

"Restlessness and the desire to investigate, to do something ourselves, and to strive for new knowledge, without being pushed and without waiting for someone to give orders – all this makes a school a good and beautiful school," President Ilves said. "Thanks to the teachers and students Valga Basic School is a modern school with a student-friendly atmosphere, where teamwork and tolerance are the key words, where people regard and cherish the surrounding environment, and where students learn to take responsibility, both in school-life and in general," said President Toomas Hendrik Ilves on 1st April while presenting the award for Estonia's Beautiful School to Valga Basic School.

"Restlessness and the desire to investigate, to do something ourselves, and to strive for new knowledge, without being pushed and without waiting for someone to give orders – all this makes a school a good and beautiful school," the Head of State added.

"This is what Valga Basic School is today, and I am really pleased by it. Your thoughts of today become tomorrow's Estonia, to which you give substance through your works and activities," President Ilves said. "If you will remain as eager, thirsty for knowledge, and smart, I can rest in the assurance that Estonia will be an even better and safer place tomorrow."

President Ilves also thanked the teachers of Valga Basic School: "A wise teacher – wise in the most general meaning of the word – helps to shape the lives and choices of their students. Students often only realise in later life the extent of the work done by a teacher, when they realise that the lessons learnt in school becomes useful in real life."

The Estonia's Beautiful School award was presented for the 10th time. The school to win the award is chosen each year by the Estonian Association of Teachers.

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