

Hørings svar Namsos Kommune – nedlegging av ungdomstrinnet Jøa

I moved to Jøa almost 5 years ago with my then 2-year-old son. On this beautiful island with its wonderful inhabitants, we have found not just a place to live, but a home.

Here, community is still highly valued; here, the stronger stand up for the weaker; here, even the youngest children in kindergarten learn consideration, cooperation, and responsibility. Everyone in this community contributes their own contribution to the well-being of all. These values aren't simply taught in the classroom; they are lived out.

Here, there's room for individuals; here, there's still the opportunity to nurture and support children in a way that's simply impossible in classes of 20-30 children. Our children grow up in a safe and familiar environment; they're treated with respect and on equal terms, already in kindergarten. This creates a relaxed and trusting learning environment that's hard to find elsewhere. I can't imagine how it could possibly make sense to tear young people away from this incredibly valuable structure, especially at a crucial time for everyone at this age—a phase of life when they're making their first decisions about their future, when grades suddenly become the deciding factor in securing a good education or a university place.

A two-hour commute each way to school is simply unacceptable. I don't know any adult who would put up with that. Even if it were "only" a two-hour commute each day (which is logistically impossible and realistically should be calculated at three to four hours daily), we're talking about a full-time job for teenagers. It's a 40-hour week, after which most adults come home exhausted and look forward to a well-deserved rest. Our children are far from finished. And that 40-hour week doesn't even include homework or exam preparation.

Where is there any time left for them to just be children? When are they supposed to have time for clubs, playdates, other leisure activities, and friends?

And what about families? Where in such a school model is there still room for shared family time, a shared breakfast, or dinner?

I am fully aware of what a privilege it is to live on Jøa. What immeasurable luck we have to see our children grow up here, in nature, with nature, where they are taught the important things in life that every single inhabitant of this island has consciously chosen. Perhaps you have to live on Jøa to understand Jøa. But this piece of unspoiled world, this little paradise, is something that must be preserved. And fundamental to that is that our children are allowed to grow up here for as long as possible, before they travel the world for their education and university studies and then return home with their own children.

I urge you to reconsider this plan. This undertaking will have far-reaching consequences for Jøa and its future. All the young families who make Jøa so vibrant will wonder whether the price of the privilege of living here is too high if it is our children who have to pay for it.

Med vennlig Hilsen

Jori Johnsen