



ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Parents are responsible for the education of their child. You may choose to send your child to school to educate them, or you may choose an alternative.

One alternative is to educate your child 'otherwise' than at school, as the law states. This means you may educate your child at home, or in another location where the child's learning is directed by you or other appropriate adults.

The series of paragraphs available from the links attached seek to explain and to discuss 'Home Education'.

Links

A: Must you send your child to school ?

B: Process for taking a child out of school

C: Special Needs

D: How Children & Young People's Services

Monitors the education you are providing

E: Assessment by CYPS

F: What happens after a visit from an Officer?

G: Advice from CYPS

H: Things to consider ('Considerations')

I: Useful contacts

J: EHE Enquiry

A: MUST YOU SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL?

Education Act 1996 states:

“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause her/him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to
Her/his age, ability and aptitude
Any special educational needs s/he may have
either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

(Children are of compulsory school age from the beginning of the school term after their fifth birthday until the last Friday in June in the school year in which they are 16 years old.)

For most children, this means regular attendance at school. However, if you decide to teach your child otherwise then you assume responsibility for your child's education, outside the school system, and no funding is available from Children & Young People's Services (CYPS).

CYPS retains responsibility for monitoring that your child is receiving a satisfactory education; this includes any special education needs s/he may have.

B: PROCESS FOR TAKING A CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL

This can be found at the end of this document

C: SPECIAL NEEDS

If your child has Statement of Special Education Needs , CYPS has to ensure the needs are being met by reviewing the situation annually, as they would be in school.

If your child attends a special school, permission to home educate must be obtained from CYPS before the child is withdrawn from school.

D: HOW CYPS MONITORS THE EDUCATION YOU ARE PROVIDING

Once you have advised your child's school in writing that you intend to educate your child at home, the school will notify CYPS.

CYPS will send you a booklet (EHE Booklet) for reference, and a brief form to complete. The Elective Home Education Officer for Bristol CYPS who will make an appointment to visit you during the 12 months of your child's withdrawal from school, or of CYPS having awareness of your child being educated at home.

If your child has special needs, other members of CYPS who have specialist knowledge may also become involved.

E: ASSESSMENT BY THE EDUCATION OFFICER

Questions regarding the approach to education will be asked under the general headings of philosophy/approach, resources, curriculum, how progress is monitored, and social contact.

Evidence of the following will help to give us a fuller picture of what and how your child is learning:

Written information: aims , a learning plan (subjects/topics), records of progress, workbooks.

Note: You do not have to follow any specific curriculum, but you do need to show evidence of your child's learning.

F: WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE VISIT FROM AN OFFICER?

The Education Officer will report in writing, and a copy will be sent to you with a covering letter saying whether the education being provided meets the requirements of the 1996 Education Act.

Any concerns about the education you are providing will be shared with you, and it will be clear in the report which concerns are those which affect your right to educate at home.

CYPS would normally seek to make annual assessments, unless there continues to be concern about the standard of education being provided. In this case, visits will be made more frequently at 3 or 6 month intervals.

Please be assured that the main concerns of the Officer are your child's academic progress and welfare. However, CYPS will consider formal action if it is evident that education is not taking place, or if there is serious concern for your child's welfare.

G: ADVICE FROM THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

The Education Officer for CYPS will be happy to remain a point of contact within CYPS for you and your child, and to offer general advice.

Please remember, it is your responsibility to plan, structure and implement your child's education. CYPS is unable to provide books or other resources.

H: CONSIDERATIONS

Prime Responsibility

Taking control of your child's education is a big responsibility. Please do not underestimate the amount of work this will mean for you as the prime educator.

Financial Implications

The cost of books, materials, resources, educational trips etc has to be borne by you because you are outside the public education system,

Social implications

One of the many benefits of school life is the social interaction between pupils. Therefore, you may well have to make a determined effort to maintain social networks for your child or your child may become isolated.

School Difficulties

Try to sort out any problems at school before taking such a big step. The Education Welfare Service may be available to support and advise you. See Useful Contacts below.

Returning to School

You and your child may want to consider this after a period of Home Education. You may contact a school directly to request a place, contact the Admissions section of CYPS via this link school admissions@bristol-city.gov.uk or telephone 0117 9037694 or you may seek advice from the Home Education Officer for CYPS.

I: USEFUL CONTACTS FOR HOME EDUCATORS

CYPS contacts

EOTAS (EHE) Officer

Pupil Achievement and Inclusion
Flr 3, Council House, BS99 7EB, 0117 9037735

Education Welfare Service

North Team: BEC, Sheridan Rd, Horfield, Bristol
South Team: Orchard House, Petherton Gardens, Hengrove, *Bristol*

SEN Manager

Floor 3, The Council House, College Green, Bristol BS99 7EB

If you need advice about exclusion from school -

Education Inclusion Officer (Exclusions)

Floor 3, The Council House, College Green, Bristol BS99 7EB

Other contacts

Home Education Advisory Service

PO Box 98, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AN
Tel: 01707 371 854
www.heas.org.uk

Education Otherwise

PO Box 7420, London N9 9SG

Tel: 08707 300 074

www.education-otherwise.org.uk

Independent support for parents who home educate their children.

Local support Group for Home Educators
Mr I Chatfield
14 Narroways Rd, St Werburghs, Bristol,
BS2 9XB Tel 0117 941 2707

(Supportive Parents for Special Children - independent of the LA)

Royal Oak House, Royal Avenue, Bristol BS1 4GB

Telephone number 0117 989 7725

The European Academy for Christian Homeschooling (TEACH)

Marantha House, Unit 5, Northwood Close, Shrivenham, Swindon,
Wiltshire, SN6 8HL.,

Telephone number 01793 783783

Web www.christian-education.org

Home Education Resources

Web: www.home-education-resources.org.uk

Department for children, schools and families

Social Inclusion Division, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London
SW1 P3B

Telephone number 0171 925 50 00

Web www.dcsf.gov.uk

There are many useful websites for elective home education which we are not able to check regularly. However, a list is available at the back of the booklet available from the Elective Home Education Officer.

J: EHE ENQUIRY

If you would like further information please contact us directly using this email address, EHE@bristol-city.gov.uk, or by telephone on 0117 9037735.

Please remember, if your child currently attends school, you are required by law to write to the Headteacher saying that you intend to do this and that your child should be taken off roll.

Elective Home Education

EHE Procedure

Parent writes to child's Headteacher regarding intention to home educate



Headteacher removes child from school roll



Headteacher advises Children & Young People's Services Admissions Department within ten school days (as required under Regulation 13, Education (Pupil Registration) regulations 1995)



EHE Officer sends parent a booklet and registration form



Initial visit made by EHE Officer within 3-12 months



Report written by EHE officer with copy to parents/carers



Following visit within 3 months if concern about education provision



Follow-up annual visits concentrating on progress made during the year. More frequent visits if Educational concerns