# United Kingdom Education, Culture, Youth and Civil Society policies

**Education Policy in the United Kingdom**

The conventional UK educational system consists of Primary school (from 5 years old), secondary school (from 11-16 years old). After secondary school students are encouraged to attend higher education, there are a number of options available. They may decide on an academic route in the form of A Level education, a more vocational based route; such as a BTEC qualification or practical work experience such as an apprenticeship.

Educational policies are passed from top down; we have a Department of Education and a Minister of Education. We recently underwent a big educational reform at all levels; primary, secondary and higher education. Our grading system for core subjects has been reformed at GCSE and A Level.

We have a number of educational policies; some of these are listed below with a link;

* Academic and Free Schools <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/academies-and-free-schools>
* Access to Higher Education <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/access-to-higher-education>
* Education of Disadvantaged Children <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/education-of-disadvantaged-children>
* Higher Education and Participation <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/higher-education-participation>
* School and College Qualifications and Curriculum <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/school-and-college-qualifications-and-curriculum>

**Cultural Policy in the United Kingdom**

The UK is a proudly multi-cultural, diverse and open society, and has a number of ad-hoc policies relating to the promotion of arts and culture, both British and that of other cultures.

“Arts and culture strengthen communities, bringing people together and removing social barriers. Involving young people in the arts increases their academic performance, encourages creativity and supports talent early on.” (*Policy Paper, 2010 – 2015 Government Policy: Arts and Culture)* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-arts-and-culture/2010-to-2015-government-policy-arts-and-culture>

**Youth Policy in the United Kingdom**

The Government published a policy in 2011 which focused on the positive contribution of youth in society. The objectives of this report are threefold; to address underperformance in schools and raise attainment for all, ensure that every young person has the skills for further study and work and early intervention to overturn poor aspirations and attainment.

United Kingdom Youth Policy Framework: <http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/United_Kingdom_2011_Youth_Policy_Framework.pdf>

**Civil Society policy in the United Kingdom**

As a society who values democracy the United Kingdom encourage the democratic participation of all members. A healthy society is one where individuals are encouraged to share their opinions, debate and challenge policies which they are concerned about. Individuals exercise these rights by means of demonstrations and protects (some of the biggest protests have taken place in the UK – for example against the incarceration of Nelson Mandela, against the war in Iraq and more recently against the state visit of Donald Trump). In more recent times individuals have used their voices collectively in the form of online petitions, Government agreed that if a petition exceeds 10,000 signatories they will consider the topic for debate in Parliament. (<https://petition.parliament.uk/>)

Community and Society Policy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/community-and-society>