

## A school with no subjects



### Sudbury Valley school

The original Sudbury Valley school is situated in the American state of Massachusetts. It is not like a traditional school because there are no classrooms and no classes. There are no subjects, either! Students can do anything they want during their school hours. Some children learn, some play, and some talk to their teachers. However, they are not lazy. They love to work on projects that they choose for themselves.

One student says, “Every day we have a challenge and work on it as a group. We usually pick hard things. There are always older kids who can help us. You want to be one of the people who can do something new. It is always – take one step more!”

Students can also choose their teachers. Every year in the spring they have a secret vote – they write *yes* or *no* on a piece of paper for every teacher. Teachers with more *yes* papers can stay in school next year.

Today, there are over fifty similar schools in many countries such as Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan and Switzerland. Is there one in your country?

### Answer the questions.

- 1) What are your favourite things to do in school?
- 2) Do you usually work in groups or alone? Do you like to work alone or in a group?
- 3) Write three things you want your school to have, which it does not have now.
- 4) What should a teacher be like for you to vote *yes*?
- 5) There are no tests in Sudbury Valley school. How is this good and how can it be a bad thing?
- 6) What school do you think is better – your school or Sudbury Valley school? Why?

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