

Elective Home Education
Information for Parents and Carers



ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION – ADVICE TO PARENTS

Elective Home Education is education provided other than at school, usually by parents teaching their own children at home.

This information is designed to set out for parents and carers:

- the legal position on educating children
- the processes involved, and
- where you may find additional information and support

Do you have to send your child to school?

Parents have a legal responsibility to provide an education for their children. Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, states

“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable-

- (a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and*
- (b) to any special educational needs he may have,*
either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

Most parents choose to send their children to school. Staff in school are trained in teaching, and schools have the resources to offer children a wide range of learning experiences and opportunities. Parents also have the right to make their own arrangements for their children to be educated other than by attendance at school.

Our approach to home education is that:

- We believe all schools in our Local Authority offer children opportunities to achieve their potential.
- We respect the right of parents and carers to choose to educate their children at home.
- We want to work in partnership with parents and carers who wish to home educate, to help them meet the challenges and to make sure that there are good educational outcomes for all children.

What are the duties of home educating parents?

- To assume full responsibility (including full financial responsibility) for ensuring an efficient and full-time education.
- To ensure the education is suitable to the child’s age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs.

Safeguarding

The Local Authority also has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children – including children who are home educated (section 175 Education Act 2002).

In a very small number of cases, the Authority may insist on seeing children in order to enquire about their welfare where there are grounds for concern, e.g. if it was felt that a child was at risk of harm or neglect.

Parents may choose to employ others to educate their child, though they themselves are still responsible for the education provided. In these circumstances, parents are responsible for ensuring that those whom they engage are suitable to have access to children. It is strongly recommended that parents arrange for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check prior to employment, and that arrangements are in place for ongoing supervision.

What do you need to consider?

Most parents think long and hard about taking the step to educate at home. It is worth considering these issues:

- Educating your child outside the school system will require a major commitment of your time.
- There is no financial assistance for home educators, so, inevitably, some expense will be incurred for families, including entry to exams. However, we live in an 'information rich' society, and there is a vast amount of educational information available for free. Regular use of the library means that you do not have to buy lots of books, and you can access information by using the internet at home and at the library.
- Attendance at school is about more than just schoolwork. Many of the lessons learned are about how to get on with other people.
- It may be difficult for one person to provide a broad education, or the range of subjects your child wishes to learn about.
- If you want your child to return to school at some point, or take public exams, you will need to think about how you will make this an easy step for your child.
- Parents should never be encouraged to pursue Elective Home Education as a means of avoiding exclusion, or enforcement action in respect of poor school attendance. Where parents opt to home educate, we want this to be a positive choice, and not the option of last resort.

What is the legal duty of the Local Authority?

The law requires Local Authorities to be satisfied that parents are providing a “full–time”, “efficient” and “suitable” education, which takes account of their child’s age, ability and aptitude, and of any special educational needs that the child may have.

We do, therefore, contact all our home educating parents to make enquiries about the educational provision being offered and the learning outcomes for their children.

What is an “efficient and suitable education”?

An ‘efficient’ and ‘suitable’ education is not defined in the Education Act 1996, but ‘efficient’ has been broadly described as an education that ‘achieves that which it sets out to achieve’, and a ‘suitable’ education is one that primarily equips a child to participate fully in life within this country, by including sufficient secular education. This means that if the home education is primarily designed to equip a child for life within a smaller community within this country, it should not foreclose the child’s options in later years to adopt some other form of life if he or she wishes to do so.

The Authority recognises that there are many approaches to providing a suitable education, and what is suitable for one child, may not be for another.

Schools maintained by the State are required to teach these National Curriculum subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Art and Design
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical education
- A foreign language (for children over 11)
- Technology
- Religious Education
- Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)
- Information Computer Technology (ICT)

If you are educating your child at home, you are not required to follow the National Curriculum or any specific subjects. However, it provides a useful guide and, if at a later date your child returns to school, it could make re-integration into mainstream schooling much easier. Copies of the National Curriculum are available from the Department for Education on their website www.education.gov.uk. Should you wish to enter your child for public examinations, such as GCSE, you will need to contact an Examination Board directly.

When deciding how much time to devote to your child's education you may find it helpful to know that the Department for Education recommends the following weekly teaching hours:

- 15 hours for 5-7 year olds
- 20 hours for 8-11 year olds
- 25 hours for 12-16 year olds

Pupils are required to attend school for 190 days each year.

Education should impart knowledge, but also help children to develop a range of life skills. You should consider how the education you provide would help your child to develop:

- communication skills
- observation and awareness skills
- problem solving skills
- creative and imaginative skills
- numerical skills
- physical skills
- personal and social skills

If I decide to educate my child at home, what do I need to do?

If you are withdrawing your child from school, you are required to deregister your child from that school. A pupil's name can only be removed from the admission register of a school once you have given written confirmation to the head teacher that your child is receiving education otherwise than at school.

If your child has never been registered at a school, we would encourage you to please inform us of your intention to home educate, using the contact details at the back of this booklet.

Parents' right to educate their child at home applies equally where a child has special educational needs. When a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), it is the Authority's duty to ensure that the educational provision specified in the plan is made available to the child – but if the child's parents have arranged suitable home education, the Authority has no duty to arrange any special educational provision for the child. The Plan would set out the provision that the Authority thinks the child requires, but it will also state that parents have made their own arrangements under s7 of the Education Act 1996. The Authority will still continue to check that suitable arrangements are in place to meet the child's special educational needs and keep the EHCP under annual review.

It is different for children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan and are pupils at a special school under arrangements made by the Authority. In these circumstances, the consent of the Authority is required in order for the child's name to be removed from roll. This is to ensure that full consideration can be given to whether the home education being proposed would be suitable to meeting the special educational needs of the child.

There is a link to the Authority's Local Offer for children with special educational needs at the end of this document.

What happens next?

The school will inform us that you are taking responsibility for your child's education and, as such, your child's name will be removed from the school's roll.

- An Authority officer with responsibility for Elective Home Education (EHE) will contact you for an initial discussion. This is to make sure that all parents are aware of the scale of responsibility involved in EHE, to answer any questions you may have, and to establish a good working relationship from the outset.
- Arrangements will then be made for a qualified teacher with experience and knowledge of EHE to visit you at home to enquire further about the educational provision you have put in place. The teacher can also offer advice and guidance on educational matters. You may prefer to meet outside of your family home, or you may wish to show evidence of your child's education in different ways.
- Unless there are concerns about the suitability of education being provided, you will normally be contacted by a teacher on an annual basis to update on any changes that you may have put in place and to offer any advice.
- The teacher will then write a report, together with any recommendations, which will be shared with parents and the Authority.
- If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, the Authority will continue to have a statutory duty to undertake an annual review. You and your child will be invited to these.
- The Authority wants to establish good working relationships with home educating families, based on mutual respect and trust. Parents are encouraged to contact the Statutory Officer for EHE if they have any queries.
- The Authority has an established link with the school nursing service – children who are home educated can receive health advice and information from a dedicated school nurse.

What ways are there to show evidence of a suitable education?

You can provide evidence that your child is receiving an efficient and suitable education in a number of ways.

You may for example:

- Meet the Authority teacher at home, to discuss work and progress.
- Meet the Authority teacher elsewhere, to discuss work and progress.
- Write a report.
- Provide examples and date work. Use a log to record the learning.
- Have the work endorsed by a recognised third party.
- Provide evidence in any other form (such as photos or video).

Before making a final decision:

- Do think long and hard about EHE. It is a great responsibility and requires a considerable commitment of time and energy. If you have had a disagreement with school, do first speak with your child's Head Teacher to try and resolve any difficulties. You can also contact the Authority's Statutory Officer for Elective Home Education at any time for advice and support.
- Do plan what you intend to do with your child before making a decision.
- Do look at the costs that may be involved – educational visits, equipment, and books.
- Do provide opportunities for your child to be involved in social activities.
- Do keep your options open. Your child's needs may change at different ages and stages. Please be aware that you can apply for a school place for your child at any point.

What if the Local Authority are not satisfied with the education provided?

We aim to work in partnership with all home educating parents. From experience, we have found that most concerns can be addressed without entering into statutory procedures.

If there are concerns about the education a child is receiving:

- we will inform the parent in writing of these concerns.
- there is then an opportunity for the parent to adapt the education being provided, so that it meets the necessary requirements.
- a further arrangement is then made to review the education that is being provided. If improvements have been made and it now appears that a suitable education is being provided, no further steps will be taken at that point.
- if it still appears that an efficient and suitable education is not being provided for the child, the Local Authority is required to make a School Attendance Order. This requires parents to register their child at a named school. Where parents do not do so, a court summons may then be issued.
- at any stage during this process, the parents may present evidence that they are now providing a suitable education, and have the order revoked.
- The Authority will also give consideration to application to the Family Court for an Education Supervision Order. This is an Order made under section 36 of The Children Act 1989 and gives the Authority a formal supervisory role in terms of the child's education.

If I want my child to return to school, what do I do?

You can make a school application via the Authority's Admissions Team. You can also discuss this with our Elective Home Education Statutory Officer, who will be happy to advise you.

Some useful contacts:

EHE Statutory Officer
Wirral Council
PO Box 290
Brighton Street
Wallasey
CH27 9FQ
Telephone: 0151 666 3433
E-mail: ehe@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Infobank

There are many local organisations offering support and advice across the Wirral. You can find support using the Wirral InfoBank: wirralinfobank.co.uk

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

For more information about your local CAMHS service and access to a range of other resources about mental health, please click on this link mymind.org.uk

Special Educational Needs

Wirral's Local Offer provides information for parents, children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities: <http://localofferwirral.org>

School Admissions

Apply for a school place on-line via the link:
https://emsonline.wirral.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

DfE Guidance Documents for Parents and Local Authorities on Elective Home Education

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791528/EHE_guidance_for_parentsafterconsultationv2.2.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791527/Elective_home_education_guidance_for_LAv2.0.pdf

Good Practice and Elective Home Education



Draw up a base line of where your child is

What can I do?

- Reading
- Handwriting
- Talking
- Listening
- Maths
- IT skills etc...



What do I know?

- Words I can spell
- Stories I can retell
- Times tables I know etc...



Establish goals that will meet your child's needs, for example;

- I will attempt to use multiplication facts to learn about division
- I will think about how to be 'greener' in our house
- I will read a new book each week
- I will join a gymnastics group



Establish a routine;

- Keep a log or diary
- What activities are planned each week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mobile Library	Gymnastics	Green project	Book review	Go to see friends at play area

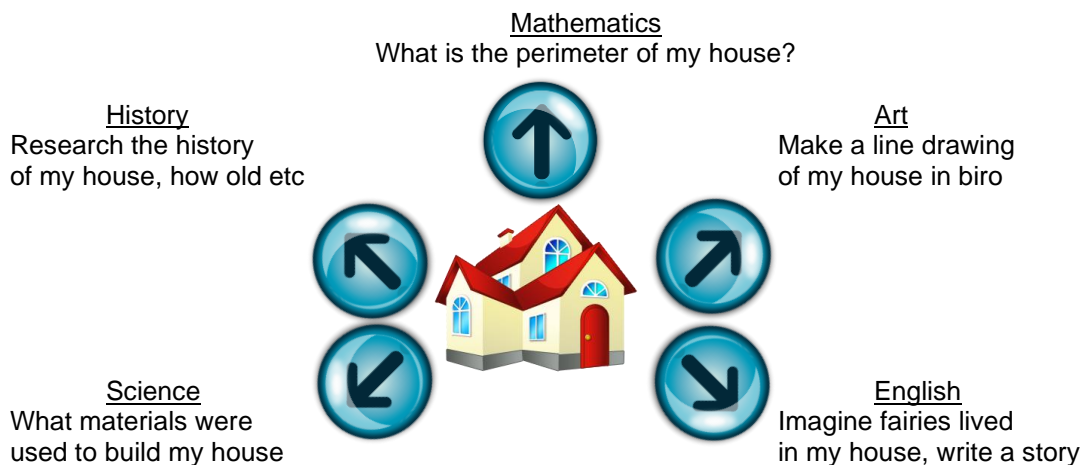


Review and discuss

Go back and review work. What was learned?



Link the learning together, for example



ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION: RESOURCE ADVICE SHEETS

HOME LEARNING WEBSITES

<https://www.thenational.academy/> Online lessons and resources for all ages/subjects. Created in response to Covid19 school closures. Free

<https://www.century.tech/> English, maths and science tailored specifically for home learning. Subscription (free trial available)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons> English, maths and science lessons tailored specifically for home learning. Free

PRIMARY

www.primaryresources.co.uk/ Primary Resources - free worksheets, plans and teaching ideas for primary – all subjects.

<http://www.twinkl.co.uk/> Twinkl lesson plans, interactive activities, PowerPoints, worksheets and teaching ideas. Used by many teachers and schools. Subscription

<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/> Hamilton Trust – used by many teachers. Wide variety of plans and resources for maths, English and science as well as topic work. Subscription although some plans are free.

<https://www.senteacher.org> SEN Teacher has worksheets, links, and free downloads for special education - *Also suitable for primary students and children without special needs.*

<http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/> Website with games to practice tables as well as printable worksheets. This is used by many schools. Subscription

www.teachingtime.co.uk/ Worksheets, games and activities for telling the time. Subscription

<http://www.teachingmeasures.co.uk/> Worksheets, games and activities for teaching measures. Subscription

<http://www.multiplication.com/games/all-games> Lots of times tables practice games
Free

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/> Maths, English and Science all linked to the National Curriculum. Free

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/> Maths, English and Science all linked to the National Curriculum. Free

www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/ Phonics & learning to read game. Free

<http://readingeggs.co.uk/> Interactive phonics and reading programme. Subscription

<http://mathseeds.co.uk/> Interactive maths programme – Ages 3-6. Subscription

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games> - Suitable activities for Foundation and Reception level

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/overview-about-jolly-phonics/> The Jolly Phonics scheme is used in many schools. There are some free resources including tutorial videos and activity sheets on this website.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> Interactive phonics games and resources. Subscription - although there are some free resources.

www.k5learning.com - This is an American site for maths and English, including reading comprehensions. It is subscription but there are also free resources and free trials available.

<http://www.readwritethink.org> English skills website – covers lots of topics in English. You can create writing online following clear tips and instructions and then save and print out finished work. (Go to *Classroom resources*, then *Student interactives*) Free

<http://www.communication4all.co.uk/HomePage.htm> Primarily aimed at SEN but many resources suitable for primary, especially KS1

<http://www.firstschoolyears.com/> worksheets and resources for many subjects

<http://ypte.org.uk/> Plans and resources on a range of environmental topics. Free

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/> Lots of printable activities across a wide range of topics. Free

<http://www.atschool.co.uk/default.asp> - organised around the UK National Curriculum for primary education. Online tests, interactive exercises, worksheets, pictures and much more based on curriculum subjects including KS2 Maths, English and Science.

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/> interactive teaching resources and activities

<http://www.everyschool.co.uk/> Links to many interactive games and resources across all subjects. Free

<http://www.teachitprimary.co.uk/> Wide range of printable resources in all subjects (including reading comprehensions).

<http://www.shaunsgameacademy.co.uk/resources.php> Website where you can learn how to design interactive games and coding. Many links to other coding websites. (Coding is now a key part of the ICT section of the National Curriculum).

<http://www.coolmath-games.com/> Online Maths games, some free, can subscribe too.

<http://www.mathszone.co.uk/> Maths online practise, interactive learning games. Some free.

<http://www.mathsframe.co.uk/> KS2 Maths Games and resources e.g. worksheets. £10 to register, some resources free.

<http://www.themathsfactor.com/> An online resource for Primary pupils – aims to improve Maths confidence with Carol Vorderman. Subscribe.

SECONDARY

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z98jmp3> -Maths, English and Science up to GCSE all linked to the National Curriculum. Free

www.skillsworkshop.org Adult education site which has many activities suitable for ks3 and 4 – free

http://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/interactive_gcse_maths Can be used together with the CGP workbooks

<http://thescienceteacher.co.uk/> - Free biology, chemistry and physics resources for KS3 and KS4

<http://www.youtube.co.uk/> Mini lessons can be searched for and viewed e.g. search: lessons about fractions. A good resource to use initially, followed by a worksheet/workbook task to reinforce learning. Use at parental discretion.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/KS3/games>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/games/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk>education> All three bitesize websites are useful for knowledge based tests, quizzes, clips to watch and learning games to play. Best to start by selecting child's Key Stage, then the subject you're looking for. National Curriculum based. Recently been updated and new apps added.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk>

<http://www.qualifications.pearson.com>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk> Exam board materials such as past papers, mark schemes and examiner's reports can be found at all three above Exam board websites. Please note that from 2017 GCSE's will be graded 9-1 rather than A*-U. However these websites are still a good practise resource. Also please note that Maths GCSE questions in future will centre around problem solving.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

<https://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resources> Teaching resources | TES lesson plans, assessments and worksheets by age range and curriculum subject. Some resources are free.

<http://www.twinkl.co.uk/> Twinkl lesson plans, interactive activities, PowerPoints, worksheets and teaching ideas. Subscription

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/> Some free resources KS2-A level

<http://www.mathletics.co.uk/> Interactive maths practice - Subscription

<http://www.conquermaths.com/> Used in many schools. Suitable for ages 4-18. Video tutorials, practice, in-built assessment and regular progress reports. Subscription

<http://nrich.maths.org/6290> - lots of maths topics at all levels – free

www.cgpbooks.co.uk These books for English, maths, science and a variety of other subjects are used by many schools. There are textbooks and workbooks and many are available in online versions.

<https://uk.ixl.com/math/> Lots of maths and English revision quizzes. Free

<http://www.schoolscience.co.uk/home> Lots of free resources on a wide range of scientific topics. Primary to post 16

<http://www.iboard.co.uk> – lots of maths and English activities – Interactive games, complete lessons and units of work, worksheets. All mapped to the English and Maths curriculum. Many of those for 9-11 year olds are suitable for KS3. Subscription

<http://ngkids.co.uk/> National Geographic website for kids – lots to learn about animals and wildlife. Free

<http://www.patchofpuddles.co.uk/home-ed-resources> Home education website with links to many websites and resources

<http://www.studymaths.co.uk/> A free Maths and English revision site for both Primary and Secondary.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education> For use with both primary and Secondary ages – select which Key Stage relates to the child's age and then select the subject they wish to study.

<http://www.parentsintouch.co.uk> For use with children from pre-school age right up to GCSE. Annual subscription of £9.99 but some samples are free. Includes most subjects, advice on expectations of each Key Stage and numerous worksheets.

<http://www.parentsintouch.co.uk>Maths> Contains all the Maths resources for all ages in one place.

<https://litfilmfest.com/shop/reading-rocks-reviews-ks3-4/> A free English site for KS3-4 with projects in making book reviews. Subscription

POST 16

<http://www.asdan.org.uk/home> developing Maths and English functional skills for employment and life

www.skillsworkshop.org Adult education site- many activities suitable for KS3 or KS4 Career connect

<https://careerconnect.org.uk/> charity which provides free advice

<http://wmc.ac.uk/> Wirral Metropolitan College, various courses including 16-18 traineeships

<http://www.bsfc.ac.uk/> Birkenhead 6th Form College

Help writing a CV The websites below are two of many available.

<http://www.monster.co.uk/career-advice/cv-writing-job-application/free-cv-templates>

<https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/cvs/cv-templates/>