

Educational System in Great Britain



In Britain, education is compulsory for all children aged between 5 and 16 years. Many stay at school until 18 years old and then go to university.



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, there they stay until they **secondary school** reach sixteen, seventeen or eighteen years of age.



Primary schools (5 - 11 year olds)

- In the UK, the first level of education is known as primary education. These are almost always mixed sex, and usually located close to the child's home. Children tend to be with the same group throughout the day, and one teacher has responsibility for most of the work they do.



Secondary schools (11 - 16 year olds)

- Most children transfer at the age of 11 - usually to their nearest secondary school, though the law allows parents in England and Wales to express preferences for other schools too.



Types of Schools in Britain

There are two different types of school:

- state schools
- private schools



State Schools

- There are schools run by the Government. These schools are known as State Schools and parents do not pay. They 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.



State schools are divided into the following types:

- Grammar schools
- Technical schools
- Modern schools
- Comprehensive schools



© Blend Images LLC



Grammar schools

- Children who go to grammar schools are usually those who show a preference for academic subjects, although many grammar schools now also have some technical courses.



Technical schools

- Some children go to technical schools. Most courses there are either commercial or technical.



Modern schools

- Boys and girls who are interested in working with their hands and learning in a practical way can go to a technical school and learn some trade.



Comprehensive schools

- These schools usually combine all types of secondary education. They have physic, chemistry, biology laboratories, machine workshops for metal and woodwork and also geography, history and art departments, commercial and domestic courses.



Independent or private schools

- 7% of the children in England go to independent schools. Independent schools are known as private schools and public schools .
- There are around 2,300 independent schools in England. These schools set their own curriculum and admissions policies. They are funded by fees paid by parents and income from investments. Just over half have charitable status



Private schools



- All students at private schools must pay. Typical fees for 2011 at a private boarding school in Britain are £24,000 per year (inclusive of accommodation and meals). The fees at private schools are exactly the same for British students as for overseas students.



The most famous public schools are Eton, Harrow and Winchester.



Examinations

All students must take two very important examinations:

- GCSE
- A-level

University of Cambridge
International Examinations
International General Certificate of
Secondary Education (IGCSE)



Higher Education



- Around 30% of the 18 to 19 year olds enter full-time higher education. The formal entry requirements to most degree courses are two A-levels at grade E or above.



Universities and Colleges in Great Britain

- Education in Great Britain, considered one of the best in the world. Superb Colleges and Universities, where the choice of courses is almost unlimited. From Mathematics to Medicine.
- There are over 90 universities in GB.



The Best U.K. Universities

- University of Cambridge
- University of Oxford
- University of Birmingham
- University of Manchester
- University of Leeds
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Warwick
- University College London
- University of Southampton



Colleges in Britain

- There are not only universities in Britain but also colleges. Colleges offer courses in teacher training, courses in technology and some professions connected with medicine.

