



Learning in England ∞ Hogwarts

6 > Is an English Boarding School Education really like Hogwarts?

Once you have read about Harry Potter and his boarding school - Hogwarts - you will know that is where all children want to go to school. Hogwarts intake is limited to the few who have magical powers, to learn how to develop their wizardry in the secluded and undisturbed Castle, which is Hogwarts School. It is set in a remote Scottish Glen, reached from London, by steam train, from Platform 9¾ at Kings Cross Station - miles from any town or city.... There is nowhere to which they can escape – but actually, the children love being there. The weather is often misty, which all adds to the sense of mystery and otherness of Hogwarts.

“The Harry Potter Effect was credited for sparking something of a Renaissance for British boarding schools....”¹

Both boys and girls, aged between 11 and 18, travel by train to the school each term; they wear uniform and attend lessons about spells and how to recognise enemies and win battles.

Sport is mainly Quidditch.

Food is VERY important; as are friendships.

JK Rowling certainly understands how a teenage mind works. Her characterisation of pupils and teachers alike is brilliant.

Surely, we should ask the question the other way round? Is Hogwarts school really modelled on a typical English boarding school: I would say Yes and No!

¹ Camilla Turner <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/04/29/boarding-schools-no-longer-need-harry-potter-effect-inspire/>



For Yes, many schools are indeed in old buildings and some are in quite remote settings, only reachable by train. They were old fashioned and cold - like Hogwarts - with no technology, but how much they have changed! The premises and resources are up to date. Pupils still wear uniforms and attend lessons; they will undertake a great deal of sport. These days the food is wonderful, the pupils can do so many different sports, but not Quidditch. And, friendships are for life!

But No, the magic is different. The learning is so much more engaging for pupils today. There was a charm in the traditional boarding school, yet they were often spartan, ill-equipped places. The teachers could be captivating and passionate about their subjects - just like at Hogwarts - but they are, even more so today. There may have been punishments and sanctions just like a 1950s boarding school. But be assured school regimes are more civilised and sophisticated now.

We can find a boarding school with the most similar attributes to Hogwarts for your child - if that is what you are really looking for!



Q

What is most appealing about an English boarding education?

A

Your check list might include:

- *The school's ethos and academic reputation
- *The extra-curricular opportunities to try... and enjoy
- *What opportunities may be open in light of a 'good career' at the school
- *The lifelong friendships that may be made.

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