



Schools

The UK has a two-tier education system. There are private schools which are funded through tuition fees (paid for by parents), and state schools. Generally, the standards are higher in private schools and there is the choice of normal school hours or boarding schools. State run schools are most popular in the UK. They are funded through the taxation system and are free for pupils to attend. In most cases, children arriving from overseas have the right to attend state-funded schools in England, including dependent children accompanying parents entering the UK on a work visa.

Schools are split in two groups:

- Primary (ages 4-11)
- Secondary (ages 11-16) where pupils sit their GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education).
The equivalent in Scotland is the Standard Grade

Following this, students can then go through Further Education to complete A-Levels (Highers in Scotland), a Degree, then, a Masters.

Inspection

Schools are inspected by OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) and rated outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate. These can be found on OFSTED's website for every school in the UK.

- [School Performance Tables](#)

Applying

You can [apply for a school place](#) for your children once you are living in the UK. You will need to check which schools have places available and what their admission criteria is, which you can do by contacting your local council for details. Your Recruitment Consultant can advise you which one applies to you (for private schooling, you will need to apply directly).

When an admission authority for a school deals with an application for a child, whether or not they are a UK national, it must comply with the school admissions code and the Equality Act 2010. It cannot refuse a school place simply because of doubts about the child's immigration status.

Private schools have their own admissions procedures. You will need to apply directly if you want to send your child to a private school.