

# School: what's the point?

Have you ever thought... *I don't need an education to be successful; I'm just not cut out for school... school stuff doesn't help you in the real world or even that you can learn everything you need to know on the internet?*

Well, in some ways you're right, there's a lot of information on the web but how do you determine if it's real or just made up by someone – no-one checks it to make sure it's right.

## So why is school so important?

There are very specific reasons for attending school. It prepares you for life, helps you make friends and most importantly gives you an education, which you'll need – no matter what you do in your career.

Worldwide, finishing school and going on to further education and training leads to greater job prospects, a higher earning capacity and more opportunities throughout your life.

What you learn during your years at school impacts the rest of your life, and it's not just about maths, science, history, and so on. As you progress through each year in secondary school you'll notice that you're expected to be more responsible and independent. These are really important lessons.

### At school YOU:

- Learn how to learn and this is a skill you'll have for life
- Learn how to interact with others – your mates, teachers, school visitors
- Develop the ability to make sound judgments – both academically and how to react to all sorts of social situations
- Gain knowledge and sporting skills
- Learn that you impact on others and others impact on you – who you are and what you become
- Learn skills from all of your experiences in life whether planned or unplanned, for example – through sport you may learn leadership, respect, hard work and perseverance.



You may not see the importance of these years in school now but talk to most adults and they'll say that they didn't realise until after they left school – just how important those years were to them. Comments made by adults about what they wish they'd known at school include:

1. Keep trying – persistence counts
2. My education only just started at school
3. It's surprising the skills you learn at school that you'll use in adult life
4. Growing up isn't boring and scary – you get as much fun out of it as you put into it – it's all a matter of attitude
5. Adults do know something
6. Parents are often right and I should have listened to them more
7. There is a big difference between persistence and aggression
8. Back yourself – if you don't no-one else will!
9. Listening is one of the most important aspects of communication
10. I control my own destiny – and I will get out of it what I contribute!

Education is for life and forever. You need to put time and effort into your schooling and education to give yourself the best chance to reach your personal goals, and you can be anything!

So the bottom line is, even if it doesn't always feel like it now, school really is an important part of your life... and making the most of school is a crucial step in making your future a bright one – and it's all up to you.