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Education in England

Jenny Bradshaw

National Foundation for Educational Research



Types of school

- **Community schools** – run by the local authority (LA), which employs the staff, owns the school land and buildings and has primary responsibility for deciding on pupil admission criteria.
- **Foundation schools** – the governing body employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria. The school land and buildings are owned by the governing body or a charitable foundation.
- **Trust schools** – a foundation school supported by a charitable foundation or trust, which appoints school governors. A trust school employs its own staff, manages its own land and assets, and sets its own admissions criteria.
- **Voluntary-controlled** – mainly religious or 'faith' schools, but run by the LA. The land and buildings are often owned by a charitable foundation, but the LA employs the staff and has primary responsibility for admission arrangements.
- **Voluntary-aided** – often religious schools with the difference that the governing body, often a religious organisation, employs the staff and sets admissions criteria. The school land and buildings are also owned by a charitable foundation.
- **Independent schools** - not required to teach the national curriculum and have their own admissions policies, but have to be regularly monitored for standards either by Ofsted or the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Stages of education

Compulsory education (5-16)

- Primary school from 5-11
- Secondary school from 11-18
- Tertiary education: 18+

Phase	School type	Stage	Year group	Age	
Primary	Primary schools	<i>Key stage 2</i>	Y6	10 - 11	
			Y5	9 - 10	
			Y4	8 - 9	
			Y3	7 - 8	
		<i>Key stage 1</i>	Y2	6 - 7	
			Y1	5 - 6	
	<i>Reception classes (R) in primary schools</i>	<i>Foundation stage</i>	R	4 - 5	
Pre-school	Pre-school groups, playgroups, nurseries				3 - 4
					0 - 3

Upper secondary education	<i>GCE 'A' Levels, GCE 'AS' Level examinations, vocational qualifications</i>				
	<i>Further education institutions</i>	<i>School sixth forms or sixth form colleges</i>			17 - 18
					16 - 17
	<i>General Certificates of Secondary Education (GCSEs)</i>				
	Lower secondary education	Secondary schools		<i>Key stage 4</i>	Y11
Y10					14 - 15
<i>Key stage 3</i>				Y9	13 - 14
				Y8	12 - 13
				Y7	11 - 12

Programme types

- **Most schools are comprehensive (all ability)**
- **Some areas have selection at age 11 – the most academically able go to grammar schools**
- **Independent schools are free to select by academic ability**
- **There no separate vocational/academic tracks – all students follow the same curriculum**

Education issues

- **Changes to assessment system**
 - Reductions in external national testing
 - Increased teacher assessment
- **Curriculum reform**
 - New secondary curriculum introduced from 2008
 - Less central control
- **Behaviour management**
 - Attendance
 - Discipline in schools
 - Youth crime
- **Participation in education/training post 16**

Assessment

- **National assessment** at ages 4/5, 7, 11
 - English, maths, science
- **Used for:**
 - tracking progress
 - reporting to parents
 - school accountability
 - monitoring of national standards
- **GCSE examinations** at 16
- **GCE examinations** at 18

Changes to assessment

- **Key Stage 3 tests (age 14) abolished**
- **Key Stage 2 tests (age 11) to be reduced to English and maths only**
- **APP (Assessing Pupil Progress) - teacher assessment**
- **Possible monitoring of samples at KS3**
- **School league tables retained**

National curriculum

Statutory subjects for Key Stage 4

- Citizenship
- English
- ICT
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical education
- Careers education, sex education, work-related learning , religious education

National curriculum

Entitlement areas for Key Stage 4

Students are entitled to study a subject within each of these areas:

- arts (art and design, music, dance, drama and media arts)
- design and technology
- humanities (geography and history)
- modern foreign languages

Reading at Key Stage 4

Within the English Programme of Study

Two main processes for reading

- Reading for understanding
- The author's craft

Texts at KS4

The range of literature studied should include

- stories, poetry and drama drawn from different historical times, including contemporary writers
- texts that enable students to understand the nature, significance and influence over time of texts from the English literary heritage.
- texts that enable students to make connections between experiences across time and literary traditions
- texts that enable students to analyse the values and assumptions of writing from different cultures and traditions, relating and connecting them to their own experience
- at least one play by Shakespeare.

Texts at KS4

The range of non-fiction and non-literary texts studied should include:

- forms such as journalism, travel writing, essays, reportage, literary non-fiction, print media and multimodal texts including film and television
- purposes such as to instruct, inform, explain, describe, analyse, review, discuss and persuade

Mathematics at Key Stage 4

Four main processes:

- Representing
- Analysing
 - Use mathematical reasoning
 - Use appropriate mathematical procedures
- Interpreting and evaluating
- Communicating and reflecting

Mathematics at Key Stage 4

Range and content

- Number and algebra
- Geometry and measures
- Statistics

Science at Key Stage 4

All must study:

- Organisms and health
- Chemical and material behaviour
- Energy, electricity and radiations
- Environment, Earth and universe

Science at Key Stage 4

Some take the General Science GCSE

Some follow courses leading to separate science GCSEs (eg chemistry, physics, biology etc.)

'High School Graduation Rates'

- **No actual 'high school graduation' in the UK**
- **All qualifications are external (like SAT or GED)**
- **GCSE at age 16**
 - Usually taken in around 8-10 subjects
 - Grades A*-C considered 'good' passes
- **General Certificate of Education 'Advanced' level (GCE A levels) at age 18**
 - Typically taken in 3 subjects

'High School Graduation Rates'

What's the equivalent?

- US High School Diploma usually considered equivalent to high grade GCSE certificates
- GCE 'A' levels needed for entry to university degree courses
- Students from USA with High School Diploma usually need to do a 'Foundation year' to enter a 3-year UK degree course

GCSE rates - 2008

Grade A*-C in 5 subjects including English and maths:

- All 16-year-olds: 47.6%
- Girls: 52.3%
- Boys: 43.2%

Regarded as key to further education or employment

Participation in education

- School leaving age is 16
- 76% of young people between 16-18 were in education or training in 2008
- Around 10% not in education, employment or training ('NEETS')
- Leaving age to be raised to 18 by 2013
- 63% continued in education or training after the age of 18 in 2007 (44% full-time)

Teachers

- All teachers are graduates
- Teachers in state schools must have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

Routes into teaching:

- 4-year BEd or BA/BSc, with QTS (qualified teacher status)
- 3-year BA or BSc plus 1-year PGCE
- Employment-based teacher training