

A Guide to School in the UK

Education Levels in British Schools

Early Years/Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Pre-school and Reception.

Pre-school

- Children start Reception after the age of 3.
- After turning 3, children are entitled to 15 free hours of childcare per week, some parents choose to pay for more.
- Some pre-schools also take 2 year-olds.

Reception

- For children aged 4-5.
- Children start Reception the September after their 4th birthday.

Primary School

Infants

- Key stage 1 (KS1) refers to years 1 and 2 for ages between 5-7 years.

Juniors

- Key stage 2 (KS2) Refers to years 3 to 6 for ages between 7-11years.

Secondary School

- Aged between 11-16.
- Key stage 3 (KS3) refers to years 7-9 for ages between 11-14.
- Key stage 4 (KS4) refers to years 10-11 for ages between 11-16.
- (GCSE) exams at end of year 11

School Terms

Autumn term from September to December.

- Half Term- usually around end of October,(one week) off.
- Christmas holiday (two weeks).

Spring term from January to Easter Half Term.

- (One week) holiday in February.
- Easter holidays (two weeks) in March or April.

Summer Term from April to July

- Half term holiday (one week) it will be in the last week of May or in the first week of June.
- Summer holiday (six weeks) in July and August.

The School Day

- Classes typically begin at 9 o'clock in the morning, but students need to arrive at the school before that time to prepare themselves for study.
- There is a break time in the afternoon (lunch time) during this break the children have lunch at the school.
- School hours typically end at 3pm in the evening for (pre-school), and 3:15 for the rest of the children.

Homework

(EYFS – Early Years Foundation Stage) Pre-school and Reception

- Normally parents are expected to read regularly with their children (reading to them, then listening to them when they learn to read).
- The teacher may set a weekly fun homework linked to the topic they are studying-very informal. Reading is most important
- Homework expectations can vary from school to school.

Key stage 1 (KS1) years 1 and 2

- Homework is normally very informal- reading is the most important.
- Children might also have a weekly challenge or worksheet (Maths or English).
- Also spelling homework normally starting in KS1. Children may have 5-10 spelling words per week.
- Some schools also subscribe to online learning platforms eg. Nessy, Purple Mash, Times Tables Rockstars.

Key stage 2 (KS2) years 3-6

- Children may have English\Maths worksheet each week.
- Spelling for weekly tests.
- There may be a work project in each term linked to a specific topic chosen by the teacher.
- Plus online learning if desired.

Clubs

- Most schools offer extracurricular activities either at lunch time or after school. These activities are currently reduced due to Covid-19.
- For example, after school clubs could include football, tennis, basketball, netball etc. Or non-sports activities such as choir, art club or dance club etc.

- Some schools also offer after school clubs and breakfast clubs, which is free for children whose parents who are working or need their children to be looked after outside of school hours.

Parents/Teacher Meetings

- Normally, there would be a chance each term to meet in person with your child's teacher (parents evening) for a more formal chat about how your child is getting on.
- Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, these meetings may be moved online.
- If you have any concerns about your child and would like to speak to their teacher, you may be able to speak to them in the playground, or phone or email them to arrange an appointment.

Non-Uniform School Days

- Often, once a term, a school may have a non-uniform day to raise money for charity. Children can wear their own clothes.
- Usually also offering £1 donation.
- Parents will be informed about non-uniform days by a letter or an email.

Physical Education (PE)

- Meaning teaching physical exercise and games especially in school.
- Children have separate clothes to wear for to their PE lesson.
- Children may be required to wear their PE kit to school on the day they have PE, instead of changing in the classroom due to Covid-19. Check with your school.

School lunch

- Children can choose to have a hot cooked meal at school or bring in their own packed lunch.
- School dinners are free for all children up until the end of year 2, but certain children can continue to receive free school meals as part of a government scheme.
- Children should bring their water bottles with them to school.