**Information on schools in England.**

**Children currently attend school in England from the ages of 4-16.**

**From 2013 they are required to remain in some form of Education until they turn 17.**

**From 2015, they will be required to remain in some form of Education until they turn 18.**

**This Education continuation can be in College or training, work and part time Education or an apprenticeship.**

**Education is divided into:**

**Early Years –Nursery -3/4 Nursery**

**Early Years-Year R-4/5**

**Key Stage 1- Year 1 -5/6 Infant**

**Key Stage 1-Year 2 -6/7**

**Primary**

**Key Stage 2-Year 3-7/8**

**Key Stage 2 -Year 4-8/9 Junior**

**Key Stage 2 -Year 5-9/10**

**Key Stage 2 –Year 6-10/11**

**Key Stage 3-Year 7-11/12**

**Key Stage 3-Year 8-12/13**

**Key Stage 3-Year 9-13/14 Secondary**

**Key Stage 4-Year 10-14/15**

**Key Stage 4-Year 11-15/16**

**Education in England is free from 4-17, unless parents choose to send their children to a fee paying private independent school.**

**The school year runs from early September until mid July.**

**Funding for Education is based on a per capita system [ ie a certain amount of money per pupil], although the amount varies depending on the age of the pupils, as does the method of allocation of funding, depending on the type of school.**

**There are a range of types of schools in both the Primary and Secondary sector.**

**Look on the Government website for the exact specifications of the different types of schools.**

**Primary Schools**

**The day runs from around 9.00 until around 3.30.**

**The week is from Monday to Friday.**

**Typical class size is 30 [this is the legal requirement in Infant schools], with a teacher and sometimes another adult-called a Learning Support Assistant or sometimes a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.**

**Parents or other adults often come into schools to help.**

**Junior schools often have between 31 and 34 in a class.**

**Children start school at 4, although it is not compulsory until they are 5.**

**They finish at 17, [it will be 18 next year] although many go on to continue their studies, especially if they want to go to University.**

**Education is mandatory, although children can be educated at home, should parents choose to do this.**

**There is a system of inspections; the body inspecting schools on a regular basis is called Ofsted.**

**Ofsted reports are published and accessible to everyone.**

**Almost all schools wear uniform, which is often chosen by the staff, parents and the children themselves.**

**Help is sometimes available if parents cannot afford uniform, but it is generally very cheaply available in major supermarkets and school outfitters.**

**All schools follow the National Curriculum and teach Religious Education [although parents can withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons]- unless they are Private Schools, Free Schools, or Academies.**

**The National Curriculum is set by the Government. It is slightly different for each age group.**

**[see** [**www.gov.uk/national-curriculum**](http://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum)**]**

**Physical punishment is illegal, however for younger children there is often the loss of reward time or golden time, or the loss of playtime if they do not follow procedures.**

**Older children are given tasks such as litter picking or often after school detentions.**

**Almost all children stay at school for lunch.**

**Most schools provide a cooked lunch, should parents wish to pay for this.**

**Many parents send their children with a packed lunch in a lunchbox.**

**Quite a few families are eligible for free cooked lunches for their children.**

**There is usually a mix of pupils of similar age in the same class.**

**A lot of schools will also have a range of ethnic backgrounds-especially in the larger cities, with many children speaking English as a second language.**

**A Typical Day**

**The school day runs from around 9 until around 3.30.**

**Children in Infant and Junior are mainly taught by their class teacher for all subjects, although they sometimes have specialist teachers for subjects like music and modern foreign languages.**

**In the morning, in Infant and Junior schools children will begin with registration, during which they will follow an activity such as reading, learning spellings, phonics, simple maths games, problem solving or topic activity.**

**They will then go on usually during the morning to sessions of Numeracy [Mathematics] and Literacy [English].**

**These lessons are around an hour each, but vary depending on the age of the children.**

**In these sessions children spend some time working as a class and some time in ability groups.**

**The teacher often focuses on one group each day of the week during this time.**

**This group time includes children with special needs, who sometimes work in the classroom at this time, but who sometimes are withdrawn to work in other areas in the school. [ perhaps to help improve their concentration for example]. This may be done with the Learning Support Assistant [under the guidance of the teacher, as LSAs are not teacher trained] or perhaps by the SENCO [this is the school based teacher in charge of Special Needs.] Every school has a SENCO.**

**Schools are given extra funding based on free school meal eligibility. This is called the ‘Pupil Premium’. The money is allocated by the school to be used to support these pupils in whatever way deemed appropriate.**

**Schools have an Assembly every day, which is sometimes Christian, sometimes morally based and sometimes based on other faiths.**

**These Assemblies are often in the morning.**

**Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Assembly each day.**

**Children have a break time mid morning and many schools encourage them to eat and drink healthy snacks at this time.**

**In Portsmouth the under 7s are given free fruit every day by the Local Authority, to try to encourage healthy eating.**

**Children are also allowed water in classrooms to ensure they stay hydrated.**

**All classrooms have an Interactive Whiteboard and a Computer.**

**Most have a DVD/CD player too.**

**Most schools also have a computer suite or set of laptop computers for all the class to have one computer each to work on at times during the week. This is always a shared facility.**

**At lunchtime [around 12] children have their lunch and a longer playtime.**

**At the beginning of the afternoon the children are registered again.**

**In the afternoon they will work on other areas of the Curriculum, but this time in mixed ability groups. [ and occasionally in mixed age groups too].**

**Some schools have specialist subject rooms, for example music rooms, drama rooms, libraries, art rooms, computer suites.**

**These will often be used more in the afternoons.**

**The school day ends at around 3.30 and most children take a reading book home to work on each evening and often some homework too.**

**Many schools offer after school clubs for children most nights of the week [parents pay for this].**

**There are also often before and after school groups which offer care out of school hours. [ from around 8 am until around 6 pm].**

**Again parents pay for this and it is not available in all schools.**

**To look at a typical school outside of the city go to:**

[**www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk**](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk)**>**

**This shows the inside of the school and is very teacher and pupil friendly.**

**It also has questions that your students at home could answer.**

**Secondary Schools**

**Secondary schools have more variation in the structure of their days.**

**Many schools start earlier in the day, often around 8.30, having shorter breaks and a much reduced lunchtime. They then finish earlier in the day than the Primary Schools-around 2.30 or 3.00.**

**Secondary pupils have class bases and move around the school to study different subjects with different teachers.**

**Pupils are frequently ability grouped for lessons, especially in the core subjects.**

**Between the ages of 11-14, pupils study a range of curriculum subjects as specified by the National Curriculum for their Key Stage.**

**At 14, pupils select the subjects they will study for their last two years and their final exams. [often called ‘Options’].**

**Most secondary pupils take some GCSE exams.**

**In order to attend College from age 16, pupils must usually have gained 5 GCSE passes at grades A B or C. These usually include Maths and English, though there are exceptions.**

**Classes are around 30 pupils- although at 15 or 16, the groups are sometimes smaller, especially if the exam subject choice is not very popular.**

**Secondary schools are much more flexible than Primary schools in their approach to subjects and because of this they are able to offer a much wider range of subjects for study than Primary schools.**

**Many more secondary schools than Primary schools have chosen to become more autonomous under the Government systems on offer.**

**At 16, most pupils move on from school to study in a different way, as the Government increased the Education leaving age last year to 17. Pupils have completed their statutory education at 17 and can leave the Education system, although from 2015, this will increase to age 18.**

**A proportion - [around 20%] of pupils leave and go to work if they can find jobs.**

**Many others go on to Further Education, to study for A level exams [or their equivalent], in order to go to University, which they can do at 18.**

**Others enter apprenticeships, study vocational courses, or study whilst working in their chosen career.**