



Foreign &
Commonwealth Office
London

INSIGHT UK

Education and Training

John Knox (1505–72) leader of Protestant Reformation in Scotland. Demands that schools be established in every parish.

John Locke (1632–1704) philosopher. Writes *Some Thoughts Concerning Education* in 1693.

Thomas Arnold (1795–1842) Headmaster of Rugby School. Reforms the public school system.

Frances Mary Buss (1827–94) Finds the North London Collegiate School for Ladies.

Robert Morant (1863–1920) Prominent in framing the 1902 Education Act which established local education authorities and the first state owned secondary schools.

A.S. Neill (1883–1973) Finds the progressive school Summerhill.

Susan Isaacs (1885–1948) Child Psychologist. Challenges existing notions of child development.

R.A. Butler (1902–82) Politician. Champions the 1944 Education Act which provides secondary education for all.

‘To give everyone the chance, through education, training and work, to realise their full potential and thus build an inclusive and fair society and a competitive economy.’

Aims Statement – Department for Education and Skills

‘No person shall be denied the right to an education.’

Article 2 of Protocol 1, Human Rights Act 2000

EDUCATION STRUCTURE

The education system is broadly similar in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland has its own laws and practices. Instead of GCSEs and A Levels, students take Standard Grades and Highers. There is a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ), similar to the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in the rest of the UK.

Total government expenditure on education in 2000/01 was 4.8% of GDP and is planned to rise to 5.3% by 2004.

State funded schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are responsible for managing 85p in every £1 they receive.

80 per cent of teachers take the post-graduate route to a teaching qualification.

Only one in seven people enrolling on primary teaching courses is male.

Education in England, Scotland and Wales is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 16 and between ages 4 and 16 in Northern Ireland.

Seven in ten students stay in education after their 16th birthday.



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State schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are expected to follow a national curriculum. It lays down:

- what subjects should be taught
- what should be studied
- what standards should be achieved

Pupils' time at schools is divided into Key Stages, at the end of which they are tested to see what attainment levels they have achieved.

Age

5-7	Key Stage One
7-11	Key Stage Two
11-14	Key Stage Three
14-16	Key Stage Four

At all Key Stages English, mathematics, science, technology, physical education and religious education (and Welsh in Wales) are taught. At stages 1-3 history, geography, art and music are also compulsory.

SCHOOLS and PUPILS

School Pupil Totals – by type of school 1998/99 (in thousands)

Public Sector Schools:

Nursery **144**

Primary **5,338**

Secondary

• Comprehensive – generally non-selective state schools – **3,277**

• Grammar – receive public funds but student must pass 11-plus exam to gain entry – **204**

• Modern – state schools in areas where Grammar Schools still exist – **94**

• Other **283**

TOTAL - PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOLS - 9,340,000

Independent schools **618**

Special schools **114**

Referral Units **9**

TOTAL - ALL SCHOOLS - 10,081,000

Attainment at Key Stage Three (2000) – students reaching or exceeding expected standards:

English: boys 56%; girls 73%

Mathematics: boys 65%; girls 68%

Science: boys 60%; girls 63%

In Scotland, guidelines on the curriculum provide a framework for schools.

In January 1999 nine in ten pupils were attending state schools.

There are 2,400 independent schools in England. They educate seven in every hundred children.

Average primary school class sizes in England 1999/2000: 26.9.

Average teacher/pupil ratios in England in 1998 – 22:1

Average government expenditure per head of pupil population (expressed in \$US) – \$4,609 (compared to US figure \$5,273)

The average number of computers in schools (1998/99)

PRIMARY: 16

SECONDARY: 101



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400,000 school children do not eat breakfast before school.

The average weight of a British school child's satchel is 5.5 kilos.

One in four pupils aged 14–15 take only the minimum amount of exercise as recommended by the Government.

MISTRESS PAGE:

'How now, Sir Hugh, no school today?'

EVANS:

'No. Master Slender is let the boys leave to play.'

Shakespeare: *The Merry Wives of Windsor* Act IV Scene 1

The WIDER CURRICULUM

Young people are involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities designed to boost their self-confidence, their personal skills and commitment to the community.

Youth Clubs UK is a network linking 7,000 clubs and over 650,000 young people. It promotes learning through its own Youth Achievement Awards scheme.

Since its creation in 1956, two million school pupils have participated in The Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. Students undertake a variety of challenges to achieve either bronze, silver or gold Award standard.

FURTHER EDUCATION

1998 – seven in ten people aged between 16 and 18 were in full-time education – up 12% in ten years.

In 1998/99 – 2,254,000 people in further education.

Most courses are available full-time, part-time or by distance learning.

The child of parents in a profession (lawyer, accountant, etc) is over twice as likely to continue into further education as the national average. Only one in ten children of parents in unskilled work is likely to stay on in full-time education post-16.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Around one-third of young people in England and Wales, almost half in Scotland and over two-fifths in Northern Ireland continue in education at a more advanced level beyond age 18.

'You can select whichever place you feel is best for the course you want to do, as well as the part of the country you want to be in. But you must have the right A Level grades.'

TIM (age 17) – Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Over 50% of higher education students are aged over 25 and many study part-time.

1990/91 – grants start to be replaced by student loans. The maximum loan in 2000/01 was £4,590 (England and Wales).

May 2000 – 35.2% of people graduate from university with a degree compared to under 20% ten years ago.



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TRAINING

Training initiatives supported by the Government:			
	Foundation Modern Apprenticeships similar to Advanced Modern Apprenticeships but aimed at people in need of basic skills – NVQ/SQV Level 1	Advanced Modern Apprenticeships aimed at 16- to 17-year-olds enable them to train up to a NVQ/SQV Level 3 in all major sectors of industry	Other Training flexible approaches to offering training to young people already in work – can occur at work, in colleges or elsewhere
Introduced	1998	1998	Replaced Youth Training – 1998
Numbers involved 1998/99	30,400	134,600	3,120,500

LIFELONG LEARNING

Half a million part-time students in the UK.

Individual Learning Accounts will encourage people to seek education and training throughout their lives.

By July 2001 over 1,200,000 people had opened ILAs.

INTERNATIONAL – The WIDER PERSPECTIVE

The European Union schemes:

Socrates – fosters partnerships and language skills for school and higher education students.

Leonardo da Vinci – promotes vocational training, business links.

Youth for Europe III – community and voluntary work exchanges.

Sources

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- Britain 2001 The Stationery Office

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 Published by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London
 Telephone: 020 7270 1500 Internet address: www.fco.gov.uk/

Details of other FCO publications are available from www.informationfrombritain.com

Written by Jerome Monahan
 Designed by Touchpaper
 Printed by ABC Printers
 on paper produced from trees grown in sustainable forests and made and supplied by an ISO14001 accredited supply chain

April 2001 Order No: 1046

BRITAIN

Creativity, innovation and quality