

Getting into practical education or VMBO with learning pathway support



Information for parents

Your child is in group 8 of primary school. Next year, your child will be attending secondary school.

You have already had a conversation with the primary school about this. Your child may be able to go to a practical education school (praktijkonderwijs/PRO in Dutch) or a preparatory vocational secondary education (VMBO) school with learning pathway support. Therefore, the school would like to register your child for additional testing. You can read more about this in this brochure.

What is practical education?

Practical education is a regular form of secondary education and is designed for pupils who learn better through practical rather than theoretical approaches. The curriculum focuses on the four key areas of life, work, leisure and civic engagement. Practical education schools tend to be small, with a maximum of 300 pupils. This means that the teachers know all the pupils and can offer a lot of guidance en route to a job that suits them and/or the MBO Level 1 diploma. This is why there is a lot of cooperation with companies where pupils do their work experience. After obtaining their practical education diploma, pupils go on to work or continue their studies in secondary vocational education (MBO).

Practical education is made to measure

All vocational schools offer different learning pathways based on a pupil's abilities. Which is why schools offer made-to-measure programmes. This gives pupils the space and time they need to develop their own talents and achieve personal growth. Pupils receive a lot of practical lessons. They also work on the subjects Dutch, English, mathematics, civic engagement as well as career planning. They do this at their own pace with plenty of help from the teachers. The schools and classes are small in size and quiet. Pupils in practical education all receive a recognised diploma. Sometimes we see that a student transfers from practical education to preparatory vocational secondary education (VMBO) and follows the route from there to MBO.

What is VMBO with learning pathway support?

VMBO (preparatory vocational secondary education) with learning pathway support (LWOO in Dutch) is intended for pupils who can cope with the educational content of VMBO straight after primary school, but who sometimes need extra explanations or help with learning. For this reason, many VMBO schools make their LWOO classes smaller in size. Other types of support may also be provided. For example, homework supervision or training sessions to help pupils learn better. The type of guidance offered varies from school to school and also whether it takes place inside or outside the classroom.

Which schools offer practical education and VMBO with learning pathway support?

You can find which schools offer this type of education on www.koersvo.schoolprofielen.nl. Your primary school can also tell you which schools these are.

Why is testing necessary?

Tests are needed to find out what is right for your child. These are not just the tests your child takes in primary school for subjects such as language and maths. An IQ test is also needed to find out what your child can cope with. These tests are carried out by people who are trained to do them. The primary school needs your permission to register your child for these tests. This will not cost you anything. You will receive an invitation from the assessment agency – via the primary school – when and at what location your child is expected. The test usually takes 1,5 – 2 hours. In some cases, the primary school may need to complete a further questionnaire about your child's behaviour.

What needs to be done?

There are 5 key steps:

- June/July group 7 or September group 8**
The primary school will ask your permission to have your child tested.
- October – December**
The assessment agency or primary school will carry out an IQ test.
- October – December**
You will receive the results of the testing.
- September – January**
If needed, the primary school will also fill in a questionnaire about your child's behaviour.
- January – March**
The primary school will give you a school recommendation. You will be given a form to register your child with a secondary school.

Do you have any further questions?

You can always contact your child's primary school for more information.