



Multicultural policy of Vestmannaeyjar



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Vestmannaeyjar is a multicultural municipality that welcomes all the opportunities that come with it. There is an emphasis on inclusion, which means recognizing and respecting diversity and always making allowances for it. The activities of Vestmannaeyjar Municipality in matters concerning people of foreign origin shall consider the following:

- *Active participation and mutual respect*
- *Access to services*
- *A society without prejudice*
- *Schoolery*
- *Encouragement to learn the Icelandic language*
- *Utilization of knowledge and education of people of foreign origin*
- *Information sharing*





Virk þátttaka og gagnkvæm virðing

[Active participation and mutual respect]

Vestmannaeyjabær is committed to encouraging the municipality's residents of foreign origin become active and self-sufficient participants in society. It is our hope that residents enjoy a diverse daily life and culture where knowledge, openness, equality and mutual respect characterize interactions between people of different origins.

Aðgengi að þjónustu

[Accessibility to service]

Vestmannaeyjarbær considers people of foreign origin and emphasizes that residents of Vestmannaeyjar can access basic information in Icelandic, English and Polish on the town's website. Consideration should also be given to interpreting services and the translation of forms into other languages as part of the service provided to the town's residents. The town's website will provide important information for new residents to simplify their adaptation to a new community and support them on their journey to becoming self-sufficient participants in society.



Samfélag án fordóma

[A society without prejudice]

Vestmannaeyjabær emphasizes preventive education about prejudice and multicultural teaching within the institutions to create a society without prejudice. The goal is to work systematically against prejudice in the community and among the residents with methods that promote ***mutual integration*** *[gagnkvæm aðlögun]*.



Gagnkvæm aðlögun/mutual integration = This means that foreigners who come here are encouraged and facilitated to adapt to the customs and habits of Icelanders and they are guaranteed access to language courses and education about the main aspects of society, including its culture. At the same time, it is recognized that immigrants cultivate the customs and habits of their culture and cultivate ties with their homeland and their people in Iceland and abroad. The integration then involves the natives respecting this need and this desire of the immigrant and making it easier for them to learn about the culture of the immigrant people. If care is taken to ensure that immigrants are not isolated in neighbourhoods, if care is taken to ensure that they receive Icelandic language instruction and education about the history and culture of the nation, and if care is taken to ensure that inequalities between people of different origins do not develop, the committee believes that the chances of successful integration increase so that Icelandic society and Icelandic culture are enriched by the influence of the cultures reflected in immigrants and become more diverse and vibrant.



Skólastarf

[Schoolery]

In Vestmannaeyjar, the preschool and primary school use receptions plans when new students of foreign origin begin their schooling. In teaching Icelandic as a second language, emphasis shall be placed on teaching methods that are suitable for children of foreign origin and meet their needs. An important aspect of schoolwork is to assume that teaching about students' culture and origin is on an equal footing with the aim of increasing all students' understanding of their different circumstances and subsequently reducing prejudice. Communication between homes and schools should be such that people of foreign origin gain an understanding of Icelandic school work and their children's education. An introduction to schoolwork and its prerequisites should take place at the beginning of the study. The reception plans are accessible and updated as needed. No distinction is made between preschool and compulsory school in this context.

Hvatning til íslenskunáms

[Encouragement to learn the Icelandic language]

Vestmannaeyjar encourages all residents of foreign origin to learn Icelandic for use in everyday life. Workload, lack of facilities, poverty, isolation or lack of suitable educational programs should not prevent them from taking advantage of these opportunities. It will be proposed to collaborate with educational institutions on organized courses at the expense of the person concerned. Vestmannaeyjar's establishments aim to be a role model for other employers in encouraging employees of foreign origin to learn Icelandic.





Nýting þekkingar og menntunar fólks af erlendum uppruna

[Utilization of knowledge and education of people of foreign origin]

It should be assumed that residents of foreign origin are both consumers and providers in society. Efforts should be made to ensure that they are given the opportunity to share their experience and education with society, where possible.

Miðlun upplýsinga

[Information sharing]

Residents of foreign origin should be given the opportunity to enjoy what the community has to offer. A new website creates an opportunity to greatly improve information provision and residents' access to news and events in the town.





The Municipalities offices shall consider the multicultural policy, and the directors of the institutions are required to promote it.

The multicultural representative provides advice if requested and will monitor that the policy is being followed.

All photographs are from the municipalities photo collection.