

SWITZERLAND CURRICULUM

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INTRO

- In this presentation I will be examining the theory and practice related to the curriculum in Switzerland. I will be comparing it to the whole national curriculum and even some of the hidden curriculum. The hidden curriculum is something that is taught unknowingly to the child, social expectations of gender, language, behavior, or morals are examples of this. (Boutelier, 2019) I will introduce Switzerland's curriculum by pros and cons and explore the differences and similarities between the curriculum in the UK.

SWITZERLAND

- 'Switzerland has low unemployment, a skilled labor force and one of the highest gross domestic products per capita in the world, according to the CIA World Factbook.' (usnews, 2019)
- Education in Switzerland is currently ranked 9 out of 65 countries and economies in the OECD/PISA 2012 survey of educational standards amongst 15 year olds.
- The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) oversees education in Switzerland, but the 26 cantons have their own responsibility to run their own education systems.
- Each canton has its own educational department, they have to monitor their own structure, calendar, methods of teaching and curricula.
- A canton is like a state in the U.S, each place has a different government meaning different laws can be applied in each canton. (Expatica, 2019)

SWISS STRUCTURE SYSTEM

- The basic structure of the Swiss education system is as follows:
- primary education – kindergarten (age 4 minimum)
- lower secondary education (age 6)
- upper secondary level education – vocational education and training (VET), baccalaureate schools and upper-secondary specialised schools(12-15 years)
- tertiary level education – professional training, university.
- The compulsory age to leave school is at 15.
- (TransferWise,2019)

UK STRUCTURE SYSTEM

- Early Years Foundation Stage (ages 3–5); primary
- Key Stage 1: 5 to 7 years old
- Key Stage 2: 7 to 11 years old
- Key Stage 3: 11 to 14 years old
- Key Stage 4: 14 to 16 years old
- Generally key stages 1 and 2 will be undertaken at primary school and at 11 years old a student will move onto secondary school and finish key stages 3 and 4. (International Student, 2019)
- Students at the age of 16 undergo their GCSE's at the end of the school year which helps them to progress onto further education. It is compulsory for children in the UK to stay in school until they are 16, then they must either progress onto full-time education or start an apprenticeship or traineeship. (GOV.UK, 2019)

MAIN BODY

Compulsory education in Switzerland.

- Education is compulsory for all children in Switzerland, even to those who have no legal residency status. Even though all cantons tend to have different rules and laws, across the majority of them compulsory education lasts between 9-11 years. Some children start school at 4 and others start at 6 until they are around 15 years old.
- Most students go to state schools locally, meaning there are a range of backgrounds and mixed abilities but only around 5% of them attend private schools.
- There are no school uniforms and state school is free, apart from school supplies, trips and maybe books.
- Cantons have their own timetable so some go to school around 8:30am until 11:30am then from 1:30pm to 16:00pm. Some schools have to go home for lunch which is not easy for working parents. Some are offered after school care but this does come with a fee. Also, some primary schools are closed one afternoon a week or a full day. (Expatica, 2019)

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Compulsory education in the United Kingdom.

- In England and Wales law states children must go to school between 5-16 and be in full time education. Northern Ireland is compulsory for 4.
- All children are entitled to a free place at state education but it is up to the parents to choose this or private school. Although parents do have to apply to a school to ensure that the space is available.
- In the UK there are four types of state schools;-
- Community- run by local authority-charitable trust with outside partner.
- Foundation and Trust schools-run by their own governing body-government employs staff and sets admission criteria.
- Voluntary aided schools-religious or faith schools- anyone can apply.
- Voluntary controlled schools- run by local authority.
- (Nordangliaeducation.com, 2019)



SECONDARY EDUCATION

Compulsory education in the
United Kingdom.

- At the age of eleven, children start their secondary-school education. They study a range of 10-15 subjects, some are optional but others are compulsory. Some subjects are;-
- Maths
- Science
- English literature/language
- History
- P.E
- From 14-15 years old the student will start to learn and undergo their G.C.S.E's. After this they may choose to either go to college and do their A-levels, BTEC or whatever they choose or they can do a traineeship or apprenticeship.
- (Nordangliaeducation.com, 2019)

PROS OF NATIONAL CURRICULUM UK

- Guidelines-know what they are being taught.
- Very practical- helps teachers to be able to follow a framework.
- Easy to assess- grades/tests etc
- Prepares children to exams at a young age. (Nordangliaeducation.com,2019)
- It is globally recognised as one of the most productive systems.
- Focuses on observable behaviours and objective results.
- (Homeofbob.com,2019)

CONS OF NATIONAL CURRICULUM UK

- Student achievement based solely on tests.
- Lack of creativity
- Usually has subject matter focus rather than personalized for each student.
- Loses teachable moments
- Not all schools are the same
- Focused on product instead of process- no critical thinking or problem solving.
- (Homeofbob.com, 2019)

PROS/CONS OF SWISS CURRICULUM

- Bilingual education- four national languages;- German, French, Italian and Romansh.
- Rated above average in science and maths attainment and has kept this up for over a decade.
- Focuses on the individual and does not undergo as many tests as the U.K.
- Encourage creativity through games/play-based learning
- Go to university later
- Home schooling is illegal in some cantons/ have to register annually if allowed
- (Compareyourcountry.org, 2019)

INCLUSIVITY IN EDUCATION

- In Switzerland, the “Equality Act for Disabled” of December 13, 2002 obliges cantons to provide for basic education adapted to the needs of children and adolescents, including the establishment of inclusive schools for children with disabilities can attend. (Europe, 2019)
- The Equality Act (2010) which applies across employment, education and the provision of services, outlaws direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of the protected characteristics including age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, religion/belief and sexual orientation. (Canvas.bham.ac.uk, 2019)

CONCLUSION

- Overall, the curriculum in the UK is recognised to be one of the best, even though Switzerland is ranked number 9 out of 65 nations. The drop out rate for Switzerland is 30% which is quite high compared to that of the UK with the highest drop out rate only being 13.9% in 2017. (European Commission, 2019)
- The Swiss education system is similar to that of the UK in some ways, yet completely different in others. Although Switzerland has a bilingual education, the UK seems to focus on more core subjects such as maths, english and science. The curriculum in the UK is a good framework for teachers to follow yet it does not promote creativity and has very strict guidelines.
- Both curriculums promote positive behaviours towards inclusivity to help to cater to all children and enable them to have the best possible education.

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