



## **Multicultural policy of Vestmannaeyjar**



Photo: Óskar Pétur Friðriksson

## ***Active participation and mutual respect***

The town council of Vestmannaeyjar is committed to encourage people of foreign descent to become active and self-sufficient participants of society. We also encourage them to enjoy diverse cultures where knowledge, open-mindedness, equality and mutual respect characterize communication between people of different descent.

The town of Vestmannaeyjar is going to strive to do the following:

## ***Accessibility to service***

The town of Vestmannaeyjar will make a policy that considers individuals of foreign descent and shall especially think about translation services in that regard and translate forms into different languages.



Photo: Tryggvi Már Sæmundsson



Photo: Óskar Pétur Friðriksson

## ***Reduce prejudice***

The town of Vestmannaeyjar will work against prejudice with methods that will work towards mutual adjustment. The emphasis shall be on prevention, education on prejudice and intercultural education for staff members of the town's institutions and residents.

## ***Schools***

The schools shall emphasize teaching methods that suits children of foreign origins and meets their needs for instance in teaching Icelandic as a second language. Education on the student's culture and origin shall be on an equal basis with the main goal to increase understanding for all students of their different circumstances and reduce prejudice. Communication between the schools/kindergartens and homes should help people of foreign origin to understand the Icelandic school system and the education of their children. In the beginning of the child's schooling there shall be an introduction of the schools and kindergartens and the premises of the work there.



Photos from town hall archives





Photo from website: grv.is

## ***Encouragement to learn Icelandic***

Residents in Vestmannaeyjar of foreign origin that want to learn Icelandic shall get an opportunity to do so. Workload, lack of opportunity, poverty, isolation and shortage of suitable study programs shall not prevent the people to do so. The town shall cooperate with educational institutions to offer programs that will be paid for by the individuals.

## *Utilization of knowledge and education of people of foreign descent*

We shall assume the premise that residents of foreign origin are both providers and consumers in our society. The goal shall be that they get appropriate jobs and the same opportunities as others to provide the society with their talents, experience and education, where possible.



Photo: Óskar Pétur Friðriksson



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## ***Distribution of information***

Residents of foreign descent in Vestmannaeyjar shall get an opportunity to enjoy what our society has to offer. Information with every citizen's rights and duties shall be in both English and Polish in one easily accessible place.





Photo: Drífa Þóll Arnardóttir



The towns operations will take notice of the multicultural policy. Managers of institutions in Vestmannaeyjar are responsible for introducing this policy to their staff. The Multicultural staff will make sure that this policy is followed through.

The policy is to be reviewed September 2021.