

In England, every child between the age of five and eighteen must have an education.

The school term starts in September, so children usually begin primary school in the September before they are five.

When children are eleven they leave primary school and go to secondary school.

Secondary schools usually teach children up to the age of sixteen, when they take their GCSE exams, or eighteen when they take their A-levels.

In England, there are both state schools, that are free, and private schools, which cost a lot of money to attend.

About 7% of under sixteens go to a private school.

There are usually fewer students in a class and often the schools have excellent facilities.

Some children also live at their schools. These are called boarding schools.

Many of them are very old, and some pupils have to wear a traditional uniform.

But most children go to state schools.

This is the Marlborough School in Oxfordshire. It's a large secondary school with just over a thousand students.

Students start here in year 7, when they are eleven years old and continue until they're in year 11, when they're sixteen, and take the national school-leaving exams, called GCSEs.

Marlborough also has a sixth form. This is for students aged sixteen to eighteen in years 12 and 13.

Here, they study fewer subjects in more detail, and take their A-level exams. After that, many go on to university.

The school day starts at 8.50 a.m. with registration. This is when the teacher checks that all the students in his class are at school.

This is a legal document that must be completed twice a day.

There are six lessons, also called periods, every day at Marlborough and each lesson is 45 minutes long. Sometimes students have two periods of the same subject together.

There are usually about 25 to 30 students in a class at Marlborough. This is normal for a secondary school in England.

There is a national curriculum in England that all students in state schools must study.

All students up to the age of sixteen must study English, Maths, Science, PE, Information and Computer Technology or ICT, and Citizenship, which teaches them about their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens.

Students can also choose to study subjects like Geography, Art and Design, and foreign languages.

Students at Marlborough get 45 minutes for lunch. Many students bring a packed lunch, usually a sandwich, some fruit and a snack.

But students can also buy food in the school canteen. The canteen at Marlborough provides students with a variety of healthier options. These days they don't serve any junk food.

Research has shown that giving students nutritious food can help improve their concentration.

School finishes at 3 p.m. But studying doesn't, because most students get homework to do every evening.