

## Education overview for children aged up to 16

### Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.

### Assessments

There are assessments when a child is aged between 2 and 3 years and at the end of the academic year when they turn 5. These are not tests for the child - the assessments are based on EYFS practitioners' observations. Information from these assessments is used for parents, practitioners and teachers to support children's learning and development. Early years learning concentrates on 7 areas split between prime and specific areas of learning.

The prime areas of learning are:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

The specific areas of learning are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

Teaching is often done through play, where the child learns about subjects and other people through games.

### Early Years Foundation Stage profile

At the end of the academic year when a child turns 5, the practitioner records each child's development by watching the child playing and in the classroom. The completed assessment is known as the 'Early Years Foundation Stage profile'. This is used to help the Year 1 teacher plan lessons for the children.

### The National Curriculum

From age 5 (Year 1) to 16 (Year 11) all pupils follow the National Curriculum. Additionally, maintained schools must offer religious education, sex and relationships education from age 11 onwards, work-related learning and careers education for specified year groups. The national curriculum determines the content of what should be taught – statutory and non-statutory subjects/areas of learning – and sets attainment targets for learning. The national curriculum also determines how performance will be assessed and reported. Other types of school such as Academies and private schools do not have to follow the national curriculum. However, Academies must teach a broad and balanced curriculum including English, mathematics and science, and they must also teach religious education.

The national curriculum is divided into four Key Stages, which cover the statutory age ranges for school attendance. The assessments of Key Stages are as follows:

## **Key stage 1 and 2**

Compulsory national curriculum subjects at primary school are:

- English
- maths
- science
- design and technology
- history
- geography
- art and design
- music
- physical education (PE), including swimming
- information and communication technology (ICT)

Schools can develop their own ICT curricula or follow the programmes of study. They must also provide religious education (RE) but parents can ask for their children to be taken out of the whole lesson or part of it.

Schools often also teach:

- personal, social and health education (PSHE)
- citizenship
- modern foreign languages

## **Tests and assessments**

### **Year 1 phonics screening check**

This check takes place in June when a child will read 40 words out loud to a teacher who will assess whether he or she needs extra help with reading.

### **Key stage 1**

Key stage 1 tasks and tests cover:

- reading
- writing
- speaking and listening
- maths
- science

The tasks and tests are taken when the school chooses with the teacher using children's work (including spoken work and homework) to work out what level they are at in each area.

### **Key stage 2**

Key stage 2 tests cover:

- English reading
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- maths (including mental arithmetic)

The tests are taken in mid-May and last under 5 hours 30 minutes in total.

## **Key stage 3 and 4**

### **Key stage 3**

Compulsory national curriculum subjects are:

- English
- maths
- science
- history
- geography
- modern foreign languages
- design and technology
- art and design
- music
- physical education
- citizenship
- information and communication technology (ICT)

Schools can develop their own ICT curricula or follow the programmes of study.

They must also provide religious education (RE) and sex education from key stage 3 but parents can ask for their children to be taken out of the whole lesson or part of it.

### **Key stage 4**

During key stage 4 most pupils work towards national qualifications - usually GCSEs.

The compulsory national curriculum subjects are the 'core' and 'foundation' subjects.

Core subjects are:

- English
- maths
- science

Foundation subjects are:

- information and communication technology (ICT)
- physical education
- citizenship

Schools must also offer at least one subject from each of these areas:

- arts
- design and technology
- humanities
- modern foreign languages

They must also provide religious education (RE) and sex education at key stage 4. Pupils don't have to take exams in religious studies but schools must provide at least one course where pupils can get a recognised RE qualification at key stage 4 and above.

At the end of each national curriculum Key Stage, pupils are expected to reach a certain level of knowledge, skills and understanding in each subject, although many will (and should) exceed it. The expected attainment level for children at the end of each Key Stage is as follows:

Age	Year	Key Stage	Assessment	Average Level of attainment
3 to 4		Early Years		
4 to 5	Reception	Early Years	Early Years Foundation Stage profile	
5 to 6	Year 1	KS1	Phonics screening check	
6 to 7	Year 2	KS1	Teacher assessments in English, maths and science	2
7 to 8	Year 3	KS2		
8 to 9	Year 4	KS2		
9 to 10	Year 5	KS2		
10 to 11	Year 6	KS2	National tests and teacher assessments in English, maths and science	4
11 to 12	Year 7	KS3	Teacher Assessments	
12 to 13	Year 8	KS3	Teacher Assessments	
13 to 14	Year 9	KS3	Teacher Assessments	5/6
14 to 15	Year 10	KS4	Some children take GCSEs	
15 to 16	Year 11	KS4	Most children take SCSEs or other national qualifications	