

# The Danish Efterskole

The Efterskole is a unique Danish residential school, where students from the ages of 14 to 18 can choose to spend one, two or three years to finish their primary education.



## Common educational purpose

Each Efterskole is a self-governing independent institution and they all deal with both the educational and personal development of the students. They embrace a common educational focus on enlightenment for life, general education and democratic citizenship.



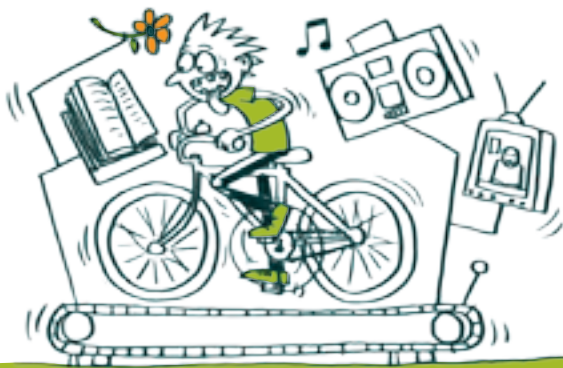
## History

The first Efterskoles were founded about 150 years ago. The schools were closely related to the Danish Folk High School and the educational ideas of N.F.S. Grundtvig (1789-1872) who wanted schools to provide enlightenment for life rather than formal vocational training. For more information about the history of the Efterskole see [www.efterskole.dk/english](http://www.efterskole.dk/english)



## Freedom of the Efterskole

Compared to public schools the Efterskole has substantial freedom in terms of eg. choice of subjects, teaching methods and educational approach. These vary in accordance with the school's political, religious or pedagogical orientation. Freedom of the Efterskole is assured by substantial state subsidies to both schools and students.



The Efterskole has something to offer both educationally and socially, because the students live together. It can perhaps be said that the teachers who work at an Efterskole are not entirely ordinary. They are prepared to involve aspects of themselves other than the professional, so that the pupils have a positive relationship to the teachers.



# The Danish Efterskole

“Going to Efterskole is the best decision I’ve ever made. I’ve learned a lot about working together with others, and I have gotten to know myself 100%. And the best part is that I have made friends for life.”  
- a student



## Teacher-student relationship

One of the things that is unique about the Efterskole is the teacher-student relationship. The teacher is responsible for both teaching and supervision outside of school hours. This means that teachers and students are together all day from the time the students wake up until they go to bed. This often opens up for a close, personal and non-formal relationship between students and teachers.



## Subjects and exams

Most Efterskoles offer the same subjects and final examinations as the public schools, and in addition many of them focus on special subjects like physical education, music or theatre, or offer various kinds of special education.



## Number of schools and students

There are more than 260 Efterskoles spread across Denmark, mostly in rural areas or near provincial towns. At present approximately 27.000 students attend the schools. Schools vary in size from 25 to 500 students but most of them have a minimum of approx. 100 students. The number of students has increased considerably within the last 25 years. For updated information see [www.efterskole.dk/english](http://www.efterskole.dk/english)



## A film about the Efterskole

For further information please visit [www.efterskole.dk/english](http://www.efterskole.dk/english), where you can watch the cartoon “A film about the Efterskole”



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