### **Speaking Card 8: School**

#### • Do you like going to school?

Yes, I like it because... my friends are there and we can do things together / the teachers are nice and help me a lot / I learn lots of things / I can do things that I can't do at home / it is interesting. No, I don't like it because... it's boring / the classes are hard / I don't learn anything / I have too much homework / I don't like getting up so early / I have to stay at school till late afternoon / I have to take exams / tests.

#### • What subjects do you have at school?

In primary school there are basic subjects such as maths / Czech or foreign languages. We also have subjects like history / <u>civics</u> / art / music lessons / family <u>education</u> / <u>physical education (PE classes</u>) and science – physics / chemistry / biology / geography. In grammar schools and <u>secondary schools</u> students also study other subjects like economics / information technology / art / psychology or other subjects they need for their future <u>careers</u>.

# • When do you start going to school? What types of schools are there in the Czech Republic?

When children are three years old, they go to <u>kindergarten</u>. At the age of six, they start <u>primary</u> <u>school</u> where they study until they are 15. They can go earlier to <u>grammar school</u> (age: 11 or 13). From 16 they can study either in a <u>secondary</u> or <u>vocational</u> <u>school</u>. They usually finish secondary school when they are 19. University is usually the next step.

#### • What's your favourite subject?

I like maths because it is different. I like English because I enjoy languages... it helps me understand music and films / speak when I travel. I like history because... I like to learn about the past. I like art because... I can be <u>creative</u> / it is different from my other classes. I like biology because we can study how nature works / life.

#### • What's a typical school day like for you?

I arrive at school early / late / at 8 am. I go by bus / tram / train / underground. I walk / ride a bike. After the first classes we have a long break. Sometimes we go out to the garden or just walk in the halls. After the break we have more classes. Then it is lunchtime / time for lunch in our school <u>canteen</u>. I go home to eat / I have a packed lunch. In the afternoon / after the break / after lunch I have more classes. When school is over I go home / I study and do my homework / go to after-school clubs.

#### • Can you describe the school building?

Our school is in a new / an old building with houses all around / next to a park / next to a church / on the square. It is a tall building / it has lots of floors / it is on one floor / there are lots of classrooms, a <u>staffroom</u> for teachers, a library and a computer room. There is also a canteen, <u>gym</u>, a school playground and a garden. We have special classrooms for languages / science / art and music / <u>workshops</u>.

#### • What is in your classroom?

Our classroom is on the third floor. We can see the park / our playground / a street from the windows. There are 15 desks. We sit two at each desk. There is a shelf below the desk where we keep our books. In front of the desks there is a whiteboard / blackboard, TV and a desk for our teachers. There is a projector on the ceiling / wall and a screen at the back of the classroom. On the walls there are some posters and pictures of our schools projects / a board with some class news. Sometimes we stick some pictures on the windows.

#### • What do you think about exams?

I think exams are important / useful because they show how much you've learnt / tell you what you need to work on. Exams are stupid / a <u>waste of time</u> because we spend too much time studying for them and not learning other things.

## • What would you like to change about your school?

I think my school should have more computers / books / better teachers / bigger and better study spaces / a gym / a playground. There are not enough classes / books / materials or <u>equipment</u> for all the students. Lunches could be better or we should have a <u>choice</u> <u>of meals</u>. There is not enough space in my school / classrooms are old / ugly / bad / need modernising.





















