

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Would you like going to Summerhill School?

Do you at your school receive a timetable with the subjects every year? Who chooses the subjects? At my school, the teachers don't choose the subjects or our timetables. The students do! I'm Hugh and I go to Summerhill School in England. Summerhill is a different type of school. Nobody tells the students what to study. They also don't tell them to go to lessons. Go to class or don't go to class, it's our choice. Why? Summerhill is a "free" school. It's democratic. Do you know what a democratic school is? Come and see.

So what's happening right now? At the moment, my favourite teacher is teaching maths to a group of students. They're drawing with compasses. Some other students are doing an art project with paints, scissors and glue. Do you see the girl in the garden? She's reading a textbook. Two students don't want to study right now so they're playing a game. There are places in every classroom and all around the school for playing games because play is very important at Summerhill.

There are about 100 students at Summerhill. We're all between the ages of 5 and 17. Students of different ages sometimes study together. We can study English, maths, history, geography and science. Some students study languages like German or Chinese.

Finally, everyone learns two important lessons here: responsibility and creativity. Teachers and students have special meetings and make decisions together about school. There aren't any tests or marks at Summerhill School. We learn because we want to. We think it's a great school!



Photographs: <https://www.pexels.com>



SUMMERHILL SCHOOL

Photograph: Ed Thompson