

Dear parents,

The situation we are facing today is challenging to say the least.

The school and welfare administration of Grindavík, in cooperation with School principals from the area, is evaluating the situation to find ways to promote our childrens' activity which contributes to their well-being.

A parents meeting will be held, at 13:00 pm on Friday the 17th of November in Laugardalshöll in Engjavegur 8, 104 Reykjavik, children welcome, where the aim is to present decisions due to these highly unusual circumstances. Hopefully we will have some solutions as well.

We want to inform you about a few things we are working on:

1. There have been some meetings with administrations of the municipalities on the south-west corner of Iceland, the ministry of education and children, the Icelandic association of local Authorities and the department of Civil protection and Emergency management. Everyone is ready and eager to assist in these challenging situations.
2. We are working on hiring a project manager to manage the affairs of our children. It will make it easier for us to have an overview of the service provided for the children, based on the decisions of the towns' counsel and director of school affairs.
3. We are also working hiring a communication and support expert who supports management in providing information for the people from Grindavik.
4. An extra support will be given to children and their families due to affairs of child protection service and general welfare service.
5. We have received a letter from The Ministry of Education and Children where it is stated that the Ministry is aware that some families have already registered their children to schools close to their present habitant.

The Ministry emphasizes the importance of that the administration of Grindavík must make decisions about their legal residents schooling. These decisions should be made in accordance with the children's best interests and in cooperation with their parents.

The Ministry also states that the laws about primary schools in Iceland hold the main rule that attending school for all children for 6 years old to 16 years old, is compulsory.

However, there can deviations from that rule and the Ministry states that there are valid arguments for children from Grindavík's compulsory schools to be temporarily given leeway from schooling. Great emphasis is placed on that children and families from Grindavík must be given space to settle and receive the appropriate support they need due to the trauma they have experienced.

6. One of the main things we are working on is an online community center for children and teenagers, to make sure they can keep in touch with their friends from Grindavík even though they do not attend the same school or leisure center. Further, we aim to have an open house once a week for teenagers and young people. More information about a time and place will be provided when known.
7. Among other things we are organizing the following:
 - a. Where are families staying and how many children have already been enrolled into primary or preschools.
 - b. The circumstances with staff in primary and preschools.
 - c. The need for special support for individual children is being assessed.
 - d. Group division is being revised for possible school activities.

It will be possible to participate via streaming and there will be instructions regarding this on the Grindavíkurbær website www.grindavik.is

Grindavík's service center is now located in Tollhúsið, Tryggvagata 19, 101 Reykjavík (<https://ja.is/kort/?x=356968&y=408427&nz=17.00&page=1&q=tryggvagata%2019>). Parking is available at a parking garage next to the building. It is also available to get there by bus to the bus stop in Lækjargata.