



Confirmation in the Church of Denmark

Education, community and faith



What does confirmation mean?

Confirmation is a Lutheran tradition in Denmark in which young people around the age of 13–14 confirm the promise their parents said yes to when they were baptised as infants.

The word confirmation comes from Latin and, in the Danish Lutheran understanding, means “to confirm” or “to strengthen”. It is about strengthening faith, life, and identity as a young person.

Confirmation in the Church of Denmark is both a church ceremony and a major personal event. It marks the transition from child to young person, and for many it is the first large celebration they host.



In the months leading up to the confirmation, the confirmands meet with the priest and other young people. They talk about faith, ethics, responsibility, friendship, and the big questions of life:

What do I believe in?

What do love and forgiveness mean?

What happens when life is painful?

There is no exam, and you do not need to know the Bible by heart. You are welcome to be curious, questioning, or in doubt. The most important thing is that a safe space is created where you are listened to and taken seriously.

To be confirmed, you must be baptised – either in the Church of Denmark or in another church. The Church of Denmark recognises all forms of baptism, so if you are already baptised, you do not need to be baptised again.

A young girl with long, wavy blonde hair, wearing a white lace dress, is looking towards a woman in a black suit with a white collar. The woman is seen from the back, and her hand is partially visible in the foreground. In the background, a church interior is visible with other people seated in pews, and a large window with a cross design is illuminated. The scene is captured in a warm, indoor setting.

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“I thought we were just going to learn Bible verses, but we ended up talking about life and what makes us happy.”

ELINA | CONFIRMAND



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“I was a bit nervous beforehand because there were going to be so many guests in the church, but we sat together as a whole class, so it was actually really nice.”

ADAM | CONFIRMAND



HOW THE COURSE WORKS



Before the confirmation

Confirmation classes usually begin in the autumn and continue until the spring, when the confirmation itself takes place. Most groups meet once a week – often during school hours – in the church premises or in cooperation with the school.

Teaching takes place in many different ways: conversations, film clips, creative exercises, music, Bible stories, role play, or short reflections.

In some places, the group also goes on a camp trip, where the confirmands get to know each other through shared experiences and community.

On the day of confirmation

On the day of confirmation, the confirmands meet at the church wearing festive clothes – often a white dress or a suit, but there are no fixed rules.

During the service, hymns are sung and the priest gives a short sermon about faith and life.

Afterwards, the confirmands step forward one by one, or all at the same time. The priest places a hand on the confirmand's head and speaks a blessing – a prayer for God's love and presence.

Many experience this moment as both solemn and deeply personal.

After the service, photos are taken and the day is celebrated with family and friends – often with food, music, and gifts.



The Church of Denmark and faith

The Church of Denmark

The Church of Denmark is the largest church in Denmark. It is called the Evangelical Lutheran Church and has roots going back to the 16th century.

The church is based on the Bible and on Martin Luther's ideas that faith is personal, and that God meets people with love and forgiveness – not with demands.

The Church of Denmark is an important part of Danish history, culture, and values.

The church is part of society, and it is open and free. This means that you do not have to believe the same things as the church, and that it is always voluntary whether you want to be part of it.





The church at different stages of life

Many Danes are baptised, married, and buried in the church – even if they rarely attend church on Sundays.

The church is there when life begins. This may be through baptism or baby hymn singing for the youngest children and their parents.

The church can also be a place to turn to when life changes. Both during joyful events such as confirmation and weddings, and during difficult times when someone dies, becomes ill, or when parents separate. The church is also a place to go when everyday life feels heavy.

You can talk to the priest about grief, worries, or other things that weigh on you. This could be difficulties at home, feelings of loneliness, or experiences of being bullied at school. You can also talk to the priest about the good things in your life.

Priests speak with everyone – even if they do not share the same beliefs or come from a different background.

You do not need to be a member of the church to come, and priests are bound by confidentiality. This means that what you share remains between you.



“I spoke with a priest when my parents were getting divorced. I was very worried, and it helped to share it with someone.”

JEREMIAH | CONFIRMAND

For parents and families

A safe environment for your child

The confirmation programme is free of charge. The child must be baptised to be confirmed, but if this has not yet happened, baptism can take place during the process. The priest ensures that it is a safe and personal experience.

Help and language

If you do not speak Danish, the priest or the church office can help. There is information about confirmation available in many languages, and interpretation or translation can be arranged if you or your child need it.

All questions are welcome – there are no stupid questions.





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“I was a bit nervous beforehand because there were going to be so many guests in the church, but we sat together as a whole class, so it was actually really nice.”

SARA | PARENT

Frequently asked questions

How does the teaching take place?

Confirmation classes typically begin in the autumn and continue until the spring, when the confirmation itself takes place. Classes usually take place once a week, often during school hours – and in some places as intensive weeks or weekends. Teaching takes place either in the church premises or in one of the school's classrooms.

The teaching is not about memorisation, tests, or exams.

It is also about reflecting on life, talking together, being curious, and having the opportunity to ask the big questions:

What is the meaning of life?

Does God exist?

What do love and forgiveness mean?

Why does evil exist, and what happens when we die?

Many different methods are used: conversations, film clips, games, creative exercises, role play, Bible stories, hymns, and reflections.

In many places, the group also goes on excursions or camps – a weekend or a few days where the confirmands have shared experiences and get to know each other better.

It is also about community and a sense of safety.

How does the confirmation day take place?

On the day itself, the confirmands and the priest meet well before the service.

They usually rehearse the ceremony a few days beforehand, so everyone knows where to go and what will happen. Most confirmands wear festive clothes – many girls choose a white dress and boys often wear suits, but this is not a requirement. During the service, the confirmands sit together in the front rows.

Hymns are sung, and the priest gives a sermon about life and faith. Afterwards, the confirmands are called forward.

The priest places a hand on the confirmand's head and speaks a blessing and a personal greeting. It is a solemn and beautiful moment.

After the service, many families take photos outside the church and celebrate the day with food, guests, and gifts. For many young people, it is an important day they look back on with joy and pride.

What does it cost to be confirmed?

Confirmation is free of charge. The church does not charge for teaching, conversations, or the ceremony itself. You do not need to be a member of the Church of Denmark.

If you wish to hold a celebration with food and gifts after the church ceremony, this may involve costs – but this is entirely up to your family. Some families choose a large celebration, others a small gathering at home. The most important thing is that the child is celebrated and feels valued. Many churches are able to offer support if finances are tight.

There may be assistance available for confirmation clothes, camps, or celebrations. You can speak confidentially with the priest if you need financial help. It is important to know that confirmation is not about money, but about ensuring that the child has a good experience.

How does baptism take place for young people who are not baptised?

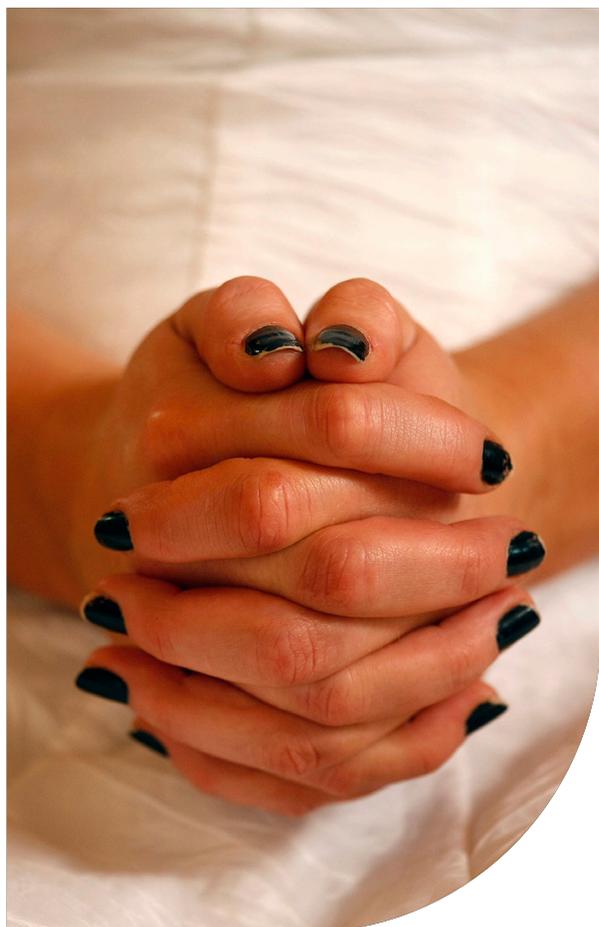
If your child has not been baptised but wishes to be confirmed, they must be baptised first. The baptism can take place during a regular church service or in a smaller, private ceremony.

The priest will speak with you beforehand and ensure that it is a safe and positive experience.

Baptism is a central act in Christianity.

During the baptism, water is poured over the child's head three times, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is a sign that the child belongs with God – and in the community of the church.

Baptism means that one is met by God with love – not with demands. The priest explains everything well in advance, and you are welcome to ask any questions you may have. There is no need to memorise anything, and you do not need to be a Christian yourself for your child to be baptised.



What do you do if you do not speak Danish?

If you do not speak Danish, or only a little, you can still take part. The priest and the church are happy to help.

An interpreter can be provided for conversations, or help with translation can be arranged.

In some places, the church has staff or volunteers who speak several languages.

There is also confirmation material available in many languages – for example Arabic, Turkish, English, Farsi, Ukrainian, Polish, and Romanian. The priest or the church office can provide the materials you need.

If your child also does not speak sufficient Danish, the teaching can be adapted.

The priest will ensure that the child understands what is most important and feels included.

How do you register digitally with MitID?

Registration for confirmation usually takes place digitally. This means that you, as a parent, log in using MitID – the same system used for tax services, Borger.dk, and healthcare.

You access the church's website or receive a link from the priest or school and fill in information about your child and yourselves as parents.

If you do not have MitID or find it difficult to use, you can get help from the church office. They can also print the registration form so you can sign it by hand.

If you are unsure, you can always speak with the priest before deciding whether your child should be confirmed.

The most important thing is that you feel safe and comfortable with the process.

Do you want to know more?

If you want to read more about confirmation in your own language, scan the QR code.

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Kendi dilinizde konfirmasyon hakkında daha fazla okumak isterseniz, QR kodunu tarayın.

Jeśli chcesz przeczytać więcej o konfirmacji w swoim własnym języku, zeskanuj kod QR.

Ako želite čitati više o potvrđi (konfirmaciji) na svom jeziku, skenirajte QR kod.

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Якщо ви хочете дізнатися більше про конфірмацію вашою мовою, відскануйте QR-код.

Dacă doriți să citiți mai multe despre confirmare în limba dumneavoastră, scanați codul QR.

Si vous souhaitez en savoir plus sur la confirmation dans votre propre langue, scannez le code QR.



FOLKEKIRKEN

Contact your local priest. At www.sogn.dk you can see which church and which priests to contact. You can also contact the priest responsible for your child's confirmation programme. Read more about confirmation at www.konfirmandcenter.dk



The Church of Denmark Confirmation Centre

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