

Common educational terms

Primary School: State school for infant education (3-5 year-olds) and primary education (6-12 year-olds).

IES: State secondary education school

Tutor: Teacher overseeing the welfare of a group of children.

Head Teacher: In charge of the daily running of the school and encourages parental involvement.

AMPA: Parent-teacher association

Immigration Reception Centre: This is the reception centre for immigrant pupils under 18 and their parents. It provides information on our education system and the resources and facilities available to help them in their schooling.

Cultural Mediator: Establishes contact between peoples of different cultures and promotes the integration of student groups belonging to minority cultures.

DO: State school Department of Orientation

S PE: Child psychology service covering a school area

Child and Learning Psychologist: Specialises in DO and SPE and is in charge of pupils with special needs and difficulties of adaptation and learning and provides guidance for children and parents.

Speech therapist: A specialist in the treatment of speech disorders and difficulties.

PT: Teacher in charge of remedial education

Social worker (also known as Social Assistant): Provides information and help for families with special difficulties and needs.

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IMMIGRATION RECEPTION CENTRE FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

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GENERALITAT
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ESTUDIAR
A LA COMUNITAT VALENCIANA

ESTUDIAR
EN LA COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA

EDUCATION IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF VALENCIA

2010-2011



GENERALITAT
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Educational Information Academic Year 2010-11

Helping to school your child: some useful guidelines.

How is education organised in the Autonomous Region of Valencia?

Pupils are entitled to be educated in schools, where their integrity and convictions will be respected, where they will be encouraged to take part in the running of the school and where they will be able to make the most of the facilities to cater for any special needs and possible difficulties, etc.

In the Autonomous Region of Valencia, as in the rest of Spain, schooling is compulsory between the ages of six and sixteen. Children and youngsters of these ages must attend a primary or a secondary school.

Our region is bilingual, and both official languages, Valencian and Spanish, are taught in schools. Pupils are expected to have mastered both languages by the end of secondary education.

Our system is co-educational. This means that both boys and girls in primary and secondary education share lessons, classrooms and activities.

Compulsory education is free and financial assistance is available for buying materials such as textbooks, exercise books and stationery.

At what ages will schooling take place?

✓ If your child was born between 1st January 2008 and 31st December 2010, you may register him/ her in a private or state **infants' school**. This stage of education is voluntary and, if outside the public sector, not always free.

✓ If your child was born between 1st January 2005 and 31st December 2007, you may register him/ her in a state **infants' school**, if places are available, or in a grant aided or private school. Education at this stage is voluntary and free in state and some grant aided schools.

✓ If your child was born between 1st January 1999 and 31st December 2004, you must register him/ her in a state, grant aided or private **primary school**. Schooling is free in state and grant aided schools.

✓ If your child was born between 1st January 1995 and 31st December 1998, you must register him/ her in a state, grant aided or private secondary school for courses within the curriculum of **Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO: Educación Secundaria Obligatoria)**. Secondary education is free in state and grant aided schools.

✓ If suitably qualified, students born before 1st January 1995, may be eligible to do specific vocational training in schools teaching Bachillerato or Formación Profesional Específica (Specific vocational training courses). Courses are taught in state, grant aided or private secondary schools and are not part of compulsory education.

How are schools organised?

The **Head Teacher**, the **Director of Studies** and the **Secretary** comprise the management team in charge of running the school and liaising with parents. They **will** meet parents by appointment and **will** provide information concerning application procedures, registration requirements, the school organisation, the timetable, the canteen, grants and financial assistance available, etc.

The **School Council** is the most important institution within the school and comprises the management team, representatives of teachers, pupils, parents, non-teaching staff and the Town Council. Elections are held every four years to elect members and the Head Teacher convenes meetings periodically.

The **tutor** is the **teacher** in charge of the welfare of your child during his or her school career. The tutor's responsibilities include guidance, support and maintaining constant contact with parents to ensure your child is **fully** integrated in the school and is performing to the best of his or her abilities. Families are encouraged to consult the tutor on any matter of concern and frequent parent/teacher meetings are held to discuss academic and other aspects of your child's education.

There are other teachers in the school who have no tutorial responsibilities and attend to the pupils in other ways: for example, **speech** and **pedagogical therapists** or child and **learning psychologists**. The number of teachers in charge of pupil welfare in secondary education is higher than in primary education.

The co-operation and involvement of parents in the education of their children is vital. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school and make the most of the educational facilities provided by the school and local authorities. Pupils have the right to be respected and the obligation of complying with the rules and regulations of the school.

How do I register my child in a school?

The application and subsequent registration generally take place in mid-April, although it is possible for a child to be admitted to a school whenever the family moves to a new school area.

The following documents should be submitted

- An application form (provided by the school).
- A photocopy of the father's, mother's or guardian's identity card or passport.
- A photocopy of the family record book or equivalent certificate recording the marriage of parents and the birth of children.

Application forms are available from the school. You should tell the school if your family is a large one or if any of its members is certified as disabled.

How long is the school year?

The school year begins in September and ends in June. It is made up of three terms, each followed by a holiday break.

First term: September to Christmas (December).

Second term: January to Easter (April).

Third term: Easter to June.

What are the school hours?

Lessons are from Monday to Friday.

Infant and primary schools have a split day, from 9.00 to 12.00 and 15.00 to 17.00. However, this timetable can vary and you should check. We also advise you to check secondary school timetables as these may vary from school to school.

What are the aims of the education system?

- To develop fully the personality of the student and encourage the respect for democratic principles and fundamental rights and freedoms.

- To promote the acquisition of intellectual habits and study skills, as well as concepts of science, technology, humanistic principles, history and ethics.

- To prepare the student to participate fully in the cultural, social and professional life of the Autonomous Region of Valencia.

Are there canteen facilities?

Many schools run a school canteen providing lunch for your child. Please ask the school management team or the secretary for further information.

What happens if my child has a physical or psychological problem?

Special educational provisions are made for children with specific needs and problems.

How are parents involved in the day to day running of the school?

Parents take part in the supervision and running of state and grant aided schools through their representatives on the School Council. In addition, there are parent-teacher associations (**AMPA**) which organise extra-curricular activities outside school hours.