



Guardian's request for student participation in instruction replacing religion and ethics and application for exemption from such instruction

Guardians shall fill out this form when they – in connection with enrolling their child to school – ask for instruction replacing religion and ethics studies (religious education curriculum) and / or want to request exemption from such instruction. **The guardians can submit the request when their child begins grade 1. The request must be submitted by week 42.** If the student begins school in Vantaa at a later grade level, ethics and worldview instruction will follow the arrangement in the student's previous school.

The applications shall always be submitted to the principal of the student's school. The principal approves the student's participation in alternative instruction (section 1). The district manager decides on exemption from alternative instruction (section 2). When required, the principal forwards the application to the district manager. Processing the matter requires the signatures of both guardians.

STUDENT'S INFORMATION

First names
(underline name used)

Last name

Identity number

Address

Post code and post office

Student's school

GUARDIAN'S / GUARDIANS' INFORMATION

Guardian 1 first name

Guardian 1 last name

Address

Post code and post office

Email

Tel.

Guardian 2 first name

Guardian 2 last name

Address

Post code and post office

Email

Tel.

SECTION 1. REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN INSTRUCTION REPLACING ETHICS AND WORLDVIEW INSTRUCTION

You can only ask for alternative instruction if the student belongs to a religious community registered in Finland (other than the Evangelical Lutheran or Orthodox Church). A religious community refers to an officially recognized religious organization registered in Finland. Membership is recorded in the Population Information System.

The student's religious affiliation in the Population Information System (= Digital and Population Data Services Agency) is

The guardian verifies the student's membership in a registered religious community to the principal. The principal and the guardians agree on how the alternative instruction will be arranged.

I request instruction replacing ethics and worldview studies for my child, starting on:

Grounds for participating in instruction replacing ethics and worldview studies

DATE AND SIGNATURES

Date Guardian 1 signature

Date Guardian 2 signature

Date Principal's signature

SECTION 2. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION REPLACING ETHICS AND WORLDVIEW STUDIES

I request exemption from instruction replacing ethics and worldview studies for my child, starting on:

Which religious community provides the student's instruction?

Grounds for exemption from instruction replacing ethics and worldview studies

DATE AND SIGNATURES

Date Guardian 1 signature

Date Guardian 2 signature

According to §4.5.14 of the management charter, the director of basic education or a person designated by them can decide on exemption from instruction replacing ethics and worldview studies. By decision dated April 8, 2026 (§ 22/2026), the director of basic education has delegated this authority to district managers.

According to §4 of the Basic Education Act (628/1998), a municipality is obliged to arrange basic education for children of compulsory-education-age living in its area. Compliant with §11 of the Basic Education Act, the curriculum includes religion or ethics as compulsory subjects. According to §26 of the Basic Education Act, children subject to compulsory education must participate in basic education arranged in accordance with the Basic Education Act or otherwise gain the knowledge corresponding to the basic-education syllabus.

If a student belongs to a registered religious community in Finland (other than the Evangelical Lutheran or Orthodox Church), the options for ethics and worldview instruction are:

- majority religion education based on the guardian's notification
- instruction in the student's own religion at the guardian's request
- ethics and worldview instruction at the guardian's request
- not participating in any worldview instruction.

If a student registered for a religious community does not participate in the school's ethics and worldview instruction, the school will arrange alternative instruction or supervised activities. Instead of alternative instruction or supervised activities arranged by the school, the student may attend instruction provided by their own religious community. In this case, the total amount of instruction may be less than the statutory minimum (§5 of the Basic Education Decree).

There are no grounds for transferring to alternative instruction or for exemption from instruction in religion if the guardians have already selected a subject offered by the school and the student has participated in that instruction.

If the student does not belong to a registered religious community in Finland, the options for arranging instruction replacing ethics and worldview studies for them are:

- ethics education at the guardian's request – majority religion instruction based on the guardian's notification
- religion instruction corresponding to the student's educational and cultural background at the guardian's request.

In such cases, alternative instruction and exemption from it are not available options.

Participation in instruction provided by a religious community is not – according to §18 of the Basic Education Act – a valid reason for exemption from a compulsory subject.

Choices regarding ethics and worldview instruction are generally binding. However, guardians may change the choice if the student's religious affiliation changes or if the student no longer belongs to any religious community.