



The best start in life at Randers Realskole

Every parent wants their child to have the best start in life, naturally, and their schooling becomes a fundamental stepping stone in forming their future. Randers Realskole is known for having high academic standards, but the foundation of the school's success is found in the focus on pupils not only as pupils but as whole individuals. The general wellbeing of the pupils ensures both academic and intellectual progress.

By Josefine Older Steffensen | Photos: Randers Realskole

Randers Realskole is the largest private primary school in Denmark, teaching 1,200 pupils between the age of six and 16 every day. "The school was founded in 1869 and is full of traditions while at the same time being forward looking

and modern," says headmaster Hans Myhrmann.

A shared philosophy

Randers Realskole has a long tradition of focusing on the optimal development

of the pupils – academically as well as personally and socially. The wellbeing of the pupils ensures that the school becomes a place in which they can learn, develop and thrive. "If a child looks forward to going to school every day because they know it's nice, interesting and motivating, they are much more engaged and ready to learn," Myhrmann explains. "What really matters is that the child develops throughout their schooling on an academic level, but also on a social and emotionally intellectual level. What they learn here at Randers Realskole is something they keep for the rest of their

lives, so we want to give them the best start they can get.”

From the first day to the final exam, this shared understanding that each child is at the school to thrive, be healthy and learn, means that the pupils, parents, teachers and administration all know what they have to do to achieve the common goal. By working together and having an open dialogue with each other, problems, praise and progress can be easily discussed and passed on.

Learning from others

Every year, the school receives approximately 400 new pupils. These are both

first time pupils and students changing schools. There is, in particular, a large influx of pupils aged 13. However, these new pupils are not simply placed into existing classes; instead, new classes are created where the original students are mixed with the new ones.

“By mixing up the classes when new groups of pupils join the school we ensure a level playing field. It means that the children have to interact socially with new people every few years, which also gives them a chance to reinvent themselves, make new friends and learn how a wide range of people live and think. We’ve found that it makes our pupils

very accommodating of new people, a skill which is essential for the future,” Myhrmann says.

An open dialogue

When the aim is to provide the best possible learning environment, it is essential that there is an open dialogue between all the members of the school. Randers Realskole is constantly looking to develop itself as well as its pupils, and feedback has become a vital part of this development.

“At parents’ evenings we’ve chosen to base the conversation on feedback forms that the pupil and teachers fill out about





each other and themselves, looking at everything from academic achievements to social interactions. That way, we've started a conversation about what's working really well and what we need to work on. From there, we can make a plan for the future and know what the focus needs to be," explains Myhrmann.

“ Success isn't always measured by getting the highest mark, but also by how much you try. We value trying hard higher than anything else. It's so impressive to see someone giving it their all and getting something back from it. ”

Headmaster Hans Myhrmann

The teachers also work closely together, particularly in the younger years, to make sure that their pupils are getting as much out of the day as they possibly can. By having two teachers in the classroom at the same time there is always a helping hand, and the teachers can learn from each other and develop the best strategies for teaching the pupils as individuals and as a group.

'We care'

When the whole individual is in focus, there are many aspects to take care of. One such thing is that pupils are healthy both physically and mentally. "It's really important to us that we encourage a healthy lifestyle with good food and exercise, but also that we're there when



a pupil experiences tough times, like if their parents are getting divorced,” says Myhrmann. “We have support groups and people ready to help when something happens, to make it as easy on the student as possible. When your parents get divorced or you might be experiencing mental health problems, the school can become a safe haven where you have someone impartial to talk to and help you through it all.”

Offering to make demands

The attitude at Randers Realskole is to always give more and to always do your best. By offering to make demands, they are also providing the opportunity to develop as much as possible. To be able to do this, the school offers its support, encouragement and fantastic facilities including state-of-the-art IT facilities, a brand new music building and cutting-edge science classrooms, all of which help to encourage development and achieve goals.

Randers ElitesportsCollege is also one of these facilities, offered in cooperation with elite sport clubs in the city to, for example, handball and football players. Here, students in the senior years who are exceptional at sport can practise their sport on the highest level in the best facilities and with the best trainers, whilst also maintaining their schooling to a high standard. Randers ElitesportsCollege has produced some of Denmark’s top talents in the past couple of years.

Achieving their full potential

The pupils who graduate from Randers Realskole bring with them a fantastic education, a vast number of skills and a well-rounded sense of self. They have been given every opportunity to better themselves, develop and be enlightened by their surroundings and everyone has chosen to grasp this opportunity.

“100 per cent of our pupils go on to further education or go travelling before

continuing their education. Our success rate is incredibly high because we have a school where everyone gets behind the pupils and where the students thrive in school and are encouraged to achieve their full potential,” concludes Myhrmann.

- RANDERS REALSKOLE:**
- Established in 1869.
 - Denmark’s largest private school with 1,200 pupils.
 - Education for the ages six to 16.
 - Has its own ElitesportsCollege, which has produced top sporting talents.
 - State-of-the-art science, music, IT and sporting facilities.

For more information, please visit:
www.randersrealskole.dk

