

Elective Home Education



A Guide for Parents and Carers

Contents

The Legal Framework

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Do I have a legal right to educate my child at home? | 3 |
| 2 | What is meant by compulsory school age? | 4 |
| 3 | What is 'efficient' and 'suitable' education? | 4 |
| 4 | How should I inform the Local Authority of my decision to educate at home? | 5 |
| 5 | The Expression of Interest Form | 6 |
| 6 | The first visit | 6 |
| 7 | If I am able to educate my child at home, how often will the Local Authority check? | 6 |
| 8 | What happens if the Officer is not satisfied? | 7 |

The Curriculum

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | What is the National Curriculum and does it apply to children educated at home? | 8 |
| 2 | Some suggestions | 9 |
| 3 | Post 16 Information | 10 |

Useful Information

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | What do I do if I wish to re-enrol my child at a mainstream school? | 11 |
| 2 | Resources and Useful Websites | 12 |
| 3 | Local Contacts and Groups | 14 |

Introduction

The information in this booklet outlines Calderdale Council's procedures and provides guidance for parents and carers.

There are several questions which families usually ask when they are considering home education. The following are examples to help you come to an informed decision as to whether home education is an appropriate alternative to school for your child.

The Legal Framework

1 Do I have a legal right to educate my child at home?

Yes, you do. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their children receive an education.

The Education Act of 1996 Section 7 states that:
The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient, full-time suitable education:

- a. to age, ability and aptitude, and
- b. to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

For most children this means that they will attend school. The word 'otherwise' does allow parents to take responsibility for providing an efficient and suitable full-time education themselves. Calderdale Council fully supports the right of parents to make this choice and seeks to work co-operatively with them. What is suitable for one child may not be for another, but all children should be involved in a learning process.

2 What is meant by compulsory school age?

This means from the beginning of the term after a child has reached the age of 5 years to the last Friday in June in the school year in which a child reaches the age of 16.

3 What is 'efficient' and 'suitable' education?

These words are not defined in the Act. However education that is deemed to be 'efficient' is if it achieves what it sets out to achieve. "Suitable" is suitable to age, aptitude and ability", and Government guidelines also say that a "suitable" education is one that "primarily equips a child for life, as long as it does not foreclose the child's options in later years."

Some parents take on the entire task of teaching their own children themselves, whilst others may subscribe to distance learning packages or employ private tutors.

Parents are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and think carefully about the costs associated with educating children at home, especially in the longer term when they may wish to take public examinations.



4 How should I inform the Local Authority of any decision to educate at home?

There is currently no legal requirement to inform the Local Authority if your child has never been to school or if you are new to Calderdale.

If your child is registered at a school and you are withdrawing your child from school and s/he is of statutory school age you must de-register your child by informing the Head teacher in writing. The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006 apply; this requires schools to inform the Local Authority immediately when a child is taken off roll to be Home Educated.

It may be useful if you ask for any records and pieces of work which will help you establish the level your child has been working at.

5 Education, Health Care Plans

Children and young people with Education, Health Care Plans (EHCP) can be Home Educated. When a child has an EHCP naming a special school, the child's name may not be removed from the register of that school without the consent of the Local Authority. Once notified, the Local Authority will hold an Annual Review to discuss educational plans. The SEN Code of Practice was revised in September 2014.

6 The Expression of Interest Form

The Local Authority will provide you with an Expression of Interest Form and a home education information pack, usually on the first visit. It would be helpful if the form could be completed and returned as soon as possible along with the signed Privacy Notice. This means that we have up to date information and contact details and it helps with our communication with parents to arrange visits or offer any support. Parents do not have to notify the Local Authority of their intention to Home Educate, although this will help us confirm that your child is not missing from education.

7 The first visit

When you have informed the Local Authority, the Education Welfare Officer will suggest a meeting. If you wish, this may be at a venue of your choice; alternatively, you may wish to submit a report outlining your plans. The first visit will take place usually within the first month of you home educating your child/children. Meanwhile you will have become responsible for your child's education and should begin the process as soon as they are removed from school. You should prepare to provide a satisfactory education from the outset. You can contact the EHE Officer for advice or to request a visit if needed.

The Home Education Officer will check that you have all the necessary information from the Local Authority and that you are aware of your rights and responsibilities. The purpose of the visit is to meet informally and offer any support or guidance that you may need.

8 If I educate my child at home how often will the Local Authority contact me?

Normally, contact will be annual, however, in certain circumstances, further visits may be necessary to establish that a suitable education is taking place.

9 What happens if the Officer is not satisfied?

Any concerns that a suitable education is not taking place will initially be addressed through informal enquiries. This will involve requests for further evidence through home visits and or reports. If the informal enquiries do not satisfy the LA that a suitable education is taking place, the matter will be referred to the Senior Education Welfare Officer to consider whether a s.437(1) letter should be served. This could start the formal procedures for a School Attendance Order under s437 of the Education Act 1996. For further information, please see the Local Authority's Elective Home Education policy on the Calderdale Council website.



The Curriculum

1 What is the National Curriculum and does it apply to children educated at home?

The National Curriculum does not apply to children educated at home, but you may wish to take its content into account when planning your child's curriculum. The National Curriculum is considered to be the basis of a broad and balanced curriculum in state primary and secondary schools.

An education at home should help to prepare a child for adult life; however what you decide to teach at home and how your child learns is for you to decide. You do not need a timetable nor do you have to follow the National Curriculum.



2 Some suggestions

- A timetable is not required
- try to see the learning process as active, practical, and participative
- try to take full advantage of all the resources available around you (e.g. libraries, local parks)
- provide opportunities which help with physical development and ones which allow social interaction to take place
- make your approaches to learning more enjoyable by varying the style and content and the process it involves
- Where appropriate, give opportunities for independent study and research and provide a quiet area for sustained study/work
- You can arrange for children to take exams as external candidates at some schools. You will need to contact the schools or colleges concerned and make enquiries with other home educators in your area. The Local Authority EHE Officer will be able to help and advise you.



Do

- Think long and hard about educating at home. It can be very rewarding, but it is also a great responsibility and a considerable commitment of time and energy
- Work out what you intend to do with your child before making a decision
- Look at costs involved, e.g. visits, equipment, books, tutors
- Provide opportunities for your child to be involved in social activities, contact with other children and joint activities with other groups. The impetus which comes from such activities may provide a useful social setting and improve your child's motivation to succeed with his or her learning
- Keep your options open as your child's needs may change at different ages and stages. It might be, at some point, in your child's interests to return to school.

Do not

- Take your child out of school simply because you have a disagreement with the school or teacher. In such circumstances, try and talk to the Headteacher or the Local Authority Elective Home Education Officer.

3 Post 16

In Calderdale there is a dedicated Careers Officer assigned to Elective Home Education based in Halifax Careers Centre. The Careers Officer and Home Education Officer conduct joint home visits for students in Years 10 and 11 to help and advise young people about possible career opportunities post 16. (These visits are optional).

For more information please contact:
Halifax Careers Centre
Tel: **01422 342106**

Useful Information

1 What do I do if I wish to re-enrol my child at a mainstream school?

If you are currently educating at home but feel that it might be better for your children to attend a school, please get in touch with Admissions as soon as possible:

Application forms are available from:
Customer First
19 Horton Street
Halifax
HX1 1QE

Tel: **01422 392617**
Fax: **01422 392696**

2 Resources and Useful websites

The organisations listed below are only a sample of the resources available to you. Please note that the Local Authority carries no responsibility for the content or quality of the materials or resources from the listed organisations or websites. It is for home educators to judge the suitability and quality of all the materials.

Department for Education

www.education.gov.uk

Deregistering from School

<http://edyourself.org/articles/deregistration.php>

Gov.uk

Useful website that includes information on all public services, including guidelines on education. Search for EHE guidelines

SEN Support Services

<http://edyourself.org/articles/funding.php>

www.HE-special.org.uk

www.education.gov.uk

HEAS

A support group that offers information for home educators, including advice about educational materials resources, GCSE examinations, special educational needs and legal matters
Home Education Advisory Service
PO Box 98, Welwyn Garden City,
Herts. AL8 6AN

Website: www.heas.org.uk

Tel: 01707 371854

National EHE

Provides support and information for families whose children are being educated at home and contacts for local support groups

www.education-otherwise.net

www.edyourself.org

www.home-schooling-uk.com

www.ahomeeducation.co.uk

HE Special UK

Information, articles, resources and mailing list for parents of children with special educational needs who wish to educate at home

Website: www.he-special.org.uk

Articles and books about home education and alternative learning systems.

Website: <http://edheretics.gn.apc.org>

Articles and news about alternatives to school-based education, e.g.

Montessori, Rudolph Steiner and the Waldorf method, with emphasis on education at home

Website: www.freedom-in-education.co.uk



British Dyslexia Association

The national organisation for dyslexia, with over 130 local associations. Offers support, information and publications. See the website or call the helpline for details of local group. Unit 8 Bracknell Beaches, Old Bracknell Lane, Bracknell RG12 7BW
Website: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk Tel: 0845 251 9002

Email: helpline@bdadyslexia.org.uk

Oxford Home Schooling

Providers of learning materials for GCSE and A-level courses.

Website: www.oxfordhomeschool.co.uk

New Government Guidance on 14-16's accessing college, online GCSE's, raising the participation age, child benefit for 16+, flexi schooling etc.

<http://edyourself.org/articles/september2013newsletter.php>

Home Educating children with Aspergers

Website: www.aspies.co.uk

This mother has a son and daughter with Aspergers. The HE diary has some very useful links to education sites.

BBC Home Education Website Links

Access to educational games, activities, worksheets and educational websites

National Curriculum Online

The National Curriculum Online identifies programmes of study for Core subjects, Foundation subjects and Citizenship

Website: www.gov.uk/national-curriculum

Changes to children working in entertainment legislation

The Government has made significant changes to the law which in future will allow children under the age of 14 to take part in a much wider range of performances

Maths

<http://akidsmath.com/>
www.krazydad.com/slitherlink/
www.math-drills.com
<http://cleo.skool.co.uk/index.aspx>
(Maths and Sciences, different Key stages)

English

www.englishbanana.com
<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org>
www.superteacherworksheets.com/nouns/possessive-nouns1.pdf



Science, Geography

<http://home-ed.info/science.htm>
www.britishecienceassociation.org
<http://tna.europarchive.org/20100630051843/>
<http://sciencesowhat.direct.gov.uk>
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/educators/classroom_and_homework_resources.aspx
www.sciencefairadventure.com/default.aspx
<http://themathworksheetsite.com/>
www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/science.htm
<http://www.sammartell.co.uk> distance learning science courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

History, Languages

www.kidspast.com/world-history/
<http://home-ed.info/science.htm>

Taking Exams as a Private Candidate

<http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk/homeeducationFAQ>

Other useful sites

www.yourchildlearns.com/
www.homeschooling-ideas.com
www.edplace.co.uk (English, Science and Maths)

www.teachthechildrenwell.com

<http://scratch.mit.edu/> (games, music and art)

www.krazydad.com (games and puzzles)

Readingeggs.com (reading games and activities)

Mathletics.co.uk

[Spelling city.com](http://Spellingcity.com)

www.toe-by-toe.co.uk (English Dyslexia Programme) Coolmath4kids.com

www.cimt.plymouth.ac.uk/projects/MEP

[http://alittlebitofstructure.webs.com/](http://Phttp://alittlebitofstructure.webs.com/)

www.welltrainedmind.com (Classical Education)

Parentsintouch.co.uk

Other searches

Saxon math
 Xtramath
 Dancing Bears Reading Scheme
 Sound Foundation Reading
 Writing with Skill
 Knowledge Box
 Singapore Science
 Maths Nrich (Maths puzzles)
 Maths Enhancement Programme (MEP)
 Apples and Pears Spelling Programme (Suitable for Dyslexics)

3 Local Contacts and Groups

A list of local websites and groups are listed below. Please get in touch with the contact listed to find out more about classes and meetings in your area.

Another World Adventure Centre

Ogden Water

<http://www.anotherworldadventurecentre.co.uk>

Willow Weaving Workshop at Ogden Water

<http://www.nw.wea.org.uk>

www.creativewithnature.co.uk

Post 16 Environmental Courses

Becky.jenkinson@calderdale.gov.uk

Forest School Sessions

www.getoutmorecic.co.uk

www.scholaforis.co.uk

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WYHEC)

WYHEC

WYHEC (West Yorkshire Home Education Communication) Internet support group for local home educating parents to pool advice and information about activities.

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

www.catherinemoooneytutoring.co.uk

Provides a summary of the differences between exam board specification for English Language. There is also an essay writing course for age 12 and over and Word Weavers which is a pre GCSE English course for children aged between 8 and 12. It also offers IGCSE English Language for Edexcel and Cambridge boards and IGCSE in English Literature for Edexcel.

Code Club for 9-11 year olds

<https://www.codeclub.org.uk/>


Free Home Education Newsletter

<http://edyourself.org/newsletter.php>

<https://twitter.com/edyourself>

<https://www.facebook.com/edyourself>

<https://twitter.com/fionanicholson>



If you have further enquiries after reading this information and guidance, please contact Danielle Doyle or Stephanie Wilman, Education Welfare Officers:

First Floor
Princess Buildings
Princess Street
Halifax
HX1 1TS
Tel: **01422 266125**

www.calderdale.gov.uk