



## The School Year

In England, local authority maintained schools must provide at least 380 sessions (190 days) to teach pupils during an academic school year. Term dates are set by the local authority but can vary between schools. Academies have no legal obligation to educate pupils for a certain number of days and the length of the school day and term dates can vary, but generally all schools follow a similar pattern.

### Term dates

You can get an idea of term dates by local authority by using the postcode check on the gov.uk website [www.gov.uk/school-term-holiday-dates](http://www.gov.uk/school-term-holiday-dates). Teachers are also required to attend 5 training days in the academic year. These INSET days are generally the day before the term/half term officially starts.

### Autumn term

Term starts at the beginning of September. Half term week is generally the last week of October. Term ends in December usually the week before Christmas.

### Spring term

Term starts during the first week of January. Half term week is generally mid February. Term ends at the end of March / early April depending on Easter dates.

### Summer term

Term starts in April after the Easter break. Half term is usually the last week in May. Term usually ends at the end of the third week in July.

### School Hours

Schools start between 8.30am to 9am Monday to Friday and finish between 3pm – 3.30pm.

### Breaks

Primary schools have a morning break, and some have an afternoon break or “play time” for approximately 15 minutes. Secondary schools have a 20 - 30 minute break in the morning only. You may be asked to supervise students during some break times each week.

### Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes vary from school to school, but are generally for an hour. Teachers often volunteer to run lunchtime clubs. Schools in the UK usually have a canteen or dining room where the students can buy lunch.

### Extra-curricular

Almost all schools have extra - curricular clubs. These include a plethora of sports, music, art, craft and environmental clubs. You may be asked to help out with club activities during or after school hours.

## A Guide to Education in the UK

Schools in the UK are in most respects similar to those that you have attended or taught in at home. There are however aspects of organisations and the curriculum that will differ. This fact sheet provides a summary of the important information about the English education system. More detailed information can be found on the [www.GOV.uk](http://www.GOV.uk) website.

Schools are split into those that are local education authority maintained; which includes foundation, community, voluntary-aided and voluntary-controlled schools and those that are not maintained by the local authority; which includes academies, city technology colleges, independent and some special schools.

All children in England between the ages of 5 and 16 are entitled to a free place at a state school.

It is important to familiarise yourself with the UK Education structure and curriculum. The following are useful education websites.

Department for Education	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education</a>
National curriculum	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum">www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum</a>
Ofsted	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted</a>
Ofqual	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual</a>
AQA exam board	<a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>
Edexcel exam board	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html</a>
OCR exam board	<a href="http://www.ocr.org.uk">www.ocr.org.uk</a>

## Continued Professional Development (CPD)

As a professional working in education, you have a responsibility to keep your skills and knowledge up to date. Schools offer a variety of CPD courses.

TimePlan recognises the value of CPD, and offers a range of accredited training courses for teachers and school support staff, so that our staff get the opportunity to develop professionally.

These courses are particularly important for those teachers that have trained overseas and are new to the UK system. Courses are run throughout the year, details of which can be found on our website, and include:

- An Overview of the English Education System
- English and Literacy in the Primary Phase
- Mathematics and Numeracy in the Primary Phase
- Behaviour Management
- Special Educational Needs
- Assessing, Planning and Monitoring Progress
- Raising Achievement
- Inspections and the Teachers' Standards
- Interactive Technology (including the Promethean Whiteboard)
- Level 1 Child Protection Training – Delivered by BlueLight Child Protection Ltd

## Special Educational Needs (SEN)

A wide range of pupils have special educational needs, many of them also have a range of disabilities. Your lessons should be planned to ensure that there are no barriers to any pupil achieving. Careful and well structured planning should mean that SEN pupils will be able to study the full national curriculum.

All schools have a SEN co-ordinator (SENCO) responsible for working with teachers and parents to make sure that pupils with special educational needs get the right support and help they need at school. In addition, schools employ a range of school support staff including SEN teaching assistants to support children in a mainstream setting.

Teachers should be familiar with the special educational needs and disability code of practice which covers the 0-25 age range and includes guidance relating to children and young people with a disability as well as those with special educational needs. Further information can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25).

## Assessment

### EYFS

Assessment is based on classroom observation, children are not formally tested. An EYFS Profile is completed for each child at the end of their reception year. Further information can be found in the national curriculum assessments document - 2016 Early years foundation stage assessment and reporting arrangements (ARA)

#### KS1 - Year 1

The phonics screening check, designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. Further information can be found in the section 7 of the national curriculum assessments document - 2016 Key stage 1: assessment and reporting arrangements(ARA)

#### KS1 - Year 2

At the end of key stage 1 teachers use teacher assessment judgements to report on the progress of their pupils. These assessments take into account a pupil's performance in national curriculum tests in mathematics, English reading, grammar, punctuation and spelling. The tests take place in May. Further information can be found the national curriculum assessments document - 2016 Key stage 1: assessment and reporting arrangements (ARA)

#### KS2 - Year 6

At the end of key stage 2 assessment tests consist of three English papers covering reading, grammar, punctuation and spelling and three mathematics papers covering arithmetic and reasoning. The tests also take place in May. Further information can be found the national curriculum assessments document - 2016 Key stage 2: assessment and reporting arrangements (ARA)

#### KS4 - Years 10/11

During key stage 4 most pupils work towards GCSEs or vocational qualifications. There are a select few examination bodies that govern a broad range of subjects.

## Post 16 Education

In the UK, education is compulsory until age 16. Although pupils can choose to leave school at 16, in England they must continue in some form of education until they are 18. Post 16 students can decide to stay at school, go to college, or take up an apprenticeship or a part-time training course. Depending on the type of education undertaken, the following qualifications can be obtained GCSE AS, A Levels, Cambridge Pre-U, Diplomas, International Baccalaureate and technical and vocational qualifications (NVQs / BTECs)

To find out more about the variety of options and qualifications available post 16 visit the National Careers Service website. Advice is also available from the GOV.UK website [www.gov.uk/government/publications/16-to-19-study-programmes-advice-on-planning-and-delivery](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/16-to-19-study-programmes-advice-on-planning-and-delivery)

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) principles cover a child's development from birth to the end of their first (reception) year at school. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.

All 3 to 4-year-olds in England can get 570 hours of free early education or childcare per year. It is usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year and must be with an approved childcare provider. Funding is also available for some 2 year olds who meet certain criteria. Many schools have early years and childcare provision on the school site that is managed by an external partner.

Most children begin full-time education in primary school at the start of the school year in which they reach school age (5 years old). This first year at school is referred to as the reception year and is the final year of the EYFS.

In the EYFS, children are mostly taught through games and play. There are 7 areas of learning:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

## The National Curriculum (Ages 5-16 years)

After completing the EYFS, children follow the national curriculum. The national curriculum is divided into 4 key stages and 12 subjects. The subjects are classified as 'core' and 'foundation'. The table below sets out which subjects are compulsory at each key stage:

	Key stage 1	Key stage 2	Key stage 3	Key stage 4
Age	5-7	7-11	11-14	14-16
Year groups	1-2	3-6	7-9	10-11
<b>Core subjects</b>				
English	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Foundation subjects</b>				
Art and design	✓	✓	✓	
Citizenship			✓	✓
Computing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design and technology	✓	✓	✓	
Languages		✓	✓	
Geography	✓	✓	✓	
History	✓	✓	✓	
Music	✓	✓	✓	
Physical education	✓	✓	✓	✓

All schools are also required to teach religious education at all key stages, however parents can withdraw their children from all or part of lessons. In addition secondary schools must provide sex and relationship education.

The arts (art and design, music, dance, drama and media arts), design and technology, the humanities (geography and history) and modern foreign language are not compulsory national curriculum subjects after the age of 14, but all pupils in maintained schools have a statutory entitlement to be able to study a subject in each of those 4 areas.