



Learning in England ∞ Expatriates

5 > Are you a UK passport holder sending your child to school in UK?

You will have come to this page because you live and work abroad, but want to find out about how your child can be educated in UK. If you are an expatriate, you may be familiar with the world-class schools in England. Perhaps you even attended one. While our initial focus has been on the education provision in Oxfordshire, we are able to support your search for a school in any other part of the UK.

“A year after returning to the UK with our two children who were aged 12 and 10 at the time of the move ... the children’s schooling alone made the repatriation worthwhile. They are receiving a much broader and better education than anything experienced in three international schools across three continents.”¹

It may be that there is some uncertainty about how long you will continue to work abroad. If you send your child to an English boarding school, at least your child can be settled, particularly over those crucial examination years of GCSEs and A Levels or IB. You may have to send your child quite young, in which case a Prep School from age 8 to 13 would be appropriate. We would check that the provision for younger children includes weekend boarding. Whether or not they do you will need to have a reliable family member or guardian appointed to look after your child when you are not available, or you are abroad. We can help you with finding a guardian, if required.

Most Senior Schools begin when children are aged 11, but some of the public schools begin with children aged 13. In this latter case, children need to do the Common Entrance, in their final term at Prep School, aged 12-13.

¹ <https://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/international/uk/returning-to-schools-in-the-uk>



Many schools have developed the concept of flexi-boarding, such that children who do not live far away may board on occasional nights and be free to go home at the weekends. This may suit you well if you have family or friends, near the school, who can take on a guardian role.

We have done deep and thorough research to find out which independent school will best draw out your child's skills and abilities or meet their needs. We are very keen to do all we can to make it a success. Our Assessment of your child helps us to match him or her to the right school. You will have peace of mind knowing that he or she is well cared for and can focus on studies and all the wider opportunities that are available.

You may have heard the expression "third culture kid", a TCK, or "cross-cultural kid", CCK. We can help you and your TCK or CCK to be prepared for the cultural change in coming to the UK and then being prepared for returning home to you, or working in another part of the world. Cultural understanding will be a central part of what we offer. You want your child to achieve good academic results, but also to be happy. That is why we are working towards his or her achievement *and* wellbeing.

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How do we decide whether to send our children home or keep them with us?

A

There are many different things to consider. Your check list might include:

- *What the child would like to do both now and long term? Does he or she like the idea of boarding?
- *What long term plan you have for yourselves, as parents; and what long term hopes you have for your child? Do you hope for example that he or she may go on to University or training in UK, or elsewhere?
- *Whether there are relatives or friends near the chosen school who could take a guardian-role?
- *Whether your child's particular skills or attributes could be more readily developed in England or abroad?
- *What the facilities are like: for boarding, for extra-curricular opportunities, for pastoral care?
- *how the school will keep in touch with you especially if your child has a problem?

Contact us at Paths to Learning by emailing felicitygunn@hotmail.com
