

# Course Series on School Refusal

## - What can be done when a child refuses to attend school?

The number of children not attending school is on the rise. At the Drive Foundation, we encounter them daily, and we have been doing so for many years. We've met their exhausted parents and the affected siblings. We've seen how family life falls apart and how norms and values in ordinary family life crumble when a child exhibits worrying school absence. We have spent time building relationships with them and, most importantly, we have helped them return to school.

Join one or more courses in Drive's course series on involuntary school absenteeism and school refusal. The course series is structured so that you can attend a single course or continue with several or all three courses in the series.

### With this course series, you will receive:

- Comprehensive knowledge based on theory and practical experience that can contribute to reflection processes and new perspectives on your daily practice.
- Presentation of concrete, practical tools and methods that can be applied in your own practice.
- The opportunity to test tools and methods with other participants and adapt them to your own needs.
- Collaboration and knowledge sharing with other participants.

### Target audience

The course series is for teachers, educators, leaders, social workers, PPR psychologists, or other professionals who are in contact with children and young people exhibiting early signs of school refusal and concerns.

**Price:** One course 1250 kr.; all three courses 2500 kr.

**Registration:** Email to [nadiakl@fondendrive.dk](mailto:nadiakl@fondendrive.dk)

### Presenters

Nadia Kræmer Lützhøft and Anne Vestergaard Jensen have gained in-depth knowledge of children with involuntary school refusal and their families through their roles as leaders in various day treatment schools and as teachers in child psychiatry. They have also gained extensive experience with specific tools and approaches that work in dealing with individual children. Both have advised municipalities and schools, including through VISO, on handling children with school refusal and, especially, on understanding the underlying causes of school refusal.



## Course 1 - When school refusal begins

**Date:** January 29, 2024 - 10.00-13.00

**Location:** Drive School of motivation, Kløvermarken 33, 7190 Billund

**Date:** January 24, 2024 - 13.00-16.00

**Location:** Sundhedshuset Martinsvej, Martinsvej 7-9, 2000 Frederiksberg

### **Content:**

This first course in the series focuses on preventive measures for school refusal and involuntary school absenteeism. The course provides an understanding of what involuntary school refusal is and how it can be defined as a condition for which no one is to blame.

### **With this course, you will receive:**

- Concrete methods and tools that can be used when you encounter a child who is struggling and starting to withdraw from school. These methods can involve both individual children and the entire class.
- Knowledge of how attendance tracking in schools can be used as an analytical tool to assess the seriousness of absenteeism.
- Insight into recognizing patterns in refusal and when it is necessary to respond as an individual teacher or collectively, possibly involving others outside the classroom.
- A solution model for how schools, municipalities, and other institutions can work together in cases where children begin to show emerging distress in the form of school refusal.

## Course 2 - When children don't attend school

**Date:** February 5, 2024- 10.00-13.00

**Location:** Drive School of motivation, Kløvermarken 33, 7190 Billund

**Date:** February 8, 2024 - 13.00-16.00

**Location:** Sundhedshuset Martinsvej, Martinsvej 7-9, 2000 Frederiksberg (KBH)

### **Content:**

In this second course in the series on school absenteeism will focus on possible explanations for the child's absence and incorporate an understanding of resistance and motivation in the child.

### **With this course, you will receive:**

- Concrete conversation methods for when you need to visit a child with involuntary school refusal.
- Knowledge on how to work with resistance and motivation in individual children and how to collaborate with parents on this effort.
- Knowledge on how to ensure that the cause of the child's school refusal is addressed, including how the child can be involved in understanding the root cause of the absence.
- Methods for using school absence registration as an analytical tool to determine if the absence is concerning, and how schools, municipalities, and extracurricular institutions can work together on cases where children begin to show signs of emerging distress in the form of school refusal.

## Course 3 - When school refusal persists

**Date:** March 4, 2024 - 10.00-13.00

**Location:** Drive School of motivation, Kløvermarken 33, 7190 Billund

**Date:** March 6, 2024 - 13.00-16.00

**Location:** Sundhedshuset Martinsvej, Martinsvej 7-9, 2000 Frederiksberg

### **Content:**

This third course in the series delves even deeper into understanding the root causes of school absenteeism and the systems affecting the child and the family, as well as how professionals can help throughout the process.

Often, almost debilitating anxiety issues are observed alongside school absenteeism, and even though the child expresses a strong desire to attend school, overcoming this anxiety can be very challenging. This course provides theoretical and experience-based explanations of how anxiety can be understood in the context of school absenteeism. Similarly, it delves into parent collaboration, which can be under significant pressure in absenteeism cases due to the enormous task that often goes beyond a typical parenting role and can exhaust parents to the point where their frustration with the public system or the school becomes evident.

### **With this course, you will receive:**

- Insight into factors that can be seen as triggering, perpetuating, and protecting factors in involuntary school refusal.
- Knowledge of the impact of prolonged school refusal on the child's family and how to work with the entire child's system.
- Understanding of what anxiety is and knowledge of anxiety issues that may be associated with school refusal cases.
- Concrete tools for parent collaboration and how to maintain effective collaboration based on theories of professional responsibility in parent collaboration and mentalizing conversation techniques.

