

Schools in England

What is it like for children at St Paul's?



There are many differences in education systems from country to country.

Read on to find out more about education in England



In my country...		In England
<p>In my country, we actually go to the school that we want our children to attend to request a school place.</p>	 England  admissions  fair  form  deadline  school  waiting  list	<p>In England, Local Authorities organise the admissions procedures for their local schools centrally.</p> <p>This is to keep the entire process as fair as possible. There are sometimes exceptions to this process e.g. some faith schools.</p> <p>Parents fill in a form, usually online, and can express a preference for up to six schools for their children in primary, fewer in secondary.</p> <p>At certain times of the year, there are deadlines to meet but if you arrive mid-term, you can apply whenever you are ready.</p> <p>You will then be told which school you have been allocated and can contact the school to arrange for your child to start.</p> <p>If this school is not your first choice, you can ask to be put on a waiting list for the other chosen schools for when a place becomes available - but this could be a very long wait!</p> <p>In the meantime, your child must start at the allocated school. https://st-pauls.portsmouth.sch.uk/admission/</p>

In my country, children don't start school until they are seven.



In England, we start school much younger than in many other countries of the world.

This may seem strange, but lessons in Reception classes and in Year 1, are always child-centred and have a lot of play and exploration-built in.
<https://st-pauls.portsmouth.sch.uk/new-reception-parents/>

In my country, all children take a bus to school.



In England, parents can choose how to take their children to school but walking and public transport are always encouraged and some roads near schools are 'car-free' during drop-off and pick-up times.

If you have young children, you are expected to be with them if they are walking or travelling to school by bus.

In my country, everyone wears their normal clothes to school.

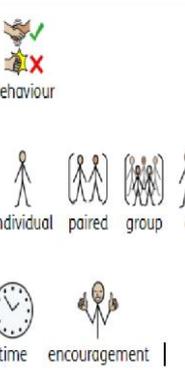


In England, most schools have a school uniform that all pupils have to wear.

Schools like this as they feel it makes everyone feel equal, that they belong, and it stops children pestering parents for expensive, fashionable brands.

<https://st-pauls.portsmouth.sch.uk/uniform/>

In my country, schools are really strict. Children do not talk and they listen to the teacher.



In England, schools may not appear to be so strict but teachers work very hard to create a good environment for learning.

Teachers will choose the best way for children to learn - this may be individual, paired, group or class work. They value focused discussion and hands-on learning.

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In my country, we tell children off if they do something wrong.



In England, most schools help children learn how to behave well in class, based on praise and rewards and possibly small sanctions if they don't do what they are asked.

You can ask your child's teacher how this works in their class and maybe try this at home too.

Consistency helps children.

Many schools also use 'restorative' practices if things go wrong, encouraging children to take responsibility for their behaviour by thinking through the causes and consequences of their actions.

<https://st-pauls.portsmouth.sch.uk/st-pauls-principles/>

In my country, teachers are allowed to physically chastise pupils if they do something wrong.



In England, no-one is allowed by law to harm your child in school.

We do not smack or hit children or beat them with objects and we do not lock them away or humiliate them if things go wrong.

It is really important to know that this applies in the home too and if schools think that a child has been hurt by their parents or other family members, they have a legal duty to report it.

We call this 'safeguarding' and safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone who works with children.

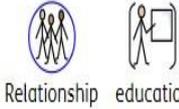
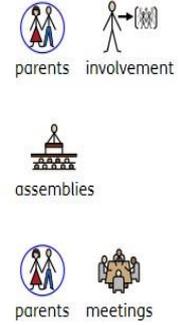
As such, if you have always used physical chastisement in your home country, you need to be aware that this is not allowed in the UK.

Teachers also have an additional specific legal duty to report Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which is against the law in the UK.

<https://st-pauls.portsmouth.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

<p>In my country, we can leave our children on their own at home while we pop out or go to work.</p>	 <p>home alone</p> <p>adult supervision</p> <p>children</p> <p>walking to school</p>	<p>Another challenge that some people who are new to the UK find is the age at which you can leave your child alone at home, even for just a few minutes.</p> <p>Schools may well have a safeguarding concern about any parents leaving children alone.</p> <p>Every child is different but infants and young children should never be left alone and children up to twelve usually still need adult supervision.</p> <p>Children over twelve may be ready but remember – you should never leave a child home alone if they don't feel ready, or if you don't feel they're ready.</p> <p>This also applies to children walking to and from school on their own.</p>
<p>In my country, children get a lot of homework every day.</p>	 <p>homework</p> <p>reading spellings</p> <p>Timetables</p>	<p>In England, most children will get some homework but how this looks depends on the age of your child.</p> <p>At St Paul's children will bring home reading books every night to share with you and will have spellings to practise and times tables to learn each week.</p>
<p>In my country, children have to take tests all of the time and cannot progress to the next year unless they pass them.</p>	 <p>quiz child's understanding</p> <p>assessment</p> <p>phonics</p>	<p>Teachers may use tests to check a child's understanding but these will be informal and may be in the form of a quiz.</p> <p>There are certain points when national tests happen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Year 1 phonics test • End of Year 2 (SATS) • End of Year 4 Multiplication Test • End of Year 6 (SATS)

<p>In my country, children don't get changed for Physical Education (PE) or, if they do, the boys and girls get changed separately.</p>	 PE  PE bag stays school  swimming	<p>All schools will expect your children to have a PE kit in school and will tell you which days your child has PE.</p> <p>They ask children to change clothes for hygiene reasons.</p> <p>Most younger children keep their PE kits in a PE bag on a peg or in a class box in school</p> <p>PE will also include swimming for some for Year 3 and Year 6.</p>
<p>In my country, we don't bring food to school for our children.</p>	 school dinner  packed lunch  choice  healthy lunch  no nuts	<p>In England, all children in Reception or Key Stage 1 (aged 4-7) have free school meals (FSM) provided for them every day.</p> <p>Older children may also have FSM if their parents are claiming some benefits or in certain other circumstances - ask the school for details of how to apply for this.</p> <p>Parents can choose to pay for these too and they usually cost around £2.50 or £3.00 every day.</p> <p>If you'd prefer, you can make a lunch at home for your child to bring in each day.</p> <p>This can be anything that you'd like but these 'packed lunches' usually have a sandwich, wrap or salad; some fruit or vegetables; a drink and maybe a small treat too!</p> <p>Schools encourage parents to make healthy choices.</p> <p>We are a NUT FREE School</p>

<p>In my country, we don't teach children about sex education.</p>	 <p>Relationship education</p>	<p>Although all schools in England must - and do - respect the cultures, languages and faiths of the school community, there are some subjects that they have to teach and 'relationships, sex and health education' (RSHE) is one of these compulsory lessons.</p> <p>Schools are always very careful to make sure that what they teach is age-appropriate and will always share with parents when and how they are going to teach this subject and what it will include.</p>
<p>In my country, parents don't really get involved with school.</p>	 <p>parents involvement</p> <p>assemblies</p> <p>parents meetings</p>	<p>In England, schools really welcome your support and will often invite you into school for celebrations, assemblies and school events.</p> <p>There will also be regular parents' evenings throughout the year for you to discuss with the teacher how your child is getting on.</p> <p>It is really important for you to try and attend parents' evenings, wherever possible.</p>
<p>In my country, everyone is taught the same.</p>	 <p>teachers change lessons</p> <p>teaching assistant</p> <p>individual paired group</p>	<p>In England, teachers provide the opportunity for all pupils to experience success by adapting their lessons.</p> <p>Teachers will be maintaining high expectations for everyone whilst giving different support to different learners and checking that everyone is progressing.</p> <p>That means that your child;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not be doing the same as everyone else • May be given different amounts of time or different 'tools' to complete a task • Extra apparatus • Teaching assistant to help individually or with a small group • Additional steps

<p>In my country, every child who has special needs or a disability is put in a different school.</p>	    	<p>In England, the majority of children who have additional needs are taught in mainstream schools alongside their peers.</p> <p>If a child's needs are beyond what a school can typically deliver from their usual way of working, they might also consider an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for your child.</p> <p>An EHCP is a legally binding document created with your views and those of your child, the teachers and other professionals taken into consideration. EHCPs outline a child's special educational, health, and social care needs, agree provision to meet each of the needs and are reviewed annually.</p>
<p>In my country, we keep our children at home if they have a cold or other minor illness.</p>	      	<p>In England, schools really understand the importance of attending school every day.</p> <p>If your child has a minor cough or cold, you should still send them to school.</p> <p>At St Pau's we are able to give prescribed medicines including Calpol with written permission. Medicine forms are available from the front office.</p> <p>If you are unsure, you can always contact the school to ask for advice or to let them know that your child is not feeling 100% and the teachers will keep an extra eye on them for you.</p> <p>However, if your child has been physically sick, they should stay at home for 48 hours.</p> <p>Remember - always contact your child's school by phoning them first thing in the morning (there is usually an option to leave a message on the answerphone)</p> <p>You will always be contacted by the school if your child does not turn up at school without a reason.</p>
<p>In my country, we can take holidays in school time or travel during the long university holidays.</p>	  	<p>In England, you are not able to take holidays in term time without permission from the head teacher of your child's school.</p> <p>You can be fined for taking your child on holiday during term time without the school's permission</p>

For more information and support, contact:

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