

Elective Home Education

Guidance for
Parents and Carers



North Tyneside Council

Introduction

If you have decided, or are considering, the option of home education for your child or children, this document is designed to provide you with some useful information to help you.

What is Elective Home Education?

Elective Home Education is when parents or carers decide to provide education for their child(ren) at home instead of sending them to school. It is not home tuition provided by the local authority.

Parents choose to educate their children at home for a variety of reasons. This is not a decision to be taken lightly as it means you will be responsible for all aspects of their education. It requires a considerable commitment of time and energy. You will not be entitled to any financial support for books or equipment, examination entries or work experience.

What is the Parents' Responsibility?

Parents have the primary responsibility for ensuring their child(ren) receive a suitable education. The majority of parents choose to use schools, but some parents exercise their responsibilities directly by providing an education based at home and/or in the community. Home educators undertake a considerable commitment and need to carefully consider all of the implications such as time requirements, planning and resources required, who will need to be involved in the education of your child, the cost involved, preparation for examination, social integration and your child's opinion.

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that it is the duty of the parent of every child of compulsory school age "to cause the child to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs he or she may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise."

Suitable and efficient education is described as: equipping a child for life within the community ensuring it does not close down the child's options for their future.

Although there is no legal definition of "full-time", children in school normally spend between 22 and 25 hours working at school each week. Depending on the age and ability of your child, we would recommend aiming for this as a goal.



Guidance on the Law

Under the 1944 Education Act education was defined, for the first time, as compulsory. For the vast majority of families this was translated into an assumption that children had to be educated at school. However, it was, and still is 'education' that is compulsory, not 'school'. The 1944 Act clearly stated that it was the duty of parents to ensure their children were educated either at school or otherwise.

The responsibility of parents is recognised in section 7 of the Education Act 1996 - previously section 36 of the Education Act 1944

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

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

A "suitable" education is one that equips a child for life within society.

Although this responsibility is usually delegated to schools, parents may decide to educate their child/children at home. This may be for a range of reasons including religious, cultural and philosophical beliefs.

Home education can take many different forms. In some cases you might take on the task of teaching children yourselves, employ private tutors, subscribe to a distance-learning package and/or work together with other home-educating families. What is suitable for one child may not be suitable for another, but all children should make reasonable progress.

It is reasonably expected that the provision should include the following characteristics:

- consistent involvement of parents or other significant carers
- recognition of the child's needs, attitudes and aspirations
- opportunities for the child to be stimulated by their learning experiences
- access to resources/materials required to provide home education for the child – such as paper and pens, books and libraries, arts and crafts materials, physical activity, ICT and the opportunity for appropriate interaction with other children and other adults



National Curriculum

The national curriculum does not apply to children educated at home.

The national curriculum is a set of subjects and standards used by primary and secondary schools so children learn the same things. It covers what subjects are taught and the standards children should reach in each subject.

The LA is required to monitor the number of children whose parents have arranged for them to be educated otherwise. They must also monitor the efficiency and suitability of the education. They are not expected to provide guidance in relation to curriculum or teaching approach nor are they required to fund any resources.

Education can provide opportunities for physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and emotional development.

It should be broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated:

Broad: It should provide the pupil with a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding

Balanced: There should be sufficient time for each aspect, allowing for all essential parts of learning

Relevant: This should be related to the pupil's experiences and to adult life.

Learning should be matched to the pupil's ability and aptitude. There should be opportunities to mix with, and relate to, other children, young people and adults and a possible mix of:

- national curriculum subjects
- information technology
- health education
- personal and social education
- citizenship
- careers education
- physical education

Children learn in different ways, at different times and at different speeds. It is a good idea to have a timetable or plan to show what you are doing.

It is a parent's/carer's responsibility to plan and carry out your child or children's educational experiences.

Some parents employ private tutors to deliver education. It is advisable for parents to check the credentials of private tutors to ensure the safety of their children, i.e. DBS checks.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan

Parents of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) may choose to arrange education for their children otherwise than at school.

However, it remains the LA's duty to ensure that the child's needs are met. The statement remains in force, subject to review, and the LA must ensure that parents can make suitable provision, including provision for the child's SEN or EHCP. If the parents' arrangements are suitable, the LA is still required to review the statement annually and may amend or cease to maintain it according to normal procedure.

Parents wishing to arrange education for a child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan and who is registered at a special school must seek the consent of the LA before withdrawing their child from school.

Procedures for Notifying the Local Authority or Current School

There is no legal obligation on the parent to notify the LA unless the child is already registered as a pupil, however, if parents wish to they may inform the LA directly.

If your child is attending school, you must notify your child's Head teacher if you elect to educate your child at home. De-registration of pupils is allowed if the Head teacher has received written notification from you that your child is receiving education otherwise than at school.

When a school receives written notification of a parent's decision to home educate, they can remove a child from the school roll and the Head teacher will inform the LA.

We respect your decision to educate your child at home. The Local Authority has a responsibility to check your child is receiving suitable education. The Local Authority's Attendance and Placement Service will arrange a visit to discuss the home education you are providing and the future plans for your child.

The purpose of the visit is to ensure you are aware of the requirement to offer a suitable education for your child and signpost you to any other support you may need to ensure education is suitable. We recognise that there are many, equally valid approaches to educational provision.

The Attendance and Placement Officer will be keen to discuss with you the ways in which you feel that the education you offer is the most appropriate for your child.

The Attendance and Placement Officer will need to understand how you intend to fulfil your duties under the 1986 Education Act to provide an efficient full time education suitable to the age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs of your child.

You may choose to meet the Attendance and Placement Officer at your home, or at a mutually convenient location, or you may choose not to meet at all. If we do not hear from you, an Attendance and Placement Officer will be in touch.

We aim to meet you and your child at least once a year.

Local Authority (LA) Involvement

The Local Authority believes in the value of school-based education which provides a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural, physical and mental development and prepares all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

However, it respects your right as a parent and carer to choose to educate your child/children other than at school.

Section 437 of the 1996 Education Act states:

"If it appears to a Local Education Authority that a child of school age in their area is not receiving a suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or 'otherwise' they shall serve notice in writing on the parent requiring him/her to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education"

If the parent/carer continues to provide an inadequate education or ignores the previous notice, the LA will issue a School Attendance Order.

This order specifies that a child should return to school and names the school where your child should be registered. If you do not comply with a school attendance order you will have committed an offence, unless you can demonstrate that your child is receiving suitable education otherwise than at school. This may result in the LA considering prosecution and/or seeking an Education Supervision Order.

Safeguarding

Local authority duties in relation to safeguarding are the same for all children, however they are educated. If the Local Authority is not satisfied that a child is receiving adequate, safe or appropriate/suitable education at home, and where this is likely to impair the child's intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development statutory powers may well be required to address the situation.

Other useful sources of information

It is hoped that the following information will be of some assistance to parents in the successful education of children at home. However, the local authority does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information or the quality of information provided by any of the contacts.

Parents choosing to educate their child at home should seriously consider the benefits of access to a computer with Internet facility. The internet enables parents and children to have access to a wide variety of information directly from websites and also from home educators from other countries.

Please note some websites may contain “chat rooms” parents should check the safety of these and ensure that children do not give personal details over the web and never arrange to meet anyone without adult supervision.

It is advisable to consider the internet safety advice in this link.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/projects/digital-parenting-magazine>

Connexions North Tyneside

For careers and post 16 advice:
www.skillsnorthtyneside.org.uk

SENDIASS North Tyneside (Special Educational Needs and Disability Advice and Support Service)

Quadrant, Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park,
North Tyneside, NE27 0BY
Tel: 0191 643 8313/8317
sendiass@northtyneside.gov.uk

School Nurse

For support with mental health issues, immunisation advice, drugs/alcohol and relationships for example. Your child is still entitled to access this service despite being home educated.
07507 332 532

www.fpa.org.uk/resources/leaflet-and-booklet-downloads

Kooth

Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people.
www.kooth.com

General Home Education Information

Education Otherwise Association Limited
(A self-help group that supports home based education)
www.educationotherwise.org

Home Education UK
www.home-education.org.uk

Home Education Advisory Service
PO Box 98, Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire, AL8 6AN
Tel: 01707 371854
www.heas.org.uk

North Tyneside Council can not be responsible for the content of the external websites listed within this document.

Apps for you to try:

Dr Seuss Book Apps
Endless Alphabet
Symmetry School
Duolingo
My Times Tables
Doodle Maths
Visual Anatomy Lit 1
0,500+ Cool Facts
Little Speller
Video Science
Google Maps

Educational Visit ideas:

The Discovery Museum
Great North Museum
Centre for Life
National Trust Properties
English Heritage Properties
Laing Art Gallery
St. Mary's Lighthouse
Kirkley Hall

Examination Boards and information

It is crucial if you want your child to sit GCSE exams that you first identify a school or college that will accept the entry. You should make sure you know the exact syllabus to be studied.

OCR Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
1 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1GG
www.ocr.org.uk

IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education)

The IGCSE Co-ordinator, University of Cambridge
Local Examinations Syndicate, 1 Hills Road,
Cambridge, CB1 2EU
Tel: 01223 553 554
www.cie.org.uk

AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance)

Entry for GCSE and A level courses and syllabuses can be made through one of three AQA offices: Guildford, Manchester and London
www.aqa.org.uk

Children in entertainment

Regulations regarding children in entertainment apply to all children of compulsory school age, whether they attend a school or are home educated.

A Performance Licence is required if your child is engaged in paid work in modelling, sport or in theatre, film or television performances. A licence may also be required if the engagement is unpaid, whenever it takes place, whether this is a one off event or an ongoing commitment.

Further information on children in entertainment can be found online at www.northtyneside.gov.uk or by telephoning the Attendance and Placement Team on 0191 643 8392.

Child employment

Regulations regarding child employment apply to all children of compulsory school age, whether they attend a school or are home educated. Children may not work until they reach the age of 13 years and even then, they cannot work during school hours. When your child commences any form of employment they must be issued with a work permit. Your child's employer should apply to the Local Authority for this. All paid and unpaid work needs a permit and this includes working in a family business. For more information visit www.northtyneside.gov.uk and search for child employment.

Please see our Elective Home Education Privacy Statement on our website:
www.northtyneside.gov.uk

If you have any further queries please contact the Attendance and Placement team on 0191 643 8392.

