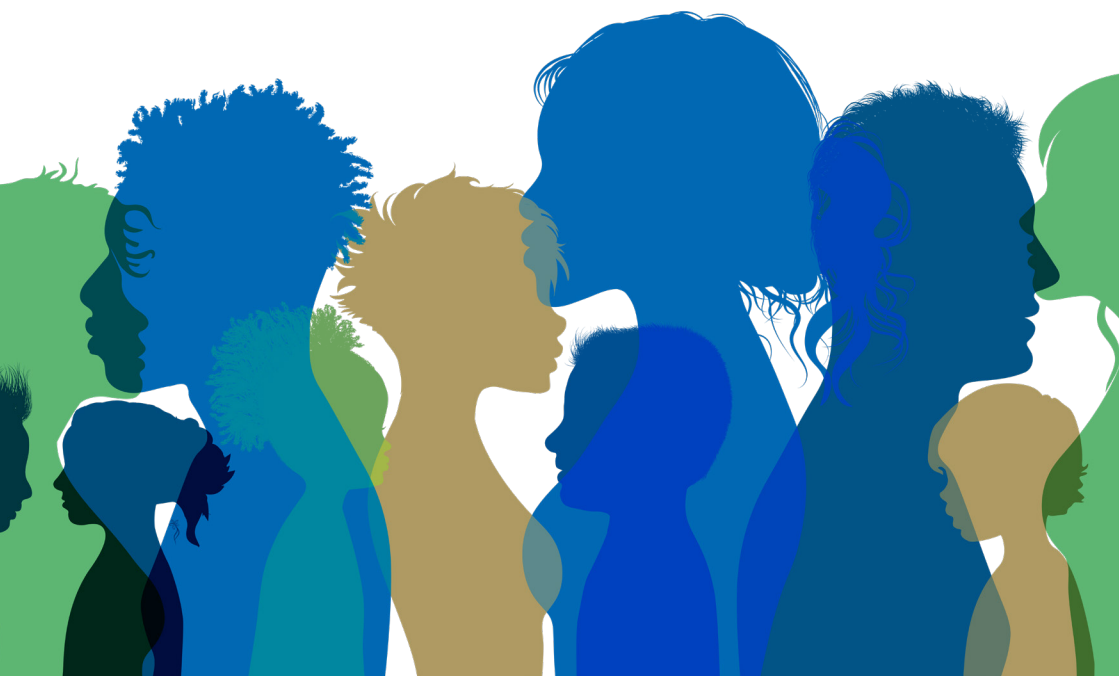


# Swedish as a Second Language

Information for upper secondary school students and guardians

In this booklet you can find out more about the subject of Swedish as a Second Language and how it differs from the subject of Swedish.

You will also learn about the differences between the subject of Swedish as a Second Language in compulsory school and in upper secondary school.



At upper secondary school, there are two equivalent Swedish subjects: Swedish and Swedish as a Second Language (SSL). Grades in Swedish or in SSL provide equal eligibility for applications to higher education, and both subjects involve equal teaching time.

Chapter 4, Section 11 of the Upper Secondary School Ordinance states the following:

*A student whose mother tongue is not Swedish may study Swedish as a Second Language as a foundation upper secondary school subject instead of Swedish. The student may then study Swedish as an individual option.*

The provisions of the Upper Secondary School Ordinance mean that an upper secondary school student whose mother tongue is a language other than Swedish can choose whether to study Swedish or Swedish as a Second Language as a foundation upper secondary school subject.

If the student chooses Swedish as a Second Language as a foundation subject, the student can choose to study Swedish as an individual option, if they wish. At upper secondary school, therefore, students can receive instruction in both Swedish and SSL, which is not possible at compulsory school.

## **What is the difference between Swedish and Swedish as a Second Language?**

The course syllabus for Swedish as a Second Language (SSL) is based on language learning with a second language perspective, which means that the teaching is structured differently than the teaching of Swedish. This does not, however, mean that SSL is an easier subject than Swedish. The teaching is different for Swedish and for SSL because the students have different needs. Students for whom Swedish is a second language need to focus on different elements of the language than students whose mother tongue is Swedish, such as pronunciation and grammatical structures.

Learning different communicative strategies is an area of focus in SSL, as these constitute tools for learning in all subjects and are important when developing a second language. Students also learn to make comparisons between Swedish and other languages that they speak. To ensure that there is time for these elements, Swedish language history and Nordic languages are not included in the teaching of SSL at upper secondary school.

## **What is the difference between SSL at compulsory school and SSL at upper secondary school?**

At compulsory school, it is the student's needs that determine which subject is to be taught, and it is the head teacher who decides whether the student shall be taught SSL instead of Swedish. At upper secondary school, it is the student who decides which subject they want to study – Swedish or SSL.

If the student chooses to study SSL as one of their foundation subjects, they may also choose to study Swedish as an individual option, if they wish. At upper secondary school, therefore, students can be taught both Swedish and SSL, which is not possible at compulsory school.





## **How and when do students choose their Swedish subject for upper secondary school?**

The choice of Swedish subject is made in conjunction with the choice of upper secondary school. Before making this choice, students and guardians are provided with information and guidance from the school's study and career guidance counsellors and SSL teachers.

If no active choice is made, the student will study the subject that is recommended by their secondary school teacher.

## **Information and guidance when choosing a Swedish subject**

Students and guardians have the right to receive information and guidance when choosing the Swedish subject for upper secondary school. All students and guardians who fall within the target group for SSL (i.e., having a mother tongue other than Swedish) are invited to an information meeting before the choice of upper secondary school is made. There you will receive more information about the two Swedish subjects, and have the opportunity to ask questions to a qualified SSL teacher. You also have the option to book additional support sessions to help you make your choice, if you feel the need.

The choice of Swedish subject for upper secondary school is always the student's own, but schools have an obligation to provide information and guidance to students and guardians to enable them to make informed choices.

## **What about grades?**

A grade in Swedish as a Second Language has the same value as a grade in Swedish, and confers the same eligibility for applications to higher education.

## How is the teaching of SSL organised?

The teaching of Swedish as a Second Language can be organised in different ways, both within the same school and between different schools. Some children who study Swedish as a Second Language will be learning Swedish as a new language. Others may have been born in Sweden and already have a well-developed understanding of the Swedish language. The subject of Swedish as a Second Language is both for beginners and for children with a more advanced Swedish language development. The teaching therefore needs to be conducted in different ways for these student groups.

Here are a few examples of how head teachers may choose to organise the teaching of Swedish as a Second Language based on the different needs of the students:

- Swedish as a Second Language for newly arrived pupils in a preparatory class.
- Swedish as a Second Language and Swedish in different teaching groups.
- Swedish as a Second Language and Swedish in the same teaching group.

## Is it possible to switch from SSL to Swedish, or vice versa?

Yes. A student can switch during the course of their upper secondary education and, for example, first study and receive grades in Swedish 1 and 2, and then change to study and receive grades in Swedish as a Second Language 3 (or vice versa).

Any changes between subjects are made between academic years, not during the course.

## Ongoing information

At all parent/teacher meetings, we talk about your child's knowledge development, and this also includes discussing the child's language development and the subject of Swedish as a Second Language.

Ask your child's teacher if you would like more information.

Markaryds kommun  
Tel: 0433-720 00  
Box 74  
285 22 Markaryd  
info@markaryd.se

[www.markaryd.se](http://www.markaryd.se)  
[www.facebook.com/markarydskommun](https://www.facebook.com/markarydskommun)  
[www.instagram.com/markaryds.kommun](https://www.instagram.com/markaryds.kommun)



**MARKARYDS  
KOMMUN**