

## UK School terminology

The education system in the UK is divided into four main parts, primary education (age 4 – 11), secondary education (age 11 – 16), further education and higher education. Children in the UK have to legally attend primary and secondary education which runs from about 5 years old until the student is 16 years old

**D f E (Department of Education):** The Department for Education (DfE) is a department of Her Majesty's Government responsible for child protection, education (compulsory, further and higher education), apprenticeships and wider skills in England.

**Ofsted (Office for Standard in Education):** Ofsted is responsible for inspecting and regulating schools (including some independent schools), to ensure proper care and service are provided.

**State school:** a school that is funded and controlled by the state and for which no fees are charged.

**Private/Independent school:** are fee-paying private schools, governed by an elected board of governors and independent of many of the regulations and conditions that apply to state-funded schools

**Public school:** A public school in England and Wales is a long-established, student-selective, fee-charging independent secondary school that caters primarily for children aged between 11 or 13 and 18

**Academy school:** Academy schools are state-funded schools in England which are directly funded by the Department for Education and independent of local authority control.

**College:** In the UK, this is higher education it's where many students go for two years after completing compulsory schooling at 16 in order to prepare for exams to get into university.

**Further Education:** Further education ( FE ) includes any study after secondary education that's not part of higher education (that is, not taken as part of an undergraduate or graduate degree). Courses range from basic English and maths to Higher National Diplomas ( HNDs ).

**Half Term:** One week break between each term.

**INSET Day:** INSET Day is also known as In-service training day, where staff receives training and share information with other teachers on how to improve the school.

**Parents Evening:** The school invites the children parents to come to the school in the evening to talk about their child progress. Along provide the parents with the opportunity to meet their child teachers and ask any questions.

**Assembly:** when all children are gathered together to be informed of what is going to happen in the next few weeks. Sometime in the assembly children might sing or participate in a performance. Parents are occasionally invited to watch their child's class or themed assembly.

**Golden Time (has other names):** A time during the week when children are reward with a special activity, to celebrate the children keeping the school's golden rules or values. In different schools golden time can be known as something else or they have a different system. For example, if the school classes are separated into houses, the house with the most points may get a reward.

**Homework:** Work that students will take home to complete and expected to bring it back to school completed by a certain day.

**Booster Classes:** Providing students with additional support. These are often identified and offered by the school for children who may need more support.

**GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education):** All children in secondary school will be taking the GCSE exams when they reach year 10-11, as it is their main qualification. Adults can also take the exams (not in a Secondary School, but Further Education providers) but often it is taken between the age of 14 to 16.

**SATS (Statutory Assessment Tests):** The test will be done in primary school when the child reaches year 2 and done again in year 6 where they are age 11. The test is to identify which level the child is working to.

**Detention:** Is a form of punishment for children who misbehave. These can take place at break time, lunch time or after school for a period of time to make up for or reflect on what they did.

**Suspended:** A temporary exclusion, that prevents the child from going to school for a period of time. This is a punishment that is usually for severe bad behaviour or other related reasons.

**Expelled:** The child is banned from attending that school permanently. This is done in extreme cases and usually because the child has violated the institution rules (eg. been violent or repetitive occurrences of bullying others), severe and countless bad behaviour cases.

**P.E (Physical Education):** Students will engage in sport activities where they will work together as a team or individually. Depending on the school, students may be in mix gender classes or in their own gender groups.

**R.E (Religious education):** Develops children's knowledge and understanding of different religions and their values, tradition, society, culture, and language.

**PSHE- Personal, Social and Health Education/ PSE- Personal and Social Education/ PHSE- Personal, Social and Health Education:** Most school offers this course, helping children to develop into society and understand some daily routine/experience. There are elements of this in all stages of learning in school. As the children progress through school (last years of primary and in secondary school) lessons often teach children sex education and understanding of relationships. Parents are usually advised when this is planned to take place and are given the opportunity to view the materials which will be used in the lessons. If you have any concerns you can raise these with the teachers/school.

**Prom:** A formal dance party at the end of the year, often for secondary school children who are about to leave. This is often an opportunity for them to dress up and hire fancy cars, though it is not compulsory for children to attend.