

Education system at a glance

	Age	Phase of education	Where this is provided	Description
	Age 18+	Further Education for Adults (19+) Higher Education (18+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colleges - Universities - Institutes of Technology - Training companies - Employers 	Higher education (HE) is education and training at a standard beyond A Levels and T Levels. HE programmes are offered by universities or colleges, and vary in size and type. HE can include: Higher Technical Qualifications (including Higher Nationals and Foundation Degrees), undergraduate degrees, higher apprenticeships and postgraduate courses. Many adults also continue to improve their skills by studying Further Education (FE) courses – from basic skills to technical courses.
Key stage Five	Age 16–18	Further Education (16+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colleges - School sixth-forms - Training companies - Employers - Charities 	At this stage young people may undertake a full-time course at college or school sixth-form, such as A Levels or a T Level, or start an apprenticeship. They can also combine work or volunteering with part-time study or training. Education or training is compulsory until the age of 18 in England.
Key stage Four	Age 14–16	Secondary Education	- Secondary schools	Secondary education starts at age 11 and continues until age 16. Students are usually studying GCSE courses, and/or other courses as appropriate (e.g. a technical qualification). Some regions also have middle schools.
Key stage Three	Age 11–14			
Key stage Two	Age 7–11	Primary Education	- Primary schools	Primary schools generally have students aged 4 to 11 years, with infant and junior classes. Government has set out a national curriculum for all subjects across Key Stages One to Four, and there are national tests and teacher assessments for students at the end of both Key Stage One and Two. Throughout their school and college education some students attend alternative settings, which offer an adjusted curriculum to better meet their individual needs (e.g. SEND).
Key stage One	Age 5–7			
	Age 0–5	Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nurseries - Primary schools 	Government sets standards for learning, development and care of young children to age 5 in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. This can take place in state nursery schools, nursery classes and reception classes within primary schools, but also in voluntary pre-schools, privately run nurseries and with childminders.