

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND

Age	Year	Curriculum stage	Schools		
3	Nursery	Foundation Stage	Nursery school		
4	Reception		Infant school	Primary school	First school
5	Year 1	Key Stage 1			
6	Year 2		Key Stage 2		Middle school
7	Year 3	Junior school			
8	Year 4			Key Stage 3	
9	Year 5	Grammar Schools or Comprehensive Schools	Secondary school with sixth form		
10	Year 6			Key Stage 4 / GCSE	
11	Year 7	Sixth form college	Upper school or High school		
12	Year 8			Key Stage 5 Sixth form / A level	
13	Year 9	Year 12 (Lower Sixth)			
14	Year 10		Year 13 (Upper Sixth)		
15	Year 11				
16	Year 12 (Lower Sixth)				
17	Year 13 (Upper Sixth)				

In England there are **State Schools** run by the Government where parents don't pay. These schools are financed by public funds, which means that the money comes from the national and local taxes. Ninety percent of children in England and Wales attend a state school.

There are also private schools called **Independent Schools** where parents pay for their children.

Education is compulsory between the ages of five and sixteen. Before five, children sometimes go to nursery schools or to private playgroups.

Primary schools (5 - 11 years old)

English children enter the reception class of primary school when they are aged between 4 and 5. They attend primary school for seven years. Primary school incorporates Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 of the National Curriculum, from Year One to Year Six.

National Curriculum: Pupils have to study English, maths, science, Religious education, history, geography, music, art and crafts, physical education, and information technology (computers).

Secondary schools (11 - 16 years old)

Secondary school is for children from the ages of 11 to 16 or 18. Secondary school incorporates Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum, from Year Seven to Year Eleven and can also include sixth form. From the ages of fourteen to sixteen, pupils study for the **General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)**. After 16 compulsory education ends, and young people can decide whether to continue their studies or leave the education system. The sixth form (or Key Stage 5) is the final optional two years of secondary school when students are sixteen to eighteen years of age and normally prepare for their **A-level examinations**, which traditionally is required for entry into higher education.

The secondary schools are comprehensive, they admit pupils of all abilities. Where there are grammar schools and secondary modern schools, admission depends on a selection process based on ability.

National Curriculum

Pupils have to study English, maths, science, foreign languages (French, German), Citizenship, Religious education, history, geography, music, art and design, physical education, Personal Social Health Education, drama and information technology (computers).

Higher education

Students normally enter University from 18 onwards and study for an Academic Degree. Students who have completed a first degree (3 years) are eligible to undertake a postgraduate degree, which includes:

- Master's degree (typically taken in one year)
- Doctorate degree (typically taken in three years)

Postgraduate education is not automatically financed by the State, and so admission is in practice highly competitive.

The School Year

The school year runs from September to July and is 39 weeks long.

The dates for school terms and holidays are decided by the local authority or the governing body of a school, or by the school itself for independent schools.

School holidays

The main school holidays are:

- On Christmas- 2 weeks
- In Spring - 2 weeks
- In Summer - 6 weeks

There are also one week holidays:

- end of October
- mid February
- end of May

The uniform

Most schools in England require children to wear a school uniform

Boys

- Long grey or black trousers (shorts may be worn in the Summer)
 - White Shirt
 - School tie (optional in most primary schools)
- Jumper or sweater with the school logo on. The colour is the choice of the schools
- Black shoes

Girls

As above. Girls may wear skirts. During the summer term girls often wear summer school dresses.

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of school are there in England?
2. When does compulsory education start and finish?
3. How long do pupils attend Primary School?
4. How long do they attend Secondary School?
5. When can students get the GCSE?
6. What is the "sixth form"?
7. How is called the final examination?
8. When does school start in England and when does it end ?
9. What can students do after 18?
10. What are the main school holidays?