

Comparing Class and Grade Levels across Countries

In Ireland children generally begin school at the age of 5. If you are looking at materials from other countries, it is helpful to know the ages of the children that are being referred to. I have compiled the table below to help with this. If you have any additional information about this or that or about other countries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Child's Age	Rep. of Ireland (Class/Year)	Northern Ireland	England (Year) & Wales	Scotland	U.S.A. (Grade)	Australia (Grade)	Cyprus	Greece	Portugal
4 – 5	Junior Infants	Year 1	Reception	Nursery	Pre-Kindergarten	Preschool	Preschool	Preschool	Preschool
5 – 6	Senior Infants	Year 2	1 (Key Stage 1)	P1	Kindergarten	Kindergarten (Primary)	Preschool	Preschool	Preschool
6 – 7	First Class	Year 3	2 (Key Stage 1)	P2	1	1 (Primary)	First Class	First Class	First Class
7 – 8	Second Class	Year 4	3 (Key Stage 2)	P3	2	2 (Primary)	Second Class	Second Class	Second Class
8 – 9	Third Class	Year 5	4 (Key Stage 2)	P4	3	3 (Primary)	Third Class	Third Class	Third Class
9 – 10	Fourth Class	Year 6	5 (Key Stage 2)	P5	4	4 (Primary)	Fourth Class	Fourth Class	Fourth Class
10 – 11	Fifth Class	Year 7	6 (Key Stage 2)	P6	5	5 (Primary)	Fifth Class	Fifth Class	Fifth Class
11 – 12	Sixth Class	Year 8	7 (Key Stage 3)	P7	6	6 (Primary)	Sixth Class	Sixth Class	Sixth Class
12 – 13	Junior Cycle – First Year	Year 9	8 (Key Stage 3)	S1	7	7 (High School)	Lower Secondary – First Year	Lower Secondary – First Year	Seventh Class
13 – 14	Junior Cycle – Second Year	Year 10	9 (Key Stage 3)	S2	8	8 (High School)	Lower Secondary – Second Year	Lower Secondary – Second Year	Eighth Class
14 – 15	Junior Cycle – Third Year	Year 11	10 (Key Stage 4)	S3	9	9 (High School)	Lower Secondary – Third Year	Lower Secondary – Third Year	Ninth Class
15 – 16	Transition Year	Year 12	11 (Key Stage 4)	S4	10	10 (High School)	Upper Secondary – First Year	Upper Secondary – First Year	Tenth Class
16 – 17	Fifth Year	Year 13	12 (Key Stage 4)	S5	11	11 (High School)	Upper Secondary – Second Year	Upper Secondary – Second Year	Eleventh Class
17 – 18	Sixth Year	Year 14	13 (Key Stage 4)	S6	12	12 (High School)	Upper Secondary – Third Year	Upper Secondary – Third Year	Twelfth Class

Source: <http://www.theschoolrun.com/overview-welsh-education-system> and <http://www.workingin-australia.com/education/system/overview#.V8nvJTUbKRU>