

# Nigeria

## School Classes

Student grades in Nigeria are assessed through homework, in-class tests and exams. Students remain in one classroom while teachers rotate. While some schools are all boy or all girl schools, the majority are co-ed and girls and boys are not seated apart.

## School Relationships

Students have a formal relationship with their teachers in Nigeria and call them "Sir" or "Ma."

## Extracurricular Activities

Some schools have extracurricular opportunities for their students, and many friends are made through these activities.

## School Rules

No cell phones are allowed in school and fighting attracts severe punishment or suspension from school. Corporal punishment in school is common and accepted.

## Family Life

Most households are composed of a mother, father and children, and many include grandparents, uncles, and aunts as well. Many houses are compound houses with people of different tribes and religions living there. This is more common among the less privileged families of Nigerian society.

In most cases the father has the primary responsibility for care of the whole family in Nigeria. In some instances, working mothers in Nigeria supplement the family income. Typically the mother cares for the children and the home while the father works outside the house. Decision making authority is held by the father in Nigeria. In some less traditional households, mothers may have more authority when the father is not around. Women cook for the family in Nigeria. In some families boys may cook occasionally. In most families in Nigeria, children eat separately from the adults. The wealthy and even lower to middle class families hire house help as labor is very inexpensive in Nigeria.

## Teen Life

Teens are accustomed to enjoying free time and individual time to themselves. Many parents are not made aware of what their children are doing, or where they are in their free time.

In Nigeria, formal interaction with parents is expected in the home. Teens are at ease amongst each other and with their mothers however, the father is generally feared. In less traditional families, fathers interact much more easily with all family members. Teens may be informal amongst their siblings. Sharing is common with many small items, and in many instances no permission is required to use something belonging to another.

## Responsibilities

Students receive an allowance to be spent on necessities like books and food at school and clothing. Families with very low incomes will not give pocket money to their children. Some students sell items on behalf of the family to contribute to family income.

## Parental Involvement

Some less traditional Nigerian parents are in direct contact with their children's school and are kept aware of their academic progress, however many do not take great interest. Internet use is not often monitored by parents in Nigeria and teens enjoy unrestricted access at the internet cafes. Most parents allow their children to plan their own activities and will provide spending money for these activities if needed. Parents have the final say on all decisions involving their children, and teens take advice given as their final course of action. Corporal punishment is common in Nigerian homes.

## Pets

Some Nigerian families keep pets such as cats and dogs however, most do not. If a family does have pets they are typically kept outside.



## COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital:** Abuja

**Population:** 152,217,341

**Area, sq. mi.:** 356,669

**Real GDP per capita:** 2,300

**Adult literacy rate:** 76% (male); 61% (female)

**Ethnic make-up:** Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups; the following are the most populous and politically influential: Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%

**Religion:** Muslim 50%, Christian 40%, indigenous beliefs 10%

## ***Personal Interactions***

### ***Mixed Gender Socializing***

It is generally frowned upon by Nigerian parents if their children socialize with the opposite gender, especially one-on-one. Some less traditional parents will allow it, but with a warning to avoid anything that may cause a disgrace.

### ***Friendships***

Nigerian teenagers sometimes socialize in groups, and sometimes one-on-one. Both ways are considered appropriate, and the choice is left up to the individual. Students make friends at school, through common activities and in the neighborhood. Friendship is taken very seriously in Nigeria and students will typically have one or two very close or intimate friends and a few others that are very casual. It is not common to share money amongst friends in Nigeria, but some do share when the friendship is very close.

### ***Communication Styles***

Communication is indirect in Nigeria and parents often have to question their children many times before the true nature of a situation or concern is discovered. Teens will sometimes hide negative emotions from their parents out of fear of punishment because it is seen as disrespectful to display anger or dissent.

### ***Eye Contact***

Teenagers do not make eye contact with elders in Nigeria as it is considered as a sign of disrespect.

## ***Personal Hygiene***

Typically in Nigeria students take one or two quick showers a day. In Nigeria, students generally aren't responsible for cleaning or tidying the bathroom after they've used it. Many students in Nigeria do not have towels and simply air dry. It is generally thought to be unclean to wear the same clothes two days in a row however it is not uncommon amongst poorer families. Clothes may be worn twice without washing them as long as they are not visibly dirty.

## ***Religion***

Attending religious services is a family and community event in Nigeria and is especially important among Muslim families. Eid is a public holiday and is celebrated with feasting and visits to relatives. Muslim students fast during Ramadan.

### ***Holidays***

Eid-el-Fitr, Kabir, Maulud, Christmas, Easter, New year, Independence day, Workers day, Children's day, Democracy Day.