



# Educating your child at home

## Information for Parents/Carers on Elective Home Education

The Local Authority (City of York Council) firmly believes that school is the best place to educate children for all but a very small number of pupils.

It may be that you are considering educating your child at home because of a problem at school, in many cases we can help resolve this by talking to you and the school. If not, it may be in your child's best interests to change schools, in which case we can help you with this too.

This booklet is written by the LA to help parents/carers come to an informed decision when they may be considering withdrawing their child/children from school.



What responsibilities are there in educating a child at home?

It is the responsibility of all parents/carers to ensure that their child is educated. Some parents may choose to educate their children at home instead of school

Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act 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”

The Local Authority’s (LA) responsibility is to ensure that this is carried out.



What responsibility does the Local Authority have?

A representative of the LA will contact a parent/carer to ensure a report is received with your educational plans within the first 4-6 weeks of a child being educated at home. This is to ensure that the child is going to be receiving a suitable education. Thereafter a progress report will be requested on an annual basis.

As it is the LA's duty to ensure that children of school age are receiving suitable education, we must be satisfied that parents who opt for Elective Home Education are fulfilling their duties so we will work with parents/carers to ensure we carry out appropriate checks at regular intervals. Where documentation sent to the LA does not give secure confidence that suitable education is being provided, and that progress is being made, there is a legal duty for the LA to challenge this and to consider the use of a School Attendance Order to ensure a child is returned to the mainstream system.

# Points to consider



Have you talked to the Head teacher, SENCO and Pastoral Leader at the school?

Perhaps the reason you wish to educate your child at home is because they and/or you are unhappy with their current school. It may be possible to resolve these problems by an effective discussion with the school.



Have you talked to the Local Authority (LA)?

The LA would be able to discuss other options with you; we can support you in conversations with your child's current school or perhaps another mainstream school would be more suitable. An officer from the School Services team would be happy to talk to you; please ring 01904 551554.



Have you talked to your child about education at home?

- Is your child happy with this option?
- Does he/she fully appreciate what it will involve i.e what work you will set, when it will be done, where it will be done?
- It may also mean less time spent with friends. School has a strong social side as well as offering academic education. Children learn to interact with each other in joint activities and group work as well as organised trips and outings.



Can you afford to educate at home?

Consider the possible costs involved these will include expense such things as books, equipment, visits, tutors, exam entries and subscriptions or enrolments for online learning providers.



Have you the time to educate at home?

You must be able to devote the time to educate your child on a regular basis.



Does your child have special needs?

If so, it is wise to consider that once your child has been withdrawn from school the LA has no responsibility to help you with any special educational requirements that your child may have. If your child is registered at a special school you may not be able to de-register your child without permission from the LA.



Are you able to teach your child?

It is not easy to teach, and although you don't have to follow the National Curriculum, you will still need to educate your child so that they can gain skills and knowledge which enable them to live in and adapt to our rapidly changing world. This is particularly important when your child reaches transition points such as the age for a move to secondary school or particularly into a career or Post 16 education.

# Questions you may wish to ask

We have tried to answer as many of these for you, but we do recommend that you discuss any queries that you may have with us, prior to making your final decision.



Do I need permission to educate at home?

No – but you must de-register your child from school by writing to the head teacher. If you don't, then the school will assume that your child is absent through an 'unauthorised absence' and this will be followed up by a school attendance officer. If your child is registered at a special school you will need permission to withdraw him or her.



Do I have to follow the National Curriculum?

No, but you may find it useful to know what it is. Also it will help to have followed the National Curriculum should your child return to school in the future. Current National Curriculum core subjects are English, Mathematics and Science.



Do I have to work school hours?

No- but the LA will need to see that sufficient time is given to study and tuition each week.



Do I have to provide all the education?

No, but it is your responsibility to ensure that if you organise friends or tutors to teach your child, the education they are providing is suitable to your child's needs. It is also recommended that you stay at home when a tutor is teaching your child as part of ensuring secure safeguarding arrangements around any adult working directly with your child in-person or online. Consider asking to see a DBS certificate from any tutor you are employing or gaining detail about the agency they work for about their safeguarding routines.



Will the LA give me any support?

No. The LA has a duty to ensure that the education provided is suitable to the child's needs and will check that this is carried out but it is fully your responsibility to provide this.



Can I educate my child at school part time?

Schools may occasionally make special arrangements called 'flexi schooling' that allow this, but this will be at the discretion of the governors and the school will need to have a policy that you work within. Some colleges of further education will support education at home by allowing access to courses when the child reaches a suitable age, but the financial responsibility for this remains with the parents.



What happens if the LA decides my provision of education is unsatisfactory?

- If the LA has any concerns we will inform you of this formally.
- The LA will advise you of any areas which need improvement.
- If the education remains unsatisfactory we may need to serve a School Attendance Order, which will mean that your child must re-attend school.



Can I change my mind and request a place for my child back into a mainstream school?

Yes – you can request a place in a school at any time. You should be aware that this may not be at the school that your child was at previously and that all requests to return to a mainstream school from Elective Home Education are considered through CYCs Fair Access Panels rather than through standard admissions. The School Services Team (01904 551554) will be happy to advise you on availability and other questions that you may have.

# Summary of actions

1. You will need to inform your child's school and the LA of your intentions to withdraw your child from school and provide a plan of the education provision that will be in place.
2. You will be asked to provide an update on progress and ongoing plans for each year that you are continuing to educate your child at home.
3. If from this evidence, the LA considers the provision of education to be unsatisfactory we will tell you so and you will receive formal written confirmation of this.
4. Should you fail to provide adequate education for your child you will be served with a School Attendance Order, which will mean that your child will have to return to school.

# Useful Contacts:

Whatever your decision, there are many organisations that can offer you help. We have listed some of these addresses and telephone numbers below:-

## School Services

City of York Council, West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA

Tel: 01904 551554

Email: [education@york.gov.uk](mailto:education@york.gov.uk)

[www.york.gov.uk/schoolservices](http://www.york.gov.uk/schoolservices)

## The National Oak Academy

A comprehensive online platform developed to meet the needs of children and young people during school closures during Covid-19. This is the best one-stop shop for resources including video lessons across all ages, mapped to the National Curriculum.

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

## BBC Learning Resources

Learning resources for adults, children, parents and teachers: find online courses , video clips, educational games and revision activities.

[www.bbc.co.uk/learning](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning)

## Joint Council for General Qualifications

Sixth Floor, 29 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LW

Tel: 020 7638 4132

Fax: 020 7374 4343

E-mail: [info@jcq.org.uk](mailto:info@jcq.org.uk)

[www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk)

## Inter High

Online school offering through enrolment lessons, within a school style structure of classes and linked teachers

<https://interhigh.co.uk/>

## Education Now

59 De Bohun Ave, London N14 4PU (Correspondence only address)

Tel: 01293-543035

Offers programs of education online or through their learning centres.

[www.educationnow.co.uk](http://www.educationnow.co.uk)

## National Extension College

Michael Young Centre, Purbeck Road, Cambridge, CB2 2HN

Tel: 0800 389 2839

Provides open learning through it's correspondence college. Offers GCSE and A Level courses, tutors, handbooks, technical guides and practical guides. Supplies an annual publications catalogue.

[www.nec.ac.uk](http://www.nec.ac.uk)

## Home Education Advisory Service (HEAS)

PO Box 98, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL8 6AN.

Tel/Fax: 01707 371854

HEAS is a registered charity which supports and advises families who wish to educate their children at home instead of sending them to school. HEAS produces information leaflets, the Big Book of Resource Ideas and the Home Education Handbook.

Subscribers receive the quarterly Bulletin, access to the Advice Line and the Dyslexia Helpline, a concession card and list of local contacts. The organisation offers information about educational resources, GCSE, special educational needs, information technology, legal matters and curriculum design.

[www.heas.org.uk](http://www.heas.org.uk)

## Careers advice, guidance and support

Tel: 01904 551900

Careers guidance for people aged 16 to 18 and who are at risk of not continuing/progressing to education/training, or who are in the care of the local authority, is available. Face to face appointments will be reinstated once the COVID pandemic arrangements change sufficiently to allow this, but this continues to be available as a remote service. Call the Local Area Teams (LAT) Multi Agency Support Hub for further information or to request a consultation, or e-mail the Learning & Work Adviser Practice Manager: [phillip.taylor@york.gov.uk](mailto:phillip.taylor@york.gov.uk)

## ACE Education Advice & ACE Education Training

36 Nicholay Road, London, N19 3EZ

Email: [enquiries@ace-ed.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ace-ed.org.uk)

National Education Watchdog, independent of government. Free advice and support to parents. Summaries of Education Acts, Special Educational Needs and Home Education. Home Education Pack. Send for publications list.

[www.ace-ed.org.uk](http://www.ace-ed.org.uk)