

Skellefteå High School Facial-Recognition Attendance Trial — Sweden's First GDPR Fine for Biometric Monitoring of Students

AI in Education · Good practice · Sweden

Quality score: 7/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A Skellefteå school piloted facial recognition to log 22 students' attendance over three weeks in 2018. Sweden's DPA (IMY) fined the school board SEK 200,000 in August 2019 — the country's first GDPR sanction — upheld on appeal.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	0/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	0/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	0/3
Scalability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-18

[Integritetsskyddsmyndigheten \(IMY\) / Upper Secondary School Board, Skellefteå Municipality](#) — accessed 2026-07-18

[IMY official decision \(PDF\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-18

[European Data Protection Board — national news](#) — accessed 2026-07-18

[IAPP: How to interpret Sweden's first GDPR fine](#) — accessed 2026-07-18

[GDPRhub case summary \(Court of Appeal\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-18

Cite this — Evidoria. *Skellefteå High School Facial-Recognition Attendance Trial — Sweden's First GDPR Fine for Biometric Monitoring of Students*. Persistent ID: 4b16bc7b-2049-4a37-b2ae-91cf98d035cc.