

SCHOOL PROVISION:

Children under the age of 5 can attend nursery school, or receive other child care services which provide a range of daytime activities. You may have to pay for this service, which can sometimes be quite expensive. To search for childcare in your area visit www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/surestart/whatsurestartdoes/

If your child is aged between 5 and 16, he or she must attend school. Education is free. State schools are divided up into primary (ages 5-11) and secondary (11-18). There are different types of school, and some are Church of England or Roman Catholic. But there are Islamic schools too. There is a primary school in many villages, and a secondary school in most towns. Most schools are run by the Education Department of the County Council. A list of schools will be available from them. The school year starts in September, and usually has 3 terms - one from September to Christmas (in December), one from Christmas to Easter (in March or April) and one from Easter to July. There is a 6 week break in the summer, and 2 weeks of holiday at both Christmas and Easter is normal.