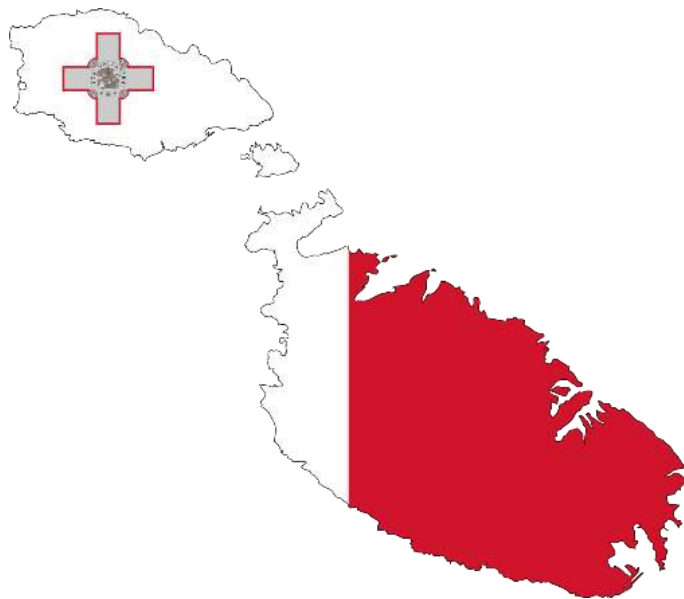


# The Education System in Malta



#### **4.1: Malta Overview:**

Malta is a small island nation located in the Mediterranean Sea. Malta comprises of an archipelago of seven islands, of which the three largest are inhabited. The nation's capital is city of Valletta.

The country's official languages are Maltese and English. Malta gained independence in 1964 and since then it has been a member of the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Nations, as well as the European Union, which it joined in 2004.

As most other western countries, Malta has experienced a rise in migration especially in the last years. Migration in Malta is a reality. There are the economic migrants who come to Malta to work and earn a better wage than in their home country as well as refugees and asylum-seekers that arrive in Malta after fleeing wars and/or persecution.

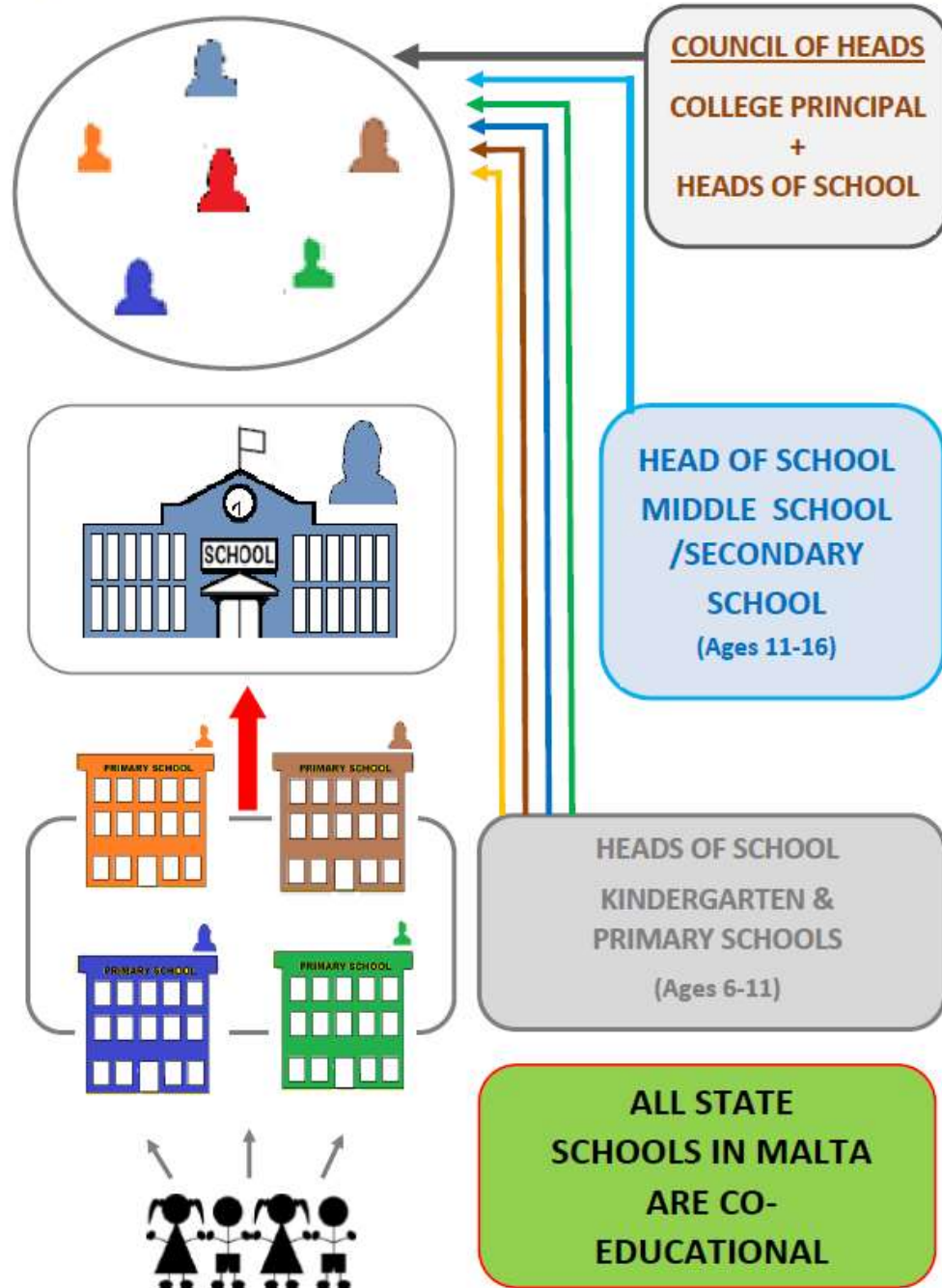
#### **4.2: What are the support structures that exist for migrant students who are seeking education in Malta**

With regards to formal education for migrant students, the setting up of the Migrant Learners' Unit has strengthened the provision for inclusive support for children from a migrant background. The programme enacted focuses on the learning of Maltese and English which are the languages of schooling in Malta. Other academic subjects are taught adopting a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach. This programme focuses on each learner's well-being offering a holistic educational experience while focusing on the acquisition of linguistic and sociocultural competences. The programme is offered in 28 schools in Malta and Gozo. There is also a provision for secondary school aged learners running at the Naxxar induction secondary hub. Learners are assessed regularly throughout the year. At the end of the induction period, a decision will be taken by educational staff concerning the transition of the learner into mainstream education.

#### **4.3 - How is the Maltese education system organized?**

**The following diagram illustrates the setup of a College in Malta.**

## SETUP OF A STATE COLLEGE IN MALTA



You may also refer to Education in Malta by clicking [here](#).

#### **4.4 - What is the compulsory schooling age in Malta?**

Education in Malta is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 16 years. Kindergarten caters for the age group from 3 to 4 years, primary schooling from 5 to 10 years while middle and secondary schooling spans the ages of 11 to 16 years.

#### **3 - What documents will I need to present when registering my child at the Ministry for Education at Floriana or at the local school?**

You will need to present:

- An original copy of your child's birth certificate;
- An original translation of the birth certificate if the original copy is not in English;
- The passports / ID Card/s of parent/s of the child as attested by the birth certificate;
- An original copy of the legal document indicating guardianship/custody of the child if the child is not accompanied by both parents;
- A document showing proof of residence in Malta. This may be, for example, a receipt of payment of rent, a telephone bill in your name, etc.

The school will ask if you have any records of past schooling of your child.

The school will also ask you about the medical history of your child (such as allergies, susceptibility to fits, etc). It is in the interests of your child that you inform the school of such conditions.

**Essential and/or technical documentation will need to be translated into English or Maltese with a legal verification.**

#### **4.5 - Which language is used in the classroom?**

Schools have their own language policy. You can refer to each school's website to consult the policy or contact the relevant school.

No students are exempt from learning Maltese and English in Maltese State Schools, irrespective of the length of their stay in Malta.



#### **4.6 - What happens if my child cannot communicate in Maltese or English?**

Your child will be admitted to an induction course if it is ascertained that the child will not be able to cope in a mainstream classroom. A simple language assessment will be carried out and the decision will be based upon the outcome of this assessment.

The induction programme usually lasts one scholastic year and prepares the student to feel confident and be able to communicate in both English and Maltese.

The programme for the induction is a basic primary school curriculum, including Mathematics, Art, Crafts and of course Maltese and English. The emphasis is on learning these two languages.