

Special words used in British Schools

Class – a unit of 20-30 pupils / students who are registered together. At younger ages they are probably taught in that group all day, every day. As they get older, they may be taught in other combinations.

Progress – the advance in a pupil's / student's education relative to **targets** for him/her. The targets are often those set out in the **National Curriculum**.

Tests – short examinations set within a school to assess the child's progress relative to their **targets**.

Key Stage – a stage of education as described in the **National Curriculum**.

SATs – National / school assessments at Key Stages 1 (age 6-7) and 6 (age 10-11) primarily to assess the school relative to its targets set by the government.

GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education. Examinations taken at the end of Year 11 (age 16).

A-levels – Advanced level examinations taken at the end of Year 13 (age 18).

Mocks – practice examinations arranged within the school a few months before the true examination.

Pre-school / Nursery – schooling before legally required, although still under government regulation.

Infants School – school for 4-7 years old ("Reception" to Year 2).

Junior School – school for 7-11 years old (Years 4-6).

Primary School – school for 4-11 years old ("Reception" to Year 6).

After-school Club – usually a school-based club caring for children of parents who are still at work when school ends.

Secondary School – school for 11-16 (or sometimes 11-18) year olds.

6th form college – school for 16-18 year olds .

Class teacher – teacher of a class.

Headteacher – person who is CEO of the school.

Teaching assistant – person who helps the class teacher or takes small groups of pupils/students for special tasks.

SENCo – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator - teacher responsible for assessing, planning and monitoring the progress of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Mid-day Supervisor – person who keeps order during lunch break of school.

Governors – volunteers with responsibility for ensuring vision, ethos, strategy, management and financial good practice of a school.

OFSTED – The Government's organization responsible for overall quality of English schools and their compliance with educational targets and rules set by Government.

Inset Day – the school is open, but only for the teachers who are training themselves or planning school developments

At the School Gates

- Say 'hello'!
- Have some 'neutral' questions/statements ready
 - “I’m glad it’s a bit warmer than last week, aren’t you?”
 - “I hope Johnny doesn’t hang around today. Sometimes he’s so slow!”
 - “It’s parents’ evening next week ... it’ll be my first time”
 - “Do you know when the next *‘inset’* day is?”
- Ask other parents
 - The name and ages of their children
 - Their class and teacher
 - If you know something about that class/teacher, make a comment or ask a question
 - “Are they [*your children*] getting on OK?”
 - “Do they [*your children*] enjoy going to school?”
 - “Every morning my Johnny is ready to leave the house before me. Is it the same in your house?”