



**Parish  
as a partner  
of early childhood  
education, schools  
and educational  
institutions**

THE EV. LUTH. CHURCH OF FINLAND<sup>†</sup>

## **Parish as a partner of early childhood education, schools and educational institutions**

The model of four baskets is inviting partners to versatile cooperation with parishes. The baskets are a way of telling about the purpose of cooperation and providing guidelines for it. The brochure is intended for professionals in the education sector and decision-makers in society and the church, as well as for the information of parents.

The principles included in each basket are based on the updated guidelines of the Finnish National Agency for Education. They are aimed at ensuring the realisation of the freedom of religion in early childhood education, schools and educational institutions. Therefore, it is very important to keep the baskets separate from each other.

Each basket provides many opportunities for selecting models for local implementation of cooperation. In the changing multicultural operating environment, the four-basket model creates clarity and gives people freedom to take action.

We wish you very rewarding cooperation!

*Education and Family Matters  
National Church Council*

# Vocabulary

## *Learning environment*

An entity related to learning, consisting of physical and psychological factors and social relationships (e.g. space, event, community).

## *Pupil and student welfare*

Activity that fosters learning, physical and psychological health, and social welfare in an educational institution community. Includes both a community and individual perspective.

## *Freedom of religion*

Basic right that includes the freedom to believe, practice religion and belong to a religious community (positive freedom of religion) as well as the freedom not to believe, participate in practice of religion or belong to any religious community (negative freedom of religion).

## *Practice of religion*

Participation in rites and rituals specific to a particular religion, such as service and praying, and implementing them.

# 1<sup>ST</sup> BASKET

## TEACHING OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- in accordance with the local curriculum for early childhood education or curriculum for basic education
  - parish as a learning environment
  - parish employees as experts in their own field or as cooperation partners in world view education
- the pedagogical responsibility is borne by the day-care centre, school or educational institution
  - does not include practice of religion

*Examples*  
church buildings, church year



## 2<sup>ND</sup> BASKET

### TRADITIONAL FEAST DAYS

- community spirit and the principle of respectful presence
- feast day traditions with references to religion are part of the Finnish culture
  - may include a single hymn
- does not constitute practice of religion
- parish representative present mainly as an invited guest

#### *Examples*

end of term ceremonies

## **3<sup>RD</sup> BASKET**


### **RELIGIOUS EVENTS**

- practice of religion in accordance with the principle of positive freedom of religion
  - planned together
- information on relevant events provided to homes well in advance
- the child's guardian decides whether the child participates in the event or not, and in the upper secondary education the student him- or herself makes the decision
- at the same time, the school or some other similar party arranges a sensible alternative for the pupils/students who do not participate in the event

#### *Examples*

**Advent service, Easter service**





## 4<sup>TH</sup> BASKET

### GROWTH AND WELFARE

- community-based and equal partnership
- providing support for preventive student welfare and well-being at work
- implemented in accordance with the existing welfare plans of early childhood education, the school or educational institution
- implemented respecting the spectrum of religions and world views

#### *Examples*

group formation, clubs,  
family centre and crisis cooperation,  
recreational activities for the staff



**Curricula**  
*eperusteet.opintopolku.fi/#/en*

**Finnish National Agency for Education**  
*oph.fi/english*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland**  
*evl.fi/our-work*

**Nuori kirkko ry**  
*nuorikirkko.fi*



**Opportunities for cooperation between schools and parishes**  
Brochure orders on the frontpage  
*koulujakirkko.evl.fi*

**Ideas and materials for religious education**  
*uskonnonopetus.fi*

