools and that parents receive all necessary information and gain an understanding of the school's work and their children's education;
- efforts are made to combat prejudice by educating students, Icelandic and foreign, and to raise their awareness about the culture and origins of their classmates;
- education in cultural skills is offered to students in nursery schools and primary schools;
- interpreter services are used in communications with parents and children when necessary.

Adult education

Garðabær focuses on ensuring tolerance and respect for the culture of other nations, thereby preventing and minimising prejudice.

This is done by ensuring that:

- immigrants in Garðabær are given the opportunity to attend Icelandic-language courses near their home;
- Garðabær's foreign employees are offered work-related Icelandic-language courses;
- Garðabær's employees are offered cultural-skills courses;
- educational courses are held for immigrants.

Cultural affairs

Garðabær focuses on strengthening the cultural diversity of its community.

This is to be done by:

- strengthening the services provided to immigrants by Garðabær Library;
- creating venues for immigrants to showcase their culture through multicultural events in the town.

Sports and leisure activities

Garðabær endeavours to improve access for the children of immigrants to sports and leisure activities and reduce drop-out rates.

This is to be done by:

- informing immigrants of the sports and leisure activities on offer in Garðabær;
- using interpreter services in communications with parents and children when necessary.