

EDUCATIONAL TERMINOLOGY (JARGON BUSTER)

Summary

There are many acronyms and terms used regularly in education which parents might not be familiar with. This list is not exhaustive, but is hopefully comprehensive enough to help parents with understanding school life.

- **Attainment Targets** - Aspects of a particular subject under which pupils' learning is grouped. For example, in English AT1 is Speaking and Listening, AT2 is Reading.
- **BT** - Beginning Teacher: A teacher working in a school as part of their initial teacher training (ITT).
- **CATs** - Cognitive Ability Tests: standardised tests which some schools use in order to measure pupils' ability to process information.
- **CiC** - Children in care of the Local Authority.
- **Community schools** - the majority of all schools. The local education authority owns the school and is the employer of the staff. Generally the LEA is responsible for admissions. The majority are comprehensive and most educate girls and boys together (co-educational), but some are single sex. Religious education is given and whilst being basically Christian it also reflects the beliefs of other faiths established in the area.
- **Comprehensive schools** - open to all children. At banded comprehensives children are assessed so that there is a balance of ability across the school
- **Core Subjects** - English, maths and science: all pupils must study these subjects up to Key Stage 4 (GCSE or equivalent).
- **CRB disclosure** - Criminal Records Bureau disclosure: it is a legal requirement that all teachers are checked against CRB records to determine if they are suitable to work with young adults.
- **Differentiation** - Teaching a child in ways and at levels which match their ways of learning.
- **EAZs** - Education Action Zones: based around primary and some secondary schools. Offers various opportunities to schools such as School-Home Support Workers, Drama/dance, sports activities etc.
- **EWO/ESW** - Educational Welfare Officer/Social Worker: a person responsible for ensuring pupils' regular attendance at school and other related issues
- **Foundation schools** - receive their money through the LEA and must have LEA representatives on their governing body, as well as representatives of their foundation. They are responsible for their own admissions and employ their own staff. If the foundation is a religious one, the school can refuse admission to pupils who do not meet their published religious admission criteria and may give religious worship and education in line with their particular faith. (Foundation schools are mostly former grant-maintained schools.)
- **GCSE** - General Certificate of Secondary Education: the national examination which pupils usually take in several subjects at age 16.
- **GNVQ** - General National Vocational Qualification: courses in vocational subjects such as manufacturing, Art and Design etc.
- **GTC** - General Teaching Council for England: a self regulatory professional body who maintain a register of qualified teachers in England and regulate the teaching profession in the public interest
- **HLTA** - Higher Level Teaching Assistant, a teaching assistant with a level of qualification that enables them to take a lesson on behalf of the teacher.
- **HOD** - Head of Department, sometimes also called head of subject.
- **Home education**- Parents do not need permission to home educate their child, and can do

EDUCATIONAL TERMINOLOGY (JARGON BUSTER)

this at any time. Parents must ensure that their child is educated according to his or her "age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs he may have".

- **ICT** - Information and Communication Technology: A core subject dealing with use of computers and their associated software.
- **IEP** - Individual Education Plan: a programme of support for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need.
- **In Loco Parentis** - Literally 'in place of a parent'; the legal term defining teachers' responsibility for pupils in their care.
- **Independent schools** - also known as public or private schools. They provide education on a fee paying basis. Most education law does not apply to independent schools
- **INSET** - IN-Service Education and Training, often done as whole school 'INSET days'
- **ITT** - Initial Teacher Training: Period of training for teacher to achieve qualified teacher status (QTS).
- **Key Stage** - several years of a pupil's school life seen as a whole.
 - Early Years Foundation Stage: ages 0-5
 - Key Stage 1: ages 5-7
 - Key Stage 2: ages 7-11
 - Key Stage 3: ages 11-14
 - Key Stage 4: ages 14-16 (GCSE or equivalent)
- **LA** - Local Authority - a division of the local government with specific responsibility for Education.
- **LSA and LST** - Learning Support Assistant and Learning Support Teacher: support staff for pupils with Special Educational Needs, usually working with individual children in class or within Learning Support Departments.
- **LSU** - Learning Support Unit: a department within a school set up to help students with behavioural difficulties.
- **NQT** - Newly Qualified Teacher: a person in his or her first year of teaching after successfully gaining qualified teacher status (QTS).
- **NRA** - National Record of Achievement: a personalized folder detailing a pupil's achievement and attainment throughout their (secondary) school career. It will also contain any certificates awarded and details of extracurricular achievements and is show to prospective employers or colleges.
- **OFSTED** - Office for Standards in Education: the organization who are responsible for school inspections and assessing the provision of education generally.
- **PANDA** - Performance and Assessment: A report generated by OFSTED to allow schools to assess their performance and make comparisons with other schools nationally.
- **PAT** - Pupil Achievement Tracker: A piece of diagnostic and analytical software produced by the DCSF to enable students performance and attainment to be tracked.
- **Performance Tables** - The collected statistics for schools and LEAs such as exam results and absence data etc published by the DCSF.
- **PPA Time** - Planning, preparation and assessment time. All teachers who are employed by a school are entitled to time within school time outside of the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment. The class is covered by another member of staff.
- **Programmes of Study** - The content of teaching programmes laid down in the National Curriculum for each subject.
- **PSE or PHSE** - Personal and Social Education or Personal, Social and Health Education. Although not formally required to, most schools offer these courses which cover a range of topics, from relationships to the environment.
- **PSP or Pastoral Support Programme**- may be set up to help pupils manage their

EDUCATIONAL TERMINOLOGY (JARGON BUSTER)

behaviour. A PSP should be set up for a pupil who is at serious risk of exclusion, disaffected or at risk of disaffection.

- **SATs** - Standard Assessment Tasks: national tests which pupils sit at the end of Key Stages One, Two and Three. This name is being phased out in favour of National Curriculum Tests.
- **Selective schools** - Grammar schools are generally fully selective. Partially selective schools assess a certain number of children for a place at the school under rules decided by the admission authority.
- **SEN** - Special Educational Needs: a term used to describe a range of conditions within six main categories: physical; mental; sight, hearing or speech; emotional or behavioural; specifically related to mathematical or language work (for example, dyslexia), and general difficulties covering some or all aspects of schoolwork.
- **SENCO** - Special Educational Needs Coordinator: the teacher with responsibility for SEN pupils within a school.
- **SiTC** - Safe in The City: supports 13-18 year olds against youth homelessness. Currently 9 projects running across 9 London boroughs providing family support, extra or alternative training for young people and support to help keep young people in school.
- **Specialist schools** - Have private sector sponsorships supported by additional government funding and may select some pupils for aptitude in their area of specialisation. Many community schools are specialist schools in particular areas e.g. science, sports, language.
- **Statement** - A statement of special educational needs is a document in six parts, which is produced by the LEA giving their views on the child's learning difficulties and the extra help that they must have.
- **TA** - Teaching Assistant giving support in the classroom.
- **YELLIS** - Year 11 Information System: tests in literacy and numeracy which pupils take in Year 10 to indicate how they should perform in GCSEs.
- **Voluntary aided schools** - mostly set up by churches or other religions and a few by charities. They own the school buildings and have some responsibility for repair and maintenance, for which they receive help from a government grant. These schools get most of their money from the LEA but have greater independence than community schools. They are responsible for admissions and employment of staff.
- **Voluntary controlled schools** - funded fully by the LEA and run almost exactly like community schools but there is some representation of the voluntary body among the governors. If the voluntary body is a religious one, the school may give religious education in line with their particular faith.
- **YPPC** - Young Person in Public Care: a name for children in care of local authority.

Related Information

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) www.ace-ed.org.uk/ Advice line: 0808 800 5793	The Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) is a national charity that provides advice and information to parents and carers on a wide range of school based issues including exclusion, admissions, special education needs, bullying and attendance.
Direct Gov Parent Website www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/index.htm	The parents' section of the Direct Gov website gives lots of information, including about schools and education.
Educational Jargon Buster www.egfl.org.uk/main/jargon/	A webpage by Ealing Grid for Learning giving a thorough jargon buster of educational terms.