

Schooling in the UK



The American School in England

Schooling is, for a lot of people, one of the most important factors in their move. Making the right choices can often be hindered by confusion over how the school system works. In order to bring some clarity to the process, Dwellworks has compiled a helpful overview of the UK education options. Within this pack you will find general information on the UK schooling system as well as information on different types of school available in the UK, furthered by detailed examples and information on International & American schools in London.

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Ofsted

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

Ofsted (The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) are a government organisation that inspects and regulates services that care for children and young people, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages in England. They publish reports of their findings to maintain and improve standards in schools and education providers.

When choosing a school, parents in the UK can use Ofsted ratings as a guide to understand how the school is performing. This is measured in terms of: achievements, pupils' wellbeing, quality of teaching and learning, support and guidance, and how well the school is managed. Parents or carers in England often use Ofsted findings to inform their decision when comparing providers in an area.

Providers are awarded either:

1. Outstanding
2. Good
3. Requires Improvement
4. Inadequate

Ofsted also monitor the Independent Schools Inspectorate, which inspects independent schools that are a part of the Independent Schools Council (ISC).

Equivalent regulating service providers elsewhere in the UK are: The Education and Training Inspectorate in Northern Ireland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland, and Estyn in Wales.

About half of private schools are investigated by Ofsted, and the others are regulated by other associations such as the ISC.

The school website should provide information as to where to find the inspection report, whether Ofsted or independent.

American Schools in the UK

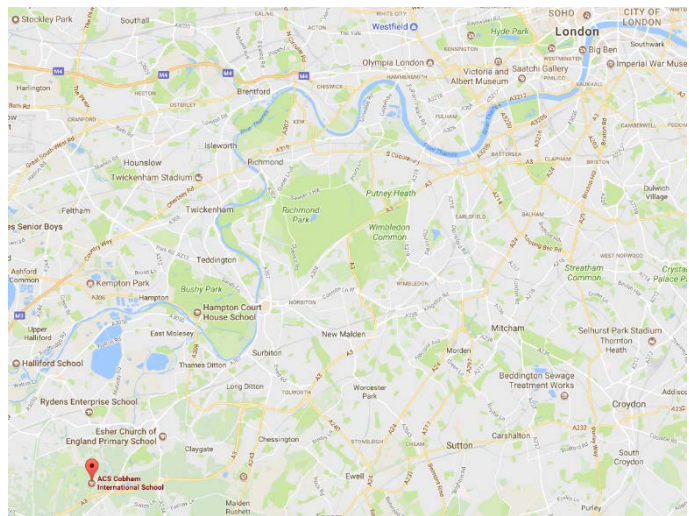
There are a few American schools in the UK which teach an American curriculum. The timeline for applications is open generally between July and the end of January for the year starting in the following September, though some schools have applications open all year round. The application process is similar to international and private schools, and fees will apply.

ACS International Schools

Address: London Road, Egham, Surrey
TW20 0HS / Portsmouth Road,
Cobham, Surrey KT11 1BL / 108 Vine
Lane, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 0BE

Website: www.acs-schools.com

Phone: +44 (0) 1784 430611/+44 (0)
1932 869744



Email: eghamadmissions@acs-schools.com / cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com / hillingdonadmissions@acs-schools.com

Ages: 2 – 18 Years

Description: Founded in 1967 to serve the needs of global and local families, ACS International Schools educate over 3,700 students, aged 2 to 18, day and boarding, from more than 100 countries. Our schools – 3 in Greater London and 1 in Doha, Qatar – are all non-sectarian and co-educational. Our world-renowned curriculum includes all International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes, and top US programmes including Advanced Placement (AP) courses and the new AP Capstone & International Diplomas. Academic success enables ACS graduates to attend the college of their choice, and many of the world's finest universities.

Term Dates: 21 August 2017 – 22 June 2018

Admissions: ACS International Schools welcomes student applications throughout the year. However, we advise you to apply as soon as possible as there is limited availability. Please read the relevant School Fees page before applying and visit the relevant websites to decide which campus you would prefer.

Fees: £17,820 - £25,050 (Cobham); £17,270 – £23,430 (Egham); £17,090 – £22,550 (Hillingdon).

Open Days:

<i>ACS – Cobham</i>	Thursday 5 October 2017:	9.30am – 11.30am; ages 2-10
	Saturday 18 November:	10.00am – 12 noon; ages 2 - 18
<i>ACS – Egham</i>	Thursday 12 October 2017:	9.30am-11.00am; ages 3 – 10
	Saturday 4 November 2017:	9.30am – 11.00am; ages 3 – 10
	Saturday 4 November 2017:	11.00am – 12.30pm; ages 11 – 18
	Thursday 16 November 2017:	9.30am – 11.00am; ages 11 – 18
	Thursday 8 February 2018:	9.30am – 11.00am; ages 11 - 18
	Saturday 3 March 2018:	9.30am – 11.00am; ages 3 – 10
	Saturday 3 March 2018:	11.00am - 12.30pm; ages 11-18
<i>ACS – Hillingdon</i>	Saturday 28 October 2017:	All school open day – ages 3 – 18
	Friday 17 November 2017:	Divisional Open Day; ages 10 - 18
	Thursday 8 February 2018:	Divisional Open Day – ages 3 – 18
	Saturday 17 March 2018:	All school Open Day - ages 3 – 18

The American School in London

Website: www.asl.org

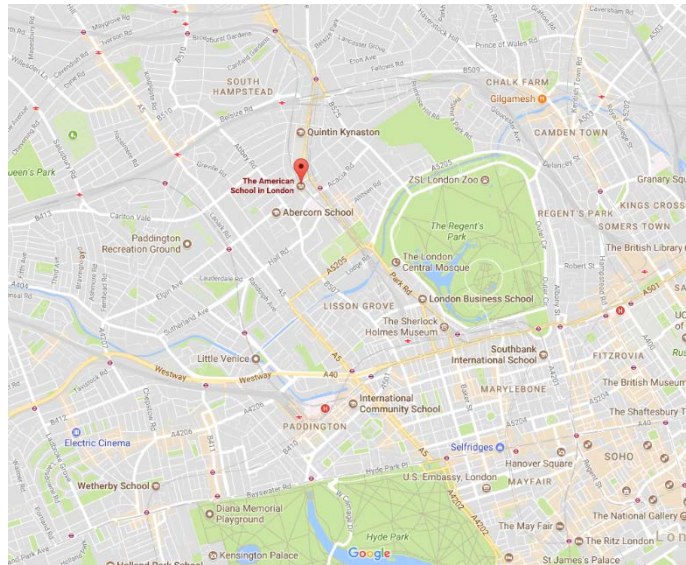
webmaster@asl.org

Phone: 020 7449 1200

Admissions email: admissions@asl.org

Age: 4 – 18 years

Location: 1 Waverley Place, London
NW8 0NP



Description: The American School in London, founded in 1951, offers a singular opportunity to students—an American curriculum delivered by a first-rate faculty in one of the great cultural centres in the world. London thrives, and our students take full advantage of this wonderful city as a classroom, participating actively in its vibrant historical, artistic, and cultural venues. At the threshold of continental Europe, we introduce our students to the background and experiences that will create the international citizens of tomorrow.

Our curriculum offers the challenge of high expectations, the excitement of engaging learning experiences, and the support of a caring community. We bring talented and dedicated faculty members to ASL, actively seeking to build a community of learners for everyone.

Admissions: There is an online admissions portal for new families.

Open Days: The school holds Open Houses, the dates for 2017-2018 are:

- + Thursday 5 October, 8:45 am
- + Thursday 2 November 6 pm
- + Tuesday 21 November 8:45 am
- + Wednesday 6 December 6 pm [followed by optional financial aid session]
- + Friday 27 April 8:45 am

The school also holds small group tours for families that may be unable to make it to the open house events. Families are required to book in advance and to complete a booking form and to bring photo ID upon arrival for the tour. Email the school with your availability and they will send you confirmation and further information, and please be aware that the school are often unable to accommodate last-minute bookings. These tours take place as follows:

Most Mondays

- + 9:00 am - Lower and Middle School (Grades Kindergarten - 8)
- + 10:15 am - Middle and High School (Grades 5-12)

Most Fridays

- + 9:00 am - Lower and Middle School (Grades Kindergarten - 8)
- + 10:15 am - Middle and High School (Grades 5-12)

Fees:

- + K1–Grade 4: £22,950
- + Grades 5–12: £26,800

TASIS The American School in England

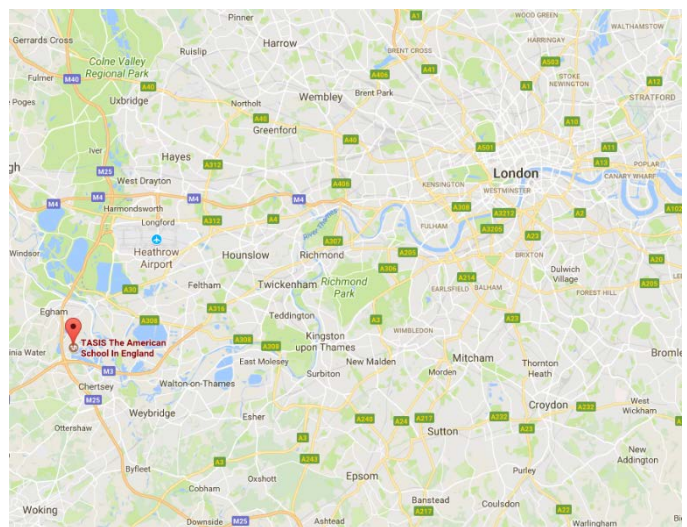
Website: <http://england.tasis.com>

Phone: +44 1932 565 252

Email: ukadmissions@tasisengland.org

Location: Coldharbour Lane, Thorpe,
Surrey TW20 8TE, England

Description: TASIS is an international school offering an American curriculum, including a wide range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and both the American High School and International Baccalaureate (IB) Program diplomas.



TASIS students represent more than 50 nationalities and are enrolled in classes from Early Years through Grade 13.

Term Dates: Aug 30th to Dec 15th, 1st Jan to June 10th

Admissions: We have a flexible, rolling admissions policy and welcome applications for students aged 3 to 18 (Early Years through to Grade 12/Year 13) all year round. We understand that families with more than one child will want their children at the same school and we do our very best to accommodate this.

Tour: A visit to our campus is an excellent way to discover if TASIS England is the right school for you. Every family has different interests so we devote time to designing individual tours suited to your needs, where you can ask all the questions you need to. Please call us on +44 1932 582 316 or email us to set up your tour.

You may also arrange to meet with the school via Skype. If you will not be in the UK to tour the school in person, you may also call the number above to arrange a Skype meeting.

Fees: Full Year tuition 2017-18:

- + Early Years Program (Ages 3-5) £10,900
- + Grades K-3 £18,570
- + Grades 4-8 £21,660
- + Grades 9-13 £23,190

Boarding:

- + Full year £41,870
- + For students only joining for 1st or 2nd semester only:
 - + 1st Semester Only: £23,470
 - + 2nd Semester Only: £20,944

International Schools

International schools can be the perfect solution for an expat student in the UK. They provide similar standards of schooling around the globe, making for an easy transition between schools whether they are in France or Vietnam.

There is usually local population, as well as an international student body. Schools may follow a curriculum model from the US, France, or other school system. Primary instruction may be any language (and multiple languages are usually taught), but it is usually in English. Schools also provide internationally accepted accreditation such as the International Baccalaureate.

Admission and enrolment procedures vary from school to school. Space is often limited and preference may be given to students based on nationality. Tuition tends to be expensive based on local standards, but offers high standards of learning, boast smaller class sizes, first-rate facilities, and extracurricular activities. Boarding facilities are available at some schools, but most only provide day classes.

Usually international schools will offer a range of qualifications such as US High School Diploma with Honours, AP courses, the IGCSE, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme.

Top 11 Things to Know About International Schools in the UK:

1. International schools tend to be concentrated in and around London.
2. The schools are largely private and charge tuition fees. These fees are often higher than English private schools, up to around £20K per year for a secondary aged child.
3. Some schools follow the International Baccalaureate curriculum. This is a curriculum developed in 1960s and aimed at internationally mobile families:
<http://www.ibo.org>.
4. Others international schools are country specific - for example in London you will find American, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian and Welsh schools.
5. Some international schools are accredited by a responsible body in their native country - others are independent of such control.
6. International schools are generally non-denominational and take children of all background, cultures and faiths.
7. Like English private schools, the international schools generally offer small class sizes and are well resourced in both academic and extra-curricular activities.
8. As the schools cater to an internationally mobile population, there is greater turn-over of pupils - approximately 20% each year.
9. Admissions to the international schools is by paper application - parents need to provide a range of documents, for example previous school reports and confidential teacher recommendations.
10. International schools are often better equipped than their English equivalents at providing language support for children who don't speak English. Some also offer a bi-lingual teaching environment.
11. International schools do have dedicated divisions for special educational needs. They will look in detail at reports to decide if they are able to support.

Application Processes to International Schools

The application process to apply to international schools is similar to that of private schools. You should apply directly to the school (forms are usually found on the school's website or by contacting the admissions office directly) and application fees will most likely apply, which are non-refundable. Often it is possible and most convenient to apply online via the school's website.

Some schools will require the applying student to take tests in English and Mathematics as part of the applications process. And they may wish to interview the student while in consideration too, and this is usually able to be done via the internet if the student is not in the country to attend in person.

Other fees such as deposits and enrolment fees may be required, and they are refundable on the student's exit from the school.

The timeline for applications can differ from school to school, with some having an admissions period for part of the year, others are open all year round, and others will only consider applications in the middle of the year if there are spaces in the class, so research these when applying to the school.

International Schools in London

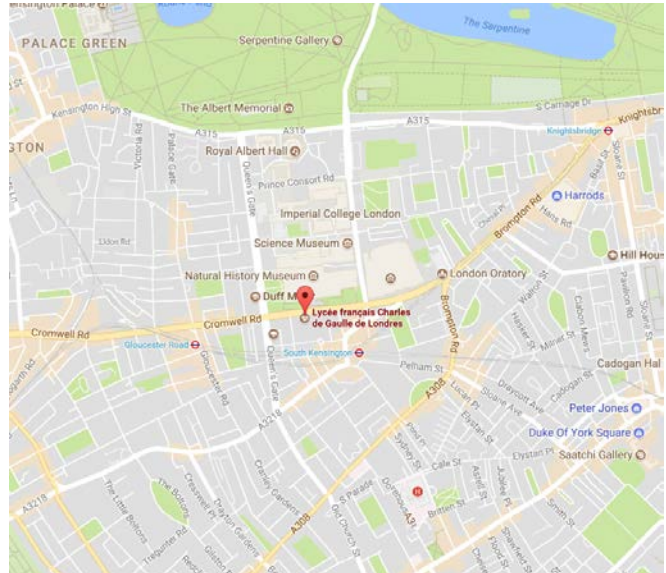
Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle de Londres

The French Lycée is a French independent school for pupils aged 3-19 owned by the French Government. There is also a British section that students can join in Year 10.

Website: www.en.lyceefrancais.org.uk

Phone: +44(0)20 7584 6322 + enter 5

Email: secretariat-eleves@lyceefrancais.org.uk



Location: Lycée Charles de Gaulle, Secrétariat élèves 35 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2DG

Description: The Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle of London is composed of a main site (located in South Kensington) and 3 primary school annexes: The Wix Primary School in Clapham, The André Malraux Primary School in Ealing, and The Marie d'Orliac Primary School in Fulham. Of these, The Wix and The Marie d'Orliac Primary Schools offer bilingual sections. The Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle currently has over 4000 pupils of which 82% are French nationals, 9% British Nationals and the remaining 9% are of 48 different nationalities.

Details of the Criteria of Priority for a First Admission (2017-2018)

Admissions, according to space availability, are appointed by the Admission Committee following the criteria below:

1. Child of a French civil servant detached from French administration and previously attending a French school.
2. Children of staff (only for those staff who are currently employed on a yearly basis, working at least part time 50%).

3. Sibling: for an application to a primary school: the applicant has a sibling who's already studying at Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle (primary or secondary schools)
4. An existing pupil of one of the AEFÉ's schools (outside London)
5. Pupils arriving from France having previously attended a French school (state school/Private school).
6. Pupils previously attending a British school and registered with the CNED (French curriculum through correspondence)
7. Child attending a British school
8. French speaker

Types of Local Schools in the UK

Private Schools (also known as ‘independent schools’ and ‘public schools’) charge fees to attend instead of being funded by the government. Pupils don’t have to follow the national curriculum. All private schools must be registered with the government and are inspected regularly.

There are also private schools which specialise in teaching children with special educational needs.

State Schools

Most state schools follow the National Curriculum. All children in England between the ages of 5 and 16 are entitled to a free place at a state school. The most common ones are:

- + community schools, controlled by the local council and not influenced by business or religious groups
- + foundation schools and voluntary schools, which have more freedom to change the way they do things than community schools
- + academies, run by a governing body, independent from the local council - they can follow a different curriculum
- + grammar schools, run by the council, a foundation body or a trust - they select all or most of their pupils based on academic ability and there is often an exam to get in

Faith Schools must follow the National Curriculum, but can choose what they teach in Religious Studies.

Faith Academies do not have to teach the National Curriculum and have their own admissions processes

Special schools

Special schools with pupils aged 11 and older can specialise in 1 of the 4 areas of special educational needs:

- + communication and interaction
- + cognition and learning
- + social, emotional and mental health
- + sensory and physical needs

Schools can further specialise within these categories to reflect the special needs they help with, for example Autistic spectrum disorders, visual impairment, or speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Free schools are funded by the government but aren't run by the local council. They have more control over how they do things. They don't have to follow the national curriculum. They're 'all-ability' schools, so they can't use academic selection processes like a grammar school.

Academies are publicly funded independent schools. Academies don't have to follow the national curriculum and can set their own term times. They still must follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as other state schools. Academies get money direct from the government, not the local council. They're run by an academy trust which employs the staff.

Some academies have sponsors such as businesses, universities, other schools, faith groups or voluntary groups. Sponsors are responsible for improving the performance of their schools.

Text from www.gov.uk/types-of-school/overview (June 2017)

Private School Application Process

Private Schools (Charge fees instead of being funded by the government)

- + *Each school sets its own admissions procedure and there is no standard model in applying to a UK private school*
- + All schools require you to complete a registration form and pay a non-refundable fee, generally in the range of £100-£300, or sometimes more. It is also common to apply to three or four different schools simultaneously so keep these fees in mind when applying
- + Admissions applications dates and deadlines are found on the school's website
- + Some schools require applications to be made years in advance, and others may allow applications within several weeks
- + If you are applying for boarding, consider whether they offer full boarding (7 days a week), weekly boarding (5 or 6 days a week), or flexible boarding
- + Many schools require prospective students to take admissions tests. These tests are challenging and designed to source students with strong academic potential, therefore it is advisable for students to prepare for the tests and to become familiar with the style of questions. Specialist tutors may be available to help your child prepare
- + Assuming your child is accepted by a school, you will receive a written offer and be given a fixed period (e.g. 2 or 3 weeks) in which you must accept that offer (or lose it). You will then be asked to pay a deposit and/or the first term's fees or both
- + Children from outside the EU may need a visa to study in the UK. They need to apply to schools which have Tier 4 Highly Trusted Status awarded by the UK Borders Agency. Only these schools can issue the CAS letter with their offer with which parents can apply for a visa
- + Schools will require you to enter into a binding contract with them, which inter alia will usually require you to pay a forfeit of one term's fees if you do not give the school a full term's notice if you withdraw your child

(School Admissions Code: Consultation Document 2017 *Department for Education and Skills*
www.education.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/6757-SchoolAdmissionsCode.pdf)

Top 11 Things to Know About English Private Schools:

1. 7% of the UK's children are educated in private schools (sometimes called independent or public schools).
2. These schools charge tuition fees. An approximate figure for 2013/14 academic year for one child would be £10-12K at primary level, £13-15K at secondary. Boarding schools can go up to £30K.
3. Private schools would usually have smaller class sizes than state schools and are often better resourced, offering a greater range of academic and extra-curricular activities.
4. Admissions are usually based on academic assessment and interview. You can apply from overseas and plan ahead with applications, not needing to be resident in the UK.
5. Some private schools are very focussed on academics, others offer a broader, more holistic, approach to education.
6. Private schools usually publish results at Year 11 (GCSE) and Year 13. However, schools aren't required to follow the national curriculum and can offer different qualifications.
7. Girls will tend to move from primary to secondary at Year 7 (age 11/12).
8. Boys can make the move to secondary schooling at either Year 7 and Year 9 (age 13/14), depending on the admissions policy of the school.
9. Schools do offer means-tested bursaries for lower income families and scholarships for exceptional ability. There are a limited number of these.
10. Many private schools have a religious grounding. Most are Anglican in outlook though there are other religious schools, most commonly Roman Catholic.
11. English private schools can be less flexible in supporting children with additional needs, for example language support or special educational needs.

State School Application Process

State Schools (Government funded schools that provide education free of charge)

- + You can apply for a place at primary (age 5 to 11) and secondary schools (age 11 to 16, or to 18 if the school has Sixth Form) online or by using the council's application form. This process is the same whether you have just moved to England or if you are applying from abroad
- + When making an application, you should use your current permanent address. A pupil's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence
- + At the time of places being allocated, proof of permanent residence at the property concerned may be required
 - Admissions authorities are aware that some parents may be applying from abroad without certainty on where they will be living, or when exactly the child will be resident in the UK. Amongst other things these are considerations that an admission authority may reasonably wish to take into account when considering parent's application
- + Applications usually open during the start of the Autumn term of the year before the child is due to start school
- + The deadlines for applications are 15th January for a primary school; 31st October for a secondary school (2017)
- + When filling in the application form (online or on paper) you will need to list the schools you are applying for in order of preference, at least three schools
- + Councils will send out confirmations for primary schools on 16th April and secondary schools on 1st March (or the next working day if those dates fall on a weekend)

In-Year Applications:

According to the School Admissions Code, schools should accept applications which are late or outside of the usual applications timeline if the application is "late for a good reason, i.e., when a single parent has been ill for some time, or a family has just moved into the area, or is returning from abroad – if applications are received before offers of places are made."

Open Days

Schools, colleges and universities usually hold open days/evenings at least once a year, usually in September/October. If the timing of the open day is not suited to you, or you are interested in entering your child into the school at a later notice, you can contact the school and request a tour separately. It is a good idea to visit a school in person before enrolling to familiarise yourself with what to expect for your child and what the feeling of the school is on an average day.

The School Year

Local Authorities can set their own term dates, but as a guideline the school year for Primary and Secondary in the UK begins at the beginning of September and ends mid-July. There are usually 6 school terms:

- + September to October
- + October to December
- + January to February
- + February to March
- + April to May
- + June to July

The breaks are usually one week long for half-term (October, February, May/June), with two weeks at Christmas/New Year (December/January), two weeks at Easter (March/April), then six weeks over summer (July-September). The school day usually begins around 8:30 and ends around 15:15, but as before, this will vary depending on the school (and the finishing time is usually later for secondary schools).

Catchment Areas

A school's catchment area is the geographic area from which students are eligible to attend a state school. You can find information on your area's catchment areas online, and each year catchment areas may change. More is considered than just the location of the child's address, so it is important to research your area thoroughly.

Research on your local council website to find the catchment area. Some areas and schools do not use catchment areas in their application process. Catchment areas are based on your child's permanent address. They're also subject to change, so the best thing to do is look up the schools in your area and contact them directly.

Both primary and secondary schools should be able to provide information on where their catchment areas are, so you can find out if you're close enough to be considered for a place.

Your distance from the school is also only *one* factor in your application – you may be miles away from your first choice, but discover that your child would be accepted anyway.

Factors considered can include:

- + Distance from the school (catchment area)
- + Siblings at the same school
- + Whether your child attended a nearby 'feeder school'
- + Religion (if it's a faith school)
- + Academic ability (if it's a grammar or private school)
- + Special medical and social needs

Some schools even include a lottery or fair banding admissions system. In a lottery admissions system, a certain number of places are allocated randomly between all the families who applied. In a fair banding system, pupils complete an ability test - with set numbers of high, average and low performing pupils admitted.

If you're not sure how a school do things, it's best to contact them directly or attend an open day to find out.

Received July 2017 from: www.postoffice.co.uk/mortgages/school-catchment-areas#WwyrWpHDh01tGjc.99

The National Curriculum

State schools in England must teach a range of subjects according to targets set by the National Curriculum. This was established in 1989 to ensure the same standards of teaching and learning across the nation. Since 2010 the National Curriculum has been amended so teachers have more flexibility in their teaching, allowing them more opportunities to plan different lessons and space to modify lessons for struggling students.

The National Curriculum covers learning for all children aged 5-16 in state schools, and sets out:

- + which subjects should be taught
- + the knowledge, skills and understanding your child should achieve in each subject (according to your child's age)
- + targets - so teachers can measure how well your child is doing in each subject
- + how information on your child's progress should be passed on to you

The four Key Stages:

Key Stage 1	Ages 5-7	Years 1 and 2
Key Stage 2	Ages 7-11	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Key Stage 3	Ages 11-14	Years 7, 8 and 9
Key Stage 4	Ages 14-16	Years 10 and 11

(BBC www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/national_curriculum_key_stages)