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# GOALS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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## **Abstract**

*In order to define the purpose of education and upbringing we start from the achievements in the science of education (in pedagogy, developmental psychology, philosophy of education, sociology), but from our positive experiences in primary schools as well. At the same time it covers the objectives for harmonious development of students, in terms of an individual and society, as well as essential elements in the development of civic awareness and the attention of students towards their own health. It explains what is covered by every aspect of the above goal of upbringing and education.*

The following aspects are contained in the general goal:

1. In terms of an individual, the harmonious development of students (cognitive, emotional, social and psychomotor) is affirmed in conformity with their individual skills and laws of development, and the development of the student's personality based on principles of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms.

2. In terms of an individual, society and environment the need for training students to adopt a system of knowledge and skills for independent, effective and creative work in the social and natural environment is stressed.

3. From the aspect of society and the individual, the need for developing civic awareness among students about belonging to the Republic of Macedonia and fostering of their national and cultural identity in the spirit of respect for people regardless of their social, cultural, gender and religious affiliation and physical or mental capabilities is emphasized.

4. At the same time, the goal of upbringing is related to the development of awareness and concern among students about their own health and the importance of a healthy environment.<sup>1</sup>

For the first aspect, the harmonious development of students, the purpose of education and upbringing implies:

- development of students' awareness about their own individuality, prompting their self-confidence and responsibility for their acts;

- upbringing aiming to develop respect for human rights, gender equality and fundamental freedoms, and for living in a democratic society, all this with methods that support these values;

- development of communication skills, critical thinking and creativity in students;

- development of abilities to recognize one's own feelings, and understanding of the feelings of others;

- promotion of the importance of learning and work;

- enabling students to assess their own progress.<sup>2</sup>

The next goal of training students to adopt a system of knowledge and to develop individual abilities can be achieved by the following:

- learning general and applicable knowledge necessary in students' everyday lives;

- adoption of basic knowledge in the field of language, nature, society and man through respective teaching subjects, and this in a way that will allow internationally comparable standards of knowledge in different development periods of the students and at the end of primary school;

- instigation of intellectual curiosity, sense of beauty, and explorative spirit in students;

- stimulating creativity and ability for expression in the area of music, plastic art and other artistic forms;

- creating conditions for the development of talented students, and for support and development of children with special educational needs.<sup>3</sup>

The development of civic awareness and system of values in primary school is achieved by means of learning contents and activities that imply:

- development of students' abilities for understanding, informing and expressing in Macedonian language, and in multilingual environments – in Macedonian and Albanian, i.e. Turkish, Serbian, as well as in other languages;

- learning about the past and cultural traditions of the Macedonian people, about the cultural traditions of ethnic communities in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as about the traditions and statehood of Macedonia;

- learning foreign languages and enabling students to communicate and familiarize with other cultures and achievements of other peoples in the world;

- promotion of the principles of equality among people regardless of their origin or affiliation;

- promotion of the significance of tolerant behavior, solidarity and development of nonviolent conflict resolution.<sup>4</sup>

Concern of students about their own health can be promoted and developed through the contents and activities that enable:

- promotion of healthy lifestyles and education of students about taking responsibility for their own health and for environmental and nature protection;

- creating a favorable climate and training conditions for the physical and psychological safety of students in school.<sup>5</sup>

The goal of primary education defined in this manner is the starting point for the planning of teaching and other activities of students and for the development of the program of work in primary school. Therefore, the curriculum contains specified objectives, contents and activities, as well as methods of educational work in primary school. All of this can be seen in the curriculum in more detail and more clearly.

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<sup>1</sup> “Concept of nine-year primary education“, pp 74-76

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 74

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 74

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 76

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 76