

Welshness

3.1 Schools 1



By law, children in Wales have to have an education until they are 16 years old. Education is compulsory, but school is not – children can be educated at home.

Education is free for all children from 5 to 18.

All government-run schools or state schools follow the National Curriculum.

When do children start and finish school?

Mostly, children start school in the September after they turn 4. At the age of 11, they move on to secondary schools. Welsh children have to attend school until they are 16 years old. At the age of 16, students have exams.

After completing their exams, some students leave school. Others go on to colleges whilst others continue at secondary school for two more years and take a further set of standardized exams, known as A-levels, in three or four subjects. These exams determine whether a student can go to university. Instead of A levels, a student can study the WBQ (Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification).

What is the National Curriculum?

The National Curriculum was introduced in 1988 and lays out what must be taught in state schools. All Welsh children have to study the Welsh language. There are some Welsh schools where all the lessons are taught in Welsh.

Assessment

Children are assessed by their teachers at various stages of their education in English or Welsh; maths and science.

School uniform

Most schools have a school uniform. This is to make everyone look the same and stop students always wanting the latest fashions.