



Education and Schools

Introduction

Education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 - 16.

Children's education in England is normally divided into two separate stages. They begin with primary education at the age of five and this usually lasts until they are eleven. Then they move to secondary school, there they stay until they reach sixteen, seventeen or eighteen years of age.

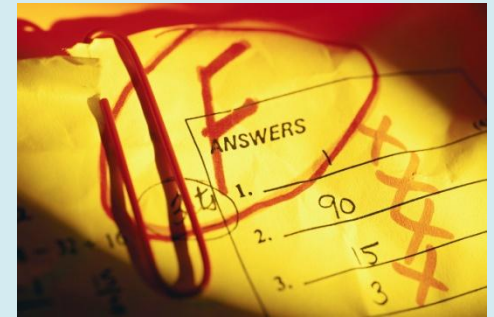
At what age do children start school in Britain?

The statutory school age in England, Wales and Scotland is from 5 years to 16 years. Children attend primary school for seven years, where they study English, mathematics, science, Religious education, art, history, geography, music, crafts, physical education, information technology (computers) and a foreign language.



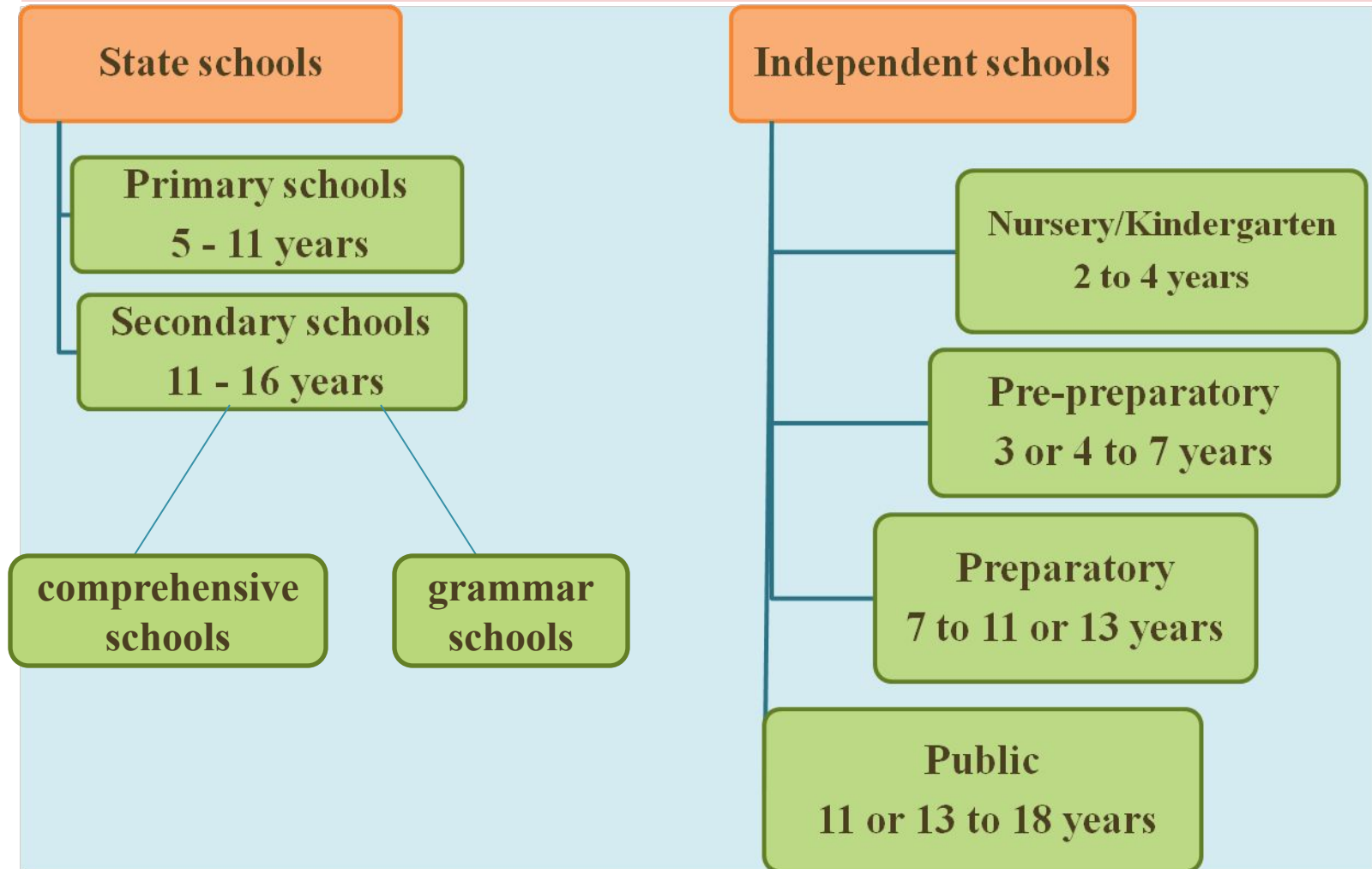
At what age do children leave school?

-At the age of 16, students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland take an examination called the GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education).



-After completing the GCSE, some students leave school, others go onto technical college, whilst others continue at high school for two more years and take a further set of standardized exams, known as A levels, in three or four subjects. These exams determine whether a student is eligible for university.

Types of schools in England



The School Year

| EVENT | ENGLAND | SCOTLAND |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| School Year Begins | Approx 4 September | Approx 20 August |
| Sept Weekend | - | Fri & Mon of 3rd wk in Sept |
| October | 5 days (Wk 3 or 4) | 5 days (Wk 2 or 3) |
| Christmas | 2 weeks | 2 weeks |
| February | 5 days | 1 day |
| Easter | 2 weeks | 2 weeks |
| May day | 1 day | 1 day |
| May (end of) | 5 days | - |
| School Year Ends | 3rd week in July | Last week in June |

School Terms in England (Kent)

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Term 1 | September to October | 7 weeks 2 days |
| Term 2 | November to December | 7 weeks |
| Term 3 | January to February | 5 weeks 4 days |
| Term 4 | February to March | 6 weeks |
| Term 5 | April to May | 5 weeks 2 days |
| Term 6 | June to July | 7 weeks 2 days |
| | Total days | 195 days |

On what days do children attend school?

The children attend school from Monday to Friday, from 08:55 - 15:15. The school usually begins with registrationsregistrations.



Time Table

9:00 1st Period

10:00 2nd Period

11:00 - 11:20 Break (a snack and games)

11:20 3rd Period

12:30 4th Period

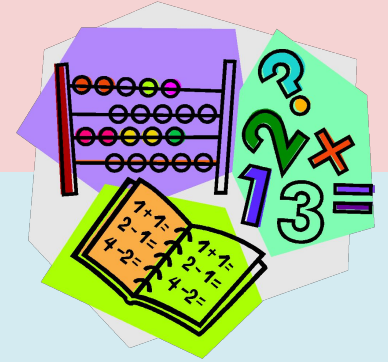
1:30 - 2:10 Lunch (a packed lunch from home or dinners in the School Canteen)

2:10 5th Period

3:10 End of School



Subjects



Maths

PE

English

French or Spanish

Science

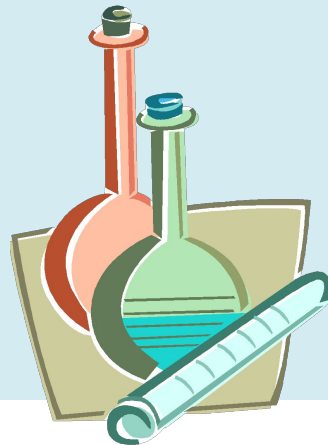
ICT

Drama

Music

Art

Humanities (History, Geography and Religion)



Extra-curricular activities

Computers

Country Dancing

Football

Newspaper Reporters

Choir

Drama

Cross Country



What is registration?

The attendance of every child attending school each morning and afternoon is recorded in a special book. The teacher reads out each child's name in turn. On hearing his/her name, the child replies 'yes Mrs. (teacher's name)' and the teacher notes down in the book whether the child is in school or not.

What is a comprehensive school?

Nearly 88 per cent of secondary school pupils in England go to **comprehensive schools**, as do all pupils in Wales. These take children of all abilities and provide a wide range of secondary education for all or most of the children in a district from 11 to 16 or 18. All children in Scotland go to non selective schools.

What is grammar school?

Grammar Schools are selective, they offer academically oriented general education. Entrance is based on a test of ability, usually at 11. Grammar schools are single sexed schools i.e. Children either go to a boys Grammar School or a Girls Grammar School. There are grammar schools in Northern Ireland and some parts of England.