

Crack the code

Your guide to Scottish & English schools

Moving from England to Scotland — or Scotland to England?

New school. New place. New faces. And then someone starts talking about P7, S2, Year 8, Nationals or GCSEs... What?!

Don't panic. You haven't forgotten how school works — Scotland and England just use different codes.

This guide helps you work out what all the different names mean, where your year group fits and what might feel different when you start your new school.

Your birthday

Scotland: the school year starts in August. Children usually start school between 4½ and 5½ years old, depending on their birthday.

England: Most children start Reception in September after their 4th birthday.

This means that you could be in a different year group when you move.

That's OK!

Your new school will tell you which year you'll be in.

Exam differences

Scotland: National 4, National 5, & Higher

England: GCSE & A level

These are different qualifications, so don't worry if you don't recognise the names.

If you're not sure what you're working towards: just ask your school!

If something doesn't make sense, you could ask:

"I've moved from a different school system. Can you explain that?"

"I'm not sure what that means."

"I've not done this before. Can you help me?"

"Who can I ask about this?"

What year are you in?

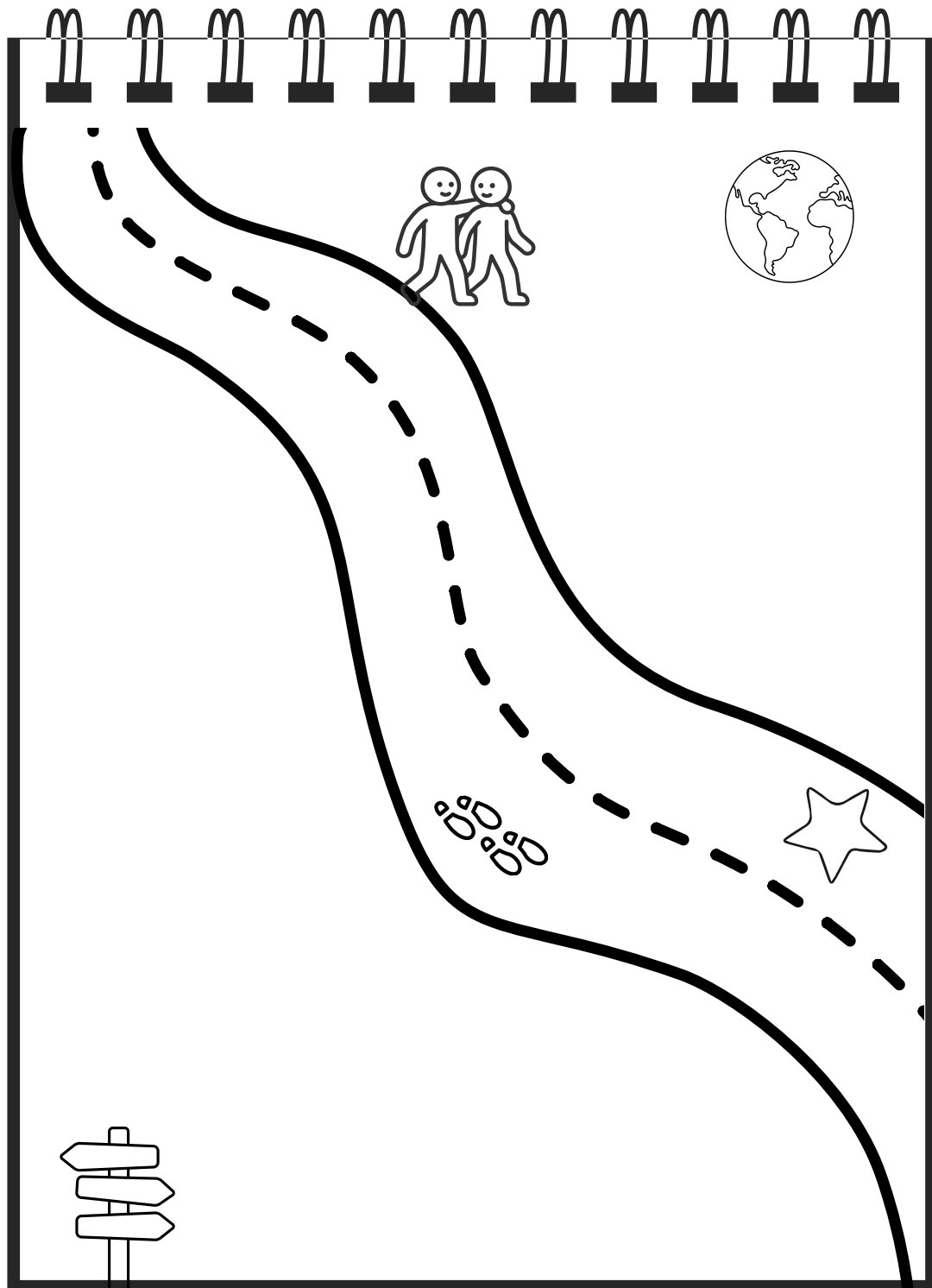
Scotland	England
Primary 1	Reception
Primary 2	Year 1
Primary 3	Year 2
Primary 4	Year 3
Primary 5	Year 4
Primary 6	Year 5
Primary 7	Year 6
S1	Year 7
S2	Year 8
S3	Year 9
S4	Year 10
S5	Year 11
S6	Year 12
	Year 13

Please note, this is a rough guideline as your birthday also impacts this.

Reflecting on the journey so far

This is a place to reflect on how you got here.

Schools you have been to, subjects enjoyed, friendships, teachers, hobbies, school trips, and anything else that feels important to you! You could even show it to your new teacher to help them get to know you!



No matter which school you go to:

Maths is still maths. Friends still matter. Teachers still help.