**School Year Systems (UK and Japan)**

This is a *rough* guide to show the difference between the UK and Japanese school systems. There may be some variations.

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| England and Wales (school year begins **September**) | | | | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Age | Japan (school year from **April**) | |
| Primary School | First School | Foundation | Reception | Primary 1 | Primary 1 | 4~5 |  | Nursery / Kindergarten |
| Key Stage 1 | Year 1 | Primary 2 | Primary 2 | 5~6 |  |
| Year 2  (SATS) | Primary 3 | Primary 3 | 6~7 | 1st Grade | Elementary School |
| Key Stage 2 | Year 3 | Primary 4 | Primary 4 | 7~8 | 2nd Grade |
| Year 4 | Primary 5 | Primary 5 | 8~9 | 3rd Grade |
| Middle School | Year 5 | Primary 6 | Primary 6 | 9~10 | 4th Grade |
| Year 6  (SATS) | Primary 7 | Primary 7 | 10~11 | 5th Grade |
| Secondary School (High School) | Key Stage 3 | Year 7 | Year 8 | Secondary 1 (Year 8) | 11~12 | 6th Grade |
| Secondary School (High School) | Year 8 | Year 9 | Secondary 2 (Year 9) | 12~13 | 1st Grade | Junior High School |
| Year 9  (SATS) | Year 10 | Secondary 3 (Year 10) | 13~14 | 2nd Grade |
| Key Stage 4 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Secondary 4 (Year 11) | 14~15 | 3rd Grade  (entrance exam for SHS) |
| Year 11 | Year 12 | Secondary 5 (Year 12) | 15~16 | 1st Grade | Senior High School |
| Sixth Form | Year 12 | Year 13 | Secondary 6 (Year 13) | 16~17 | 2nd Grade |
| Year 13 | Year 14 |  | 17~18 | 3rd Grade  (entrance exam for university/college) |

**Notes about education system in Japan**

Compulsory education in Japan is up until the end of junior high school (up to the age of 15).

* In order to progress into a senior high school a student will normally have to take an entrance exam of the chosen (desired) school towards the end of the 3rd grade year at junior high school.
* Some private schools have combined junior and senior high schools.
* As there is no nationally recognized certificate of education (the equivalent of GCSEs or A-levels); it is generally desirable to get into a good, reputable senior high school. The 3rd graders at junior high schools are therefore expected to work hard towards passing the entrance exams of their chosen senior high schools.