

# A Guide to School in Scotland

School education is free for all children in Scotland, and they must attend until they are 16 years old. Schools follow the 'Curriculum for Excellence' which is divided into different stages.

## Education Levels in Scottish schools

### Early Years

- Nursery/Early Years Centres for children ages 3 and 4 years
- Some 2 year-olds ('Eligible 2s') can begin Nursery earlier by invitation from health professionals or the school nursery staff

### Primary School (age 4/5 years to 11/12 years)

- Curriculum for Excellence Early Level (Primary 1)
- Curriculum for Excellence Level 1 (Primary 2, 3 and 4)
- Curriculum for Excellence Level 2 (Primary 5, 6 and 7)

### Secondary School (age 11/12 to 17/18 years)

- Curriculum for Excellence Level 3 (Secondary 1, 2 and 3)
- Secondary 4 – National 4 and 5 examination year.
- Secondary 5/S6 – Highers examination year

## School Terms

### Autumn term from mid-August to December

- Half term holiday usually in mid October, 1 or 2 weeks
- Christmas holiday (2 weeks)

### Winter term from January to Easter half term

- Half term holiday in February (up to 1 week)
- Easter holidays – 2 weeks in March or April

### Summer term from April to end of June

- Public holiday (Monday) in May
- Summer holiday (six weeks) in July until mid-August

## The School Day

- Primary school day usually from around 8.50am to 3pm

- Secondary school day usually from around 8.30am to 3.30pm
- Nursery and P1-5 children can receive free lunches provided by school

## **Homework**

- At Primary school homework will vary from school to school. Most classes provide a little English and Maths homework each week
- Homework is usually required for each subject at Secondary school

## **Enrolling and starting at school**

- Enrolment will normally take place at the school, when the parent and child can meet with their teacher and be shown around the school.
- When English is not the child's first language the school will arrange for an interpreter to be there at the meeting. Once they begin at the school, the child will receive help from an English as a Second Language (ESOL) support teacher. Support at school may include visits from a bilingual support assistant.

## **Parent/teacher meetings**

- Normally there will be a chance to meet with your child's teacher at least a couple of times in the year.
- If you have any concerns, parents can also meet the teacher or school management team more regularly

## **School uniform**

- Each school has its own uniform requirements, and will usually have a supply of second hand uniform.

## **School lunches**

- Children can choose to have a hot meal at school or bring in their own packed lunch.
- School lunches are free for all children up to P5, but certain children can continue to receive free school meals as part of a Government scheme, including at Secondary school.
- Children should bring a filled water bottle with them to school.

## **Communication with your school**

- Schools want to do all they can to work with parents and families to support your children, and are happy to answer any questions you may have.
- The best way is to contact your school's Administration Office and ask for a meeting with your child's teacher. Let them know if you require an interpreter for that meeting.

## **Physical Education (PE)**

- PE provides physical exercise and games at school.
- Children have separate clothes to wear at their PE lessons (usually t-shirt, leggings or shorts and trainers)