

Home Educators' Exams Access Survey 2011-12

The url for this paper is here <http://edyourself.org/accessexamsurvey2012.pdf> via <http://edyourself.org/articles/examcentresurvey.php>

See also <http://edyourself.org/articles/examsreport.php> Exams Report 2012-13 and follow-up in November 2013

<http://edyourself.org/articles/allpartygrouphomeeducation.php#examsoctober2013>

Archive

In November 2011 I asked local authorities what they were doing to help home educated young people find somewhere to sit exams.

Questions Sent to Local Authorities: Could you tell me what work the Council does to encourage and support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. Does the Council keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams? If so, does the Council make this list available to home educating families on request? How often is the list reviewed and updated?"

[Home educated young people who wish to take exams](#) do so outside the state school system as private candidates. This involves selecting an examination board with suitable courses and finding an exam centre which accepts private candidates.

State schools do not generally accept young people to sit exams who are not registered pupils at the school. Home educated young people have a restricted range of options for exams and must either find [a centre which will assist with GCSE controlled assessment](#), or find a centre where it is possible to sit IGCSEs.

While some local authorities were aware of these issues and put measures in place to try and improve access to exam centres, other LAs were either not aware that it is an issue or have not yet taken action.

Useful Links

[QCDA guidance to exam centres about private candidates](#) [AQA Guidance on Private Candidates](#) [Edexcel Guidance on Private Candidates](#)

Schools have no responsibility towards children and young people who are not registered pupils. Maintained schools may be open to persuasion but an increasing number of secondaries are converting to academy status. Local Councils have no duty to help children in elective home education and no power to direct schools to accept private candidates.

Only 14% of Councils told me that they provided information about taking exams as private candidates, but this figure might turn out to be higher as it is relatively straightforward to provide a summary and to signpost to awarding bodies and to peer support networks. See my Exams and Home Education page [here](#)

Responses received to my survey suggest that 14% of Councils have already taken an alternative route and are using their own Pupil Referral Units as exam centres for home educated children.

14% of Councils took the position that they can fulfil their statutory responsibilities by doing

nothing. 6% of Councils were not aware of the problem, possibly because they have very few home educated children. Only 14% of Councils kept a list of schools which take private candidates. A further 16% of Councils while offering only limited help at present, acknowledge the problem and would like to do more in future.

15% of Councils worked hard to build bridges with local schools for the benefit of all home educated children but 40% still preferred to try and help families on an individual basis. Only 11% of Councils directed families to the information for private candidates held by awarding bodies such as [AQA](#) and [Edexcel](#) and in addition some Councils rightly point out that lists of exam centres should be treated with caution since [some schools do not take - or want to take - private candidates](#).

18% of Councils told families to ask local schools and 8% signposted to FE colleges with a further 3% hoping to make use of college facilities in the future. 4% of Councils told me that they have tried to find suitable schools without success. Cutbacks have been cited, together with [funding offered but not delivered](#).

The difficulty of [arranging supervision for controlled assessments](#) has only been acknowledged by 8% of Councils (who may point families to IGCSEs) yet this issue presents a significant stumbling block for private candidates who do not have a relationship with the exam centre.

Home educators consistently identify peer support as a major factor, but only 4% of Councils signpost to home education support organisations and networks (both local and national) for information and support regarding exams.

Councils have not mentioned [the issue of access arrangements](#), yet this can be a significant factor for candidates with special needs including those on the autistic spectrum, who will have difficulties with unfamiliar surroundings, extended travel or large exam halls.

2% of Councils mentioned that home educated young people might be able to go in to sit exams at their former school, but this requires further investigation since it has not been mentioned by home educators as a viable option.

Redacted Response Summary

1.X Council does not encourage or support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams.

2.Families can meet with advisor and on occasions we liaise directly with schools to enquire on behalf of parents. Any individual enquiry will be followed-up and arrangements will be discussed with local schools.

3.Families are supported on an individual case basis, which includes the provision of advice on how such children might be entered for examinations. We don't keep a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

4.We work with schools so they have an understanding of issues around home education and positively encourage them to take external candidates. We try to use all our schools. We do not have a list, but try and broker this support.

5.Advice provided to parents suggests that they may wish to contact various examination centres such as colleges of further education.

6. Signpost to 2 schools and are currently registering one of our small centres for exams and plan to make this provision available to EHE families.
7. Not been raised as issue by home educators. We don't keep list of schools taking private candidates at moment but something we are considering. Home educated children tend to sit exams in the local school, or use the local college. Consultants offer advice to individual families as required.
8. We keep a list of our schools which will take external candidates and we check with the schools every year. We also signpost to exam boards who maintain their own lists of exam centres. Private tuition centres where young people can sit exams are also listed. We send a newsletter to families flagging up the issue of controlled assessments for GCSEs and introducing IGCSEs. We give links to distance learning providers and online courses as well as stating that young people can prepare for exams themselves without using these services. The newsletter ends by offering further advice if needed.
9. We have an agreement with the Pupil Referral Unit that they will allow children in elective home education to sit their exams there.
10. The Council provides advice to parents and guardians about contacting schools.
11. We struggle to find time or personnel and we don't currently keep a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit exams but we are planning to compile such a list and will make it available to home educating families on request. If a home educating family asks us whether there are local schools who will take external candidates we talk to the school and facilitate contact with the family. We also do this with the Adult Education Centres who offer GCSEs.
12. We do not do any of the things suggested. As an authority this is something we are currently looking into.
13. We have very few EOTAS and have never been approached specifically for them to take exams at our schools. The parents we have at the moment prefer their children not to do formal examinations, but should it ever arise we would approach our colleges for their support.
14. Formerly the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) provided support to exam officers. Since government restructures 2011 the work of the QCDA has been subsumed into the DFE. The number of Field Officers have been halved and territories increased. We are currently compiling a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit exams. The list will be updated on an annual basis and will be available to all EHE families with a KS4 child currently registered.
15. I am only aware of one school which has taken private candidates on a regular basis. Schools are not required to accept private candidates and there is really very little that the council can do to insist that they do so. However I have written to the schools to enquire whether any of them would be willing to act as examination centres in the future. There will be some issues that we need to clarify such as the arrangements for any controlled assessment work, but I hope that this would be dealt with if/when we have some positive responses from the schools. If we do find that more schools are willing to be involved in this then I would ensure that the provision would be checked on an annual basis so that the families have up to date information about who to contact.
16. We have a very small number of children who are home educated (less than 15). Parents are made aware of the implications for sitting exams and schools are approached on an individual basis following agreement with parents. A list is not made available but a discussion takes place with all families based on their individual needs.
17. We would offer advice to both schools and parents if requested. We suggest to parents that they approach their local school in the first instance and we direct them to the websites of the national awarding bodies which all have lists of centres that take private candidates.
18. The Council has no special arrangements to encourage schools to provide facilities for home educators and this has not come up as an issue in visits to home educators or

in group sessions we have arranged. The council is confident arrangements could be made should they be required, as schools are very co-operative in this area and work co-operatively through Fair Access and other arrangements to ensure that no child is left behind.

19. There are no current arrangements in place to facilitate exam access for electively home educated pupils. Current Council literature makes it clear to parents that they assume all responsibilities when opting to home educate their children. The council is reviewing possible access routes but there is nothing in place currently. There is no list at present. Any arrangements made by schools and electively-home educating parents are private and individual matters.

20. The Council doesn't keep a list of schools willing to be exam centres, as far as we are aware there are no schools that provide this facility. The Pupil Referral Unit is able to provide the facility and parents are told via the information sheet that goes out to all Elective Home Educated families annually. We can confirm that the PRU is not able to offer controlled assessment for GCSE and that IGCSEs cannot be taken at the PRU.

21. We work with our schools through the Behaviour & Attendance Partnership and have raised this issue with them. We encourage schools to allow external candidate to use school centres for exams, but the schools themselves make the final decisions on whether they are able to comply with the request and they consider each request individually. We have an Education Welfare Officer working with EHE students and where a parent wants their child to sit examinations, she will help them to try to find a suitable centre which may be a school or adult education centre.

22. The Council actively contacts schools on behalf of the Elective Home Education community to establish whether they are prepared to allow private candidates to sit exams. Our list is included in the booklet sent to home educating families and is also available on the web. The list is in the process of being updated and will be reviewed annually.

23. Parents can ask any school in the area but it's up to the schools to agree. Council advice to parents: If you do not have any relationship or contact with a school or college you will need to contact an examinations board, which should be able to arrange a local centre on your behalf. If you do this you should also ensure that the board can arrange for any coursework to be assessed.

24. From contact with families if we become aware of the desire to sit exams, we would contact a local school to strongly encourage them to make facilities available. It is, however, at the discretion of individual schools. We have also made arrangements with our LA Pupil Referral Service so that home educating families can sit examinations within some of the centres and we publicise information about this.

25. The responsibility for Home Education is a matter for parents and arrangements regarding exams is a matter for individual school and parents of the young person concerned. We do not keep a list of schools which take private candidates.

26. We work with families and encourage them to approach local schools as required. We keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams which we make available on request. The list is updated on ongoing basis.

27. Currently the Council doesn't keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams. We suggest to parents/guardians of home educated children and young people that they contact the relevant awarding body to ascertain their nearest open centre. These arrangements are being reviewed to ensure that the profile of this group is raised.

28. The Local Authority is supportive of electively home educated children re exams. We run GCSE English and Maths classes weekly at one of our secondary schools and the students sit their exams at a local high school. The local authority officer is aware of local schools who can facilitate private candidates to sit exams. Depending upon the subject to be studied, the EHE Officer can provide the appropriate advice and guidance upon request. The situation is reviewed annually.

29. At this time, and further to [the Government's decision not to allow a means of funding specifically for this purpose](#), the Council does not engage with schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit examinations. The Council does not provide a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit examinations.

30. We have an arrangement with our supported online learning provision for students who are not at school whereby home educated children can take IGCSEs and ALAN and Functional Skills tests as private candidates. The Council also provides guidance and training for parents to find their way through the exam options and courses, syllabuses etc.

31. The Council does not actively encourage and support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. We provide a fact sheet for the parents and carers of home educated children which outlines the procedure for entering home educated children for GCSE and A Level exams. It includes the addresses of the 4 main exam boards and the procedure for entering candidates for each board. We don't keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

32. During visits to families, if asked by parents, we would give advice and guidance on the issues relating to sitting exams as private candidates. We would also signpost parents to the established organisations which support home educating parents. At present, there is no Council process for working with schools to encourage the provision of facilities for external candidates to sit exams. We don't keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

33. We have an Elective Home Education officer who works directly with families and assists in helping them to access exam centres in schools/alternate provision where possible. The Council does not keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

34. To date we have not encouraged or supported local schools to allow home educated children to sit exams as private candidates. However some of our schools have allowed students who have opted to electively home educate to sit some exams in the school. Our PRU will also take home educated students to sit exams as long as it is in subjects and exam boards that they offer. Private students will have to be supervised by their own tutor/parent when the PRU does controlled assessments. We do not keep a list of schools but we do signpost parents to the PRU and to a local independent provider who may act as exam centres.

35. We have contacted our high schools directly within the last 12 months and asked them if they would accept external EHE candidates. All schools said no stating various reasons such as insurance, available space, staff time (and associated cost) to moderate coursework and deal with exam entry. Individual requests may also be followed up with schools.

36. The Council does not carry out any work to encourage and support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams, nor do we keep a list of schools which will take private candidates.

37. The LA is currently working with examination boards and local centres on behalf of home educating families to identify any centres which could offer this facility. In the past some schools have hosted individual EHE children for certain examinations. We don't keep a list of schools but we do provide details of the relevant websites for the examination boards.

38. We have recently tasked an officer with finding out which schools and FE colleges will allow external candidates. We hope to finish by Christmas and will put contact details on our website as a resource for EHE families to access.

39. The Council does not actively encourage schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. We sign-post families to sources of advice and support including on exam access. We don't keep a list of schools.

40. For each of the past two years one elective home educated student has taken public examinations (GCSE maths or IGCSEs for other subjects) at our Young People's Centre as it is a registered exam centre.

41. The Education Welfare Service is currently in discussion with the Education Tuition Service to enable home educated candidates to enter for GCSEs at the registered exam centre. We will be contacting parents in the New Year. We don't yet have a list of schools that allow private candidates, but this is something that we will be investigating.

42. It is a matter for an individual school or college as to whether they provide facilities for home- educated children to sit examinations. If approached by parents of a home educated child (which is the only way the authority would know that it is required) then we would provide information and attempt to help make links with an appropriate school. The Council doesn't keep a list of schools because there are unknown issues such as different examination boards.

43. The council encourages schools to take home educated children as external candidates by speaking directly with local schools or writing to schools to ask head teachers to consider accepting external candidates. Schools are reassured that their results are unaffected by external candidates and that a small administration fee can be charged to cover costs. The home education officer keeps a list of schools. This is currently being updated, as many secondary schools have recently changed to academy status or have had a change of senior leadership. We offer help directly to families to find a school as local to their home as possible. The list is updated every two years, including which boards are used by schools. The next updated list will be available to families on request post December 2011.

44. Over two thirds of our Secondary Schools are now Academies. Academies are independent of the local authority which means that it is not possible for the local authority to keep a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit examinations.

45. The Council keeps a list of schools which accept home educated private candidates. The list is updated annually and is available on request.

46. The Council has commissioned a home based learning scheme which is affiliated to a local mainstream Upper school. Students who are enrolled on the scheme are able to take exams through the school. Other home educated students have been able to take exams at this school as well as at another local school and at some private schools in the area. Home educated young people have also used the local college to take exams. The Council doesn't keep a list of schools.

47. The Council doesn't have a policy on encouraging and supporting local schools to provide facilities for home-educated children to sit exams. This is a matter for the individual school or college. We provide a centre for home educated young people to sit GCSE examinations. Home educating families are given this information as part of the annual review. If the family does not wish to have face-to-face contact with the Elective Home Education Assessor, this information is available on request and is reviewed and updated annually.

48. Our Alternative Education Service brokers arrangements for parents who home educate. When the Service moves into its new accommodation in January 2013, it will be the LA centre that parents can access. In the interim, one of our schools has agreed to undertake this function. The list is updated annually.

49. Schools are actively encouraged to provide exam facilities for home educated children and the EHE Team speaks to Schools Exams Officers. We are also working with the LA out of school provision to facilitate exams for EHE children. We make contact with the Examination Boards each year to update our list of centres for private candidates. The lists are also available on the examination board websites, but parents are recommended to check with the centre. The EHE Advisor will make contact with all the local centres and ask for their current position and advise parents accordingly. The Council list is made available to home educating families and is updated throughout the year.

50. The Council fulfils its statutory responsibilities for Elective Home Education through a single Liaison Officer. This does not include any specific activity to encourage or support schools to offer their services as exam centres to EHE pupils. However we are able to provide parents of EHE pupils with information about which maintained schools are registered as exam centres. We do not obtain, retain or update records of which of these are willing to accept private candidates.

51. We do have a list of schools and colleges that have, in the past, allowed private candidates sit exams and this information is passed on to parents as and when the matter is discussed as part of a programme of EHE Adviser visits and is also in the Information for Parents Pack sent to all home educating families. The list was last updated in May 2011 and is updated on a regular basis. Parents are advised to call the schools and colleges to find out whether they still offer this service. Whilst the County Council is sympathetic to the difficulties faced by parents of home educated children seeking an exam centre, we do not currently have the resources to develop further access or provide support to exams officers. We will, however, keep this under review.

52. Parents are fully apprised of all the information re: exam boards, syllabi and local centres. Details of exam boards are included in the Parents' Information pack. 25% of our high schools allow private candidates to sit exams. The PRU offers the facility and we have one private tuition centre currently applying for that status. Controlled assessments mean some GCSE subjects are ruled out. Clarification on the Alternative Provision Funding means the Council can now claim back any funding it opts to pay for home educated children to take courses at KS4 or any SEN support agreed on a case by case basis, for home educated children.

53. Last academic year, one home educated pupil sat exams at the Pupil Referral Unit and the Elective Home Education Officer undertook training in order to invigilate this. A local independent group of home educating families acts as a support network and meets up regularly. This group provides advice on external qualifications. The Council signposts to the AQA and Edexcel list of schools and centres taking private candidates.

54. We support schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams, where it is practical to do so - through providing appropriate information when required. We keep an informal list, for internal use, of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams. Because it is liable to change from year to year, depending on the willingness or otherwise of schools to offer this facility, the Council does not publish the list externally. The list is reviewed and updated when we receive information from schools or families.

55. We do not have any schools which we are aware of that offer exam centres to EHE children currently. The colleges will take in a private candidate. The council does not keep a list of exam centres, but if a parent asks then currently we point them in the direction of the local colleges. We currently do not compile a list, but our EHE guidance is being updated in the New Year and we are hoping to add a list within this guidance and hopefully will have some local schools/PRU who would act as an exam centre for individual candidates.

56. We don't undertake any specific work with schools. We are aware of 2 schools that have assisted such candidates in the past. The Home Education consultant advises parents to contact the pupils' last school or a nearby one to see whether access for exams is available. The matching of exam boards is obviously a key issue to be resolved. Parents are also advised to research the issue on the internet.

57. The Council leaves the decision regarding these arrangements to the individual school/academy and does not currently have a central list. The Council's Education Officers, who monitor home education in the city, provide advice and support to individual parents regarding this issue as appropriate.

58. Currently there is no formal plan to encourage and support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. The EHE Department work on a case by case basis to form positive working relationships with home educating families and to offer best advice based on individual contexts and the current LA position. Funding for EHE is under general review currently. We don't keep a list of schools but we have a

document which gives advice about local independent providers. This is reviewed annually at least, and at irregular intervals throughout each year if new information is received either from providers or from home educating families.

59. We have a nominated centre which provides facilities for all home educated children to sit exams. Families are automatically informed about this when the children/young people first become electively home educated. The information is then re-sent and is discussed with families when the children/young people reach the appropriate age for a particular examination. Feedback suggests the facility has been found to be very helpful.

60. We link from our web page on home education to a pdf giving details of schools which allow home educated children to sit exams. This information is reviewed and updated once a year.

61. If families directly request information, we will do our best to provide it and assist them where possible. Some families chose for their children to go back to school at key stage 4 purely to enable them to access exams. We signpost parents to the Parent Partnership and Choice advice service. The Authority does not keep a list of local schools for private candidates to sit exams.

62. Schools are contacted and discussions take place with the examinations officers. Families are informed and meetings are arranged for mutually convenient times. If appropriate we can arrange to hold meetings in a neutral settings. The Council keeps a list of schools which accept private candidates. The list is available to home educating families on request and is updated annually.

63. The Council provides advice to parents as and when requested on an individual basis and will liaise with schools if necessary. Any individual enquiry will be followed-up and arrangements will be discussed with local schools.

64. It is left to schools, partners and stakeholders to decide if the school wishes to act as an examination centre for children that are not registered with the school. The website provides information on awarding bodies and contacts so that families can get in touch with these bodies to find alternative exam centres. Our experience is that some awarding bodies do not provide specific information about schools willing to accept private candidates only a list of schools offering their examinations; and where such specific information is provided it is out of date – that is, the local schools listed do not offer places for private candidates. Hence, the information provided on the website about access to examinations is circumspect – we list centres that we have confirmed (in July 2011) are willing to take private candidates and recommend that families contact the exam centre will before the course is due to begin so that any problems are identified and resolved.

65. The local authority is not obliged to help home educators with any facilities/costs associated with examinations. The final decision on such matters rests with schools. The Council does not keep a list of schools.

66. We signpost to AQA and Edexcel who have information about taking exams as private candidates. We warn parents to double-check with any centres listed by the exam boards. We also signpost to distance learning providers. In some cases both the Local Authority and parents have approached schools that would not normally take external candidates and have been accepted. When requested we will work with both parents and schools in order to support this. Some GCSE core subjects require controlled assessments which are a problem for private candidates. Due to the costs involved many parents choose to wait till their child has finished year 11 and has access to post-16 provision. We work closely with Connexions to ensure that families have as much information available to them as possible. All parents on the elective home education list have access to the advisor via email, telephone and through home visits.

67. We provide an information guide to parents and carers with details of registered exam centres that can be used by EHE children. We make contact with our secondary school on behalf of families and we have successfully arranged for children to sit

exams. Parents are advised that their child will either be in the back of the exam hall or, if we can arrange for an additional invigilator, the student will be in a room on their own. We make every effort to ensure that the situation is as stress-free as possible. The agreement with schools is that a student who is home educated will only sit their exams in a school at the same time as the other students in the school are sitting the same exam. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that the exam board are aware of the arrangement and ensuring that the exam papers are marked correctly and sent to the agreed school. We also use the local arts centre as a registered exam centre.

68. The council does not do any work with schools to allow home educated private candidates to sit exams. We don't keep a list of schools which take private candidates. If we receive enquiries, we signpost families to information held by awarding bodies such as AQA, Edexcel and OCR.

69. The Council does not keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams. However, we do encourage parents to talk to their local schools as we are aware that in the past some schools have helped. If we know that a school has offered this facility in the past we will tell parents. We provide a list of contact numbers for local colleges in the information booklet which is sent to parents and encourage parents to make contact with the colleges in plenty of time in order to establish whether or not they can offer any support. We also advise them to use the internet for information.

70. We only have one school that consistently accepts students and we tell all EHE families this. We have contacted all our schools to request if they will take external candidates and whilst most say they would not, some schools in exceptional circumstances would consider. This is not publicised - parent would need to contact each school individually to negotiate.

71. We actively encourage maintained schools to allow EHE pupils to sit exams on their premises. However, no schools have offered this facility to date.

72. Parents who choose to home educate are advised at the outset that they are taking full responsibility for their children's education, including exam entry. They are however provided with contact details of a range of organisations that they can contact for advice and support in relation to any aspect of home education. We would also supply individual families with contact details for schools to enquire about exams. The DfE has recently set up a new Exams Delivery Support Unit. The Council offers advice re access arrangements for pupils who have special educational needs.

73. The Council does not actively encourage schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. However exam centres were discussed at our first information meeting with home educating parents in October and we gave an undertaking to investigate whether we could provide a suitable venue and invigilation. If we arrange this, we will notify all home educating parents and post details on our website. We don't keep a list of suitable schools.

74. The Council works with schools to enable them deliver education and support to all children in the borough. There is no targeted support for home educated children. We don't keep a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

75. The Council has not encouraged and supported schools to provide facilities to sit examinations. The number of electively home educated children is very small so it is likely that families would make any necessary agreements and arrangements with individual schools or examination centres.

76. I can confirm that the Council is not involved in any work of this nature.

77. We would consult with the local school if a request were to be made by a home educator. We don't keep a list of schools, however we are reviewing our Elective Home Education policy and may record this information in future.

78. We currently do not have a policy for encouraging and supporting local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. We do not keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

79.We signpost families to organisations which may be helpful to them - Education Otherwise and the Examination Boards are recommended. Another avenue considered is an approach to schools through the Secondary Heads meeting to ask if they are willing to enter private candidates. We don't currently keep a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

80.Our EHE officer works closely with individual families and schools as required to ensure that their needs are met. The Council does not keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams. However, it is noted that the examination boards have centres in London where home educated children can sit the exams and parents of children who are EHE will be supported where required.

81.If requested we will negotiate with schools so that children who are home educated are able to sit exams in schools. There is no definitive list of schools for this purpose. However in the Parent Information Booklet which all Elective Home Education families have, there is a section which advises parents how to access registered exam centres. In addition we have the use of one of our PRU's which acts as an Exam Centre. All EHE Families have contact with EHE staff who are available to offer advice regarding any external examination at any time or on request.

82.It is up to individual schools to choose whether to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. We do refer/direct parents to individual schools as well as to our local FE college. We don't keep a list of schools which take private candidates.

83.Parents approach schools themselves. No formal list is kept but the Elective Home Education Officer shares information on request about which schools have allowed private candidates in the past. This is a small Authority with relatively few schools.

84.There is no formal support provided for schools but they can get advice from the Children Educated at Home Consultant. We keep a list of centres taking private candidates and this includes state school, private schools and colleges and Further Education Colleges. The list is made available to home educating families and is updated on a regular basis.

85.Currently there are no arrangements in place to support schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. We do not hold a list of local school which allow private candidates.

86.We will assist families who choose to home educate, by providing information on schools in their area who may be able to help, depending on exam boards being compatible. We will also liaise with schools on request. We don't keep a list of schools but in the past some of our schools have been happy to allow home educated young people to sit exams.

87.Home education consultants visit families once a year and give advice on educational resources including information about exams. Consultants can liaise between families and schools. However, it is the schools that must ultimately decide for themselves, whether they allow private candidates to sit GCSE exams. We don't keep a list of schools.

88.The Council does not hold a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit exams. We would signpost parents to schools that have allowed private candidates to sit exams in the past but with no guarantee that they can offer the same arrangement.

89.We don't have a list of schools willing to accept home educated young people for exams. We offer meetings with our Elective Home Education Advisors and if during these visits parents/young people express an interest in accessing exams through a local school, we will supply them with the relevant contact in school. On occasions we liaise directly with schools to enquire on behalf of parents. We also ensure that home educated students of school leaving age are given the opportunity to access support through Connexions.

90.The advisor may suggest approaching the school which the young person used to attend. Our PRU has on occasion also been able to offer exam facilities for private

candidates. Many home educated children delay formal exams till after they are 16. Others return to school to take GCSEs in their last year.

91. We refer home educating parents to their nearest secondary school to arrange for exams to be taken. There are no plans to make changes to this at present as we have not been made aware of any problems with this course of action. If a home educating parent has difficulties with their particular local school then we may be able to assist with connecting them to another secondary school in the borough that would take private candidates.

92. The EHE officer gives advice to families on where they can enter their children for exams as private candidates. Often they access this through the local college.

93. The Council does not encourage or support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. We don't have a list of the local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

94. Where an EHE family request assistance, we have approached schools on their behalf. We keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams and we make this list available to families on request. We update the list at least once a year.

95. We keep a list of local exam centres able to take independent candidates. In reality there are very few of them who will make their facilities available to anyone other than ex-pupils. The list available to home educating families on request and is reviewed constantly, on receipt of additional information. The Council recently facilitated a meeting between the exams officer at a local school and home educating families which resulted in an offer for EHE children to sit IGCSEs at the school since controlled assessments has been identified as an issue for GCSEs in our previous EHE meetings. We are looking into offering a package of exam support for our EHE young people.

96. Parents who home educate children are supplied with a list and contact details of all schools and private organisations in the local area which will allow private candidates to sit exams. The list is updated when information on venues etc changes - not a set time.

97. The LA's EHE Service works with local schools' examination officers to ensure home educated learners can access advice from the school re examinations, boards, etc. Subject to various conditions, we will consider funding examination costs for home learners. We keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams and we make this list available to families on request. We are actively trying to add new schools to the list.

98. The Council does not currently do anything to encourage schools to provide facilities. The Council does not keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams, although our officer responsible for home-educated children is aware of one secondary school which has taken EHE students. If the question is asked then parents have been advised of which school in the past has offered this provision but it is then up to the parents to pursue this.

99. It appears that the Council does not carry out this function. Exam officers are only nominated within each school and are not an LA area of responsibility. This is a function that rests with schools alone. School improvement officers only offer support for moderating or assisting in exam preparation by students and teachers in choosing exam boards or helping to monitor provision and standards.

100. The Council provides an advice booklet on Elective Home Education which includes information about taking external examinations and gives contact details for the Awarding Bodies. Schools can choose to offer facilities to private candidates if they wish. Support for schools and exams officers is provided through the Exams Delivery Support Unit (EDSU) which is part of the DfE and supports exams centres to help ensure the effective management, administration and successful awarding of general qualifications. The Council doesn't keep a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit exams. Currently 3/4 of our secondary schools are academies with the rest converting shortly. EHE students who wish to sit exams would mainly do so through the

Adult Education College who also have a range of GCSE programmes in place for EHE students. Or parents would themselves contact the local schools.

101. There has been one request to the Council and a local school was approached which allowed the child to sit the exam as a private candidate. Most GCSEs have course work which the schools are unable to mark. We advise parents that there are a number of private colleges that offer tuition and or exam-only facilities for Home Educators. There is a cost for exams. Parents can search for these online using a key word search. There are Correspondence or Tutorial organisations that offer complete packages of courses leading to the sitting of GCSEs. These have a high success rate – but can be expensive. Connexions is available to offer advice and support.

102. The Local Authority are not involved with which schools decide to accept outside candidates for examinations. We always advise parents that they have to use an examinations centre (School, College or Adult education Centre) when their child sits an exam and advise them to contact their nearest centre to ask. Schools decide whether they feel it is a viable option to offer this service and each case is looked at on its own merits.

103. The council has no formal procedures to encourage and support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. The Council does not hold a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

104. The Education Welfare Service acts as the point of contact for home education. Their core role of support to schools brings potential for a link between the pupil educated at home and a school acting as an exam centre. However, the Service does not take an active role in encouraging schools to provide this service; the Local Authority is currently working with the local home education group to address this issue. We don't keep a list of schools but we are aware of one school where private candidates are able to sit exams. If we find more schools we will make a list available for home educating families.

105. The Council does not do general work to encourage schools but will work with schools where there are individual cases which require such assistance. We do not keep a list of schools which accept private candidates.

106. Schools and colleges are under no requirement to accept home educated children and young people as private candidates. DFE literature makes it clear that it is rightly a matter for an individual school or college as to whether to provide facilities for home educated young people to sit their exams. Parents can approach any school or college to request facilities for taking exams but it is up to the school or college to agree. Schools have stated various reasons why they would not consider accepting external candidates, such as: Available space; Staff time (and associated costs) to moderate any coursework; Insurance; Controlled assessments. Currently work is underway to gather information from the region to identify local accessible venues, which will be posted on the Council website. This will include information about the relevant examination boards and the procedures for entering candidates for each of them. Once the list is published it will be reviewed annually. If a local / regional venue is identified to the Council, its name and contact details will be added to the website following suitable vetting.

107. Children and parents make their own arrangements. The Council doesn't keep a list of schools.

108. The Council does no work in this area.

109. The Council is not proactive in encouraging schools to act as exam centres for EHE and we don't keep a list of places which will accept private candidates. However, if the Council is contacted by parents, we look at individual cases to assess if we can help. We have funded a couple of college courses. Families either approach schools directly, or we would guide them to their local school. Usually, parents who wish this to happen do manage to sort things out for themselves with the help of home education support organisations.

110.We respond to requests and liaise with local schools to ensure that home educated pupils are given access to exam facilities. Schools are approached on a case by case basis. Information on exams and qualifications are included in our information booklet on home education.

111.It is up to schools whether or not they offer facilities for home educated students to complete exams at their centres. The Council does not keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams. The Council provides information on the provision of home education to children on our website, including frequently asked questions, which does cover exams.

112.The Council does not encourage and support schools to provide exam facilities for home educated children, however we do provide advice to parents and carers and we also have our Pupil Referral Unit which is a registered exam centre and could be used. There is no formal list, but we offer advice to any parents who contact use about which schools may be receptive to private candidates, in addition to the PRU.

113.We do not currently have the resources to support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. We don't ask schools or keep a list of schools which take private candidates.

114.Our EHE working party, consisting of councillors, home educating parents and officers from LA met with representatives from the School Council to explore the possibility of schools offering examinations to external candidates. In principle this could be done but due to lack of space, not enough invigilators, the effect it may have on the other children from the school and extra consideration for schools during a busy period, it was felt that they could not offer the facility at this time, but were prepared to consider approaches on an individual basis. The Council does not keep a list of schools but on request we will give details of one maintained and one private school which take external candidates. We check this information annually.

115.The Pupil Referral Service provides facilities for home educated children to sit exams at their Key Stage 4 centre. In the first half term of the academic year a letter is sent to the parents of registered EHE pupils who are in Year 10 and 11 explaining the arrangements for this and providing parents with the names and contact details of the examinations officer. The centre is registered for private candidates and has facilitated a range of exams. PRS staff also liaise with individual schools on behalf of EHE pupils. The Council doesn't keep a list of local schools which take private candidates.

116.None of our schools give exam access to pupils who are being home educated. The Council has discussed the issue with schools and there are genuine logistical difficulties, these include the variety of Boards each with their own regulations regarding each subject, parents may not be using the same boards and even if they are they may be completing different syllabi. There are the additional difficulties associated with having one new young person, not in uniform taking an exam in a large hall full of pupils who know each other. The Council has in the past used the PRU but the same difficulties occurred in terms of the different Boards and different regulations. As a result of their own needs the pupils at the PRU also had particular difficulty in a young person with whom they had no connection. As a result of the above situation the Council has worked with the local College and come to an agreement that children educated at home of school age who are taking the same Board as that offered by the college can sit the exams but will need to pay the fees. This information is given to parents of pupils who are engaged in taking exams. The situation will be reviewed at the end of the current academic year – June 2012.

117.The Council advises parents of what their options are if they wish to enter their children for examinations as external candidates at local educational establishments. If relationships with the child's previous High schools are good, some parents are able to make such arrangements with those schools. Others may opt to use the local FE College or our Lifelong Learning/Adult Education Centres.

118.We offer advice to families on an individual basis when they make enquiries, where ever possible pointing them to places where they may be able to access an exam

centre. We do not maintain a list of schools as it is for them to decide if they will offer facilities.

119.If a parent of a home educated child wishes for him/her to sit formal exams then we would facilitate this via a local school. The Council doesn't keep a list of schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

120.The council works on a case by case basis with parents to discuss what, if any, support they are looking for in regards to accessing qualifications in line with their educational philosophy. Council officers work directly with parents where possible to provide information about qualifications and direct them towards the exam board and registered examination centres. In the most part, where a child has recently been withdrawn from school, parents will be directed back to the school they have withdrawn from to discuss if registration is still available. The Council also provides parents with information regarding awarding bodies so they can discuss qualifications they wish their child to take and where it may be possible to sit the exam. It has to be noted that there are very few families who have expressed a desire to access formal qualifications despite the best encouragement from the Council. The Council does not keep a list of local schools which allow private candidates to sit exams.

121.The Local Authority does not hold this information.

122.We have a page on the Council website which gives information about taking exams as private candidates. We list the main exam boards and a checklist of key dates and deadlines in the exams calendar. In addition, Council staff liaise with Schools Exams Officers to establish which of their centres are available to home educated children. Where possible, further information is provided re restrictions on exam boards and controlled assessment provision at the centres, together with contact details for exams officers. Information about local exam centres is summarised in a separate document which is freely available via our website. The list is also shared with home educating families and the information is reviewed annually.

123.Currently the answer to your enquiry is that the Council doesn't keep a list of schools that accepts external candidates. The Local Authority does however encourage access for private candidates but initially would suggest that a direct contact is made with the school and would offer support in the event of any difficulties.

124.There is a yearly approach to local Secondary Schools through the exam officers to ask whether they will accept external candidates. As there are only two local schools we know of which allow private candidates to sit exams we let parents know of these when enquiries are made or when we meet with them and talk about exam provision.

125.If a home educated child wishes to sit an exam the Education at Home Officer would approach the appropriate school to make the necessary arrangements. The Council doesn't keep a list of schools which accept private candidates.

126.The Council has worked in co-operation with home educating parents to establish schools that will support private candidates. We currently have one school in the West and one Education Centre in the East. We are happy to facilitate arrangements to get more schools on board. At the moment these schools are not charging for the time of the admin officer doing the entries but if numbers grew this might be an issue. In the main schools have simply not thought about this area - they do not want the extra hassle of private entries but if the Council can work with schools (and remind them that all children in the community are the responsibility of all the schools) then we can get somewhere. Some schools might see this as an opportunity for extending their community/ethos or even profit. The bigger issue for EHE is the nature of GCSE exams - controlled assessments etc.

127.We held two consultation events with the EHE Community in 2011 and we are planning a further event this term. It is evident that parents want support with access to a LA examination centre so that their children can sit GCSEs etc. The authority has a relatively high number of academies and this type of school is not under Local Authority control. We are exploring with the local FE College the feasibility and implications of establishing an examination centre for EHE pupils.

128.Schools are self governing organisations and the decision to offer facilities for external exam candidates rests with them. Where we are aware that a school has offered such a facility we add the school's name to our list. We share the information with home educating parents and we review it annually.

129.We have an arrangement with one of our FE Colleges which facilitates any exam entries that may be required on an individual, bespoke basis. Most local secondary schools will also accommodate a private entry if it matches the particular exam board and syllabus being studied. We offer a weekly dedicated ICT course for EHE children at one of our City Learning Centres and this year it was decided to offer an ICT GCSE qualification which will be taken in June at our Centre.

130.The Council is currently in the process of trying to set up an IGCSE centre for Elective Home Educated pupils.

131.The EHE team advises schools of options in terms of possible flexi-schooling arrangements or for children to be registered as external candidates. In addition, the authority's Pupil Referral Units are registered centres and will consider requests for EHE children to be entered for exams as external candidates. We don't currently keep a list of centres which take private candidates but we intend to do this soon. We will update the list annually and make the information available to home educating families.

132.There are no maintained secondary schools in the City and only one child who is registered as being home schooled. As the numbers are very low, the City provides advice and guidance to parents on a case by case basis.

133.We do not keep a list of local schools who allow private candidates to sit exams.

134.As a very small local authority we seldom encounter issues where home educated children have to sit GCES exams. Should the need arise we would work with the school and the family to co-ordinate access to the registered centre.

135.It is a priority for children educated at home to take public examinations if they so wish and the Council supports families to do this. The Council maintains a list of exam centres and has a good relationship with these exam centres. The Council also brokers support for home educating families where they express an interest in entering for public examinations. This support includes making contact with local schools where families request this.

136.We have approached all schools and colleges and advised them that they should try their best to allow home educated children to sit exams in their schools. However, all our secondaries are - or soon will be - academies and will be independent of the LA. The LA provides parents with details of schools where they may be able to take exams.

137.We don't currently encourage or support local schools to provide facilities for home educated children to sit exams. There are a number of colleges in the area that are accessible to home educating parents, providing a variety of courses at KS4. Parents have tended to make their own arrangements, sometimes with support from Connexions. Families are also opting more for online learning and qualifications which can allow greater flexibility.

138.Arrangements have been made on a case by case basis to suit the needs of families and schools and supported by the EHE officer. This is currently under review due to a number of schools converting to academy status and changes to Government funding. Discussions are taking place with the local sixth form college to look at how we can support students. The LA doesn't keep a list of schools which will let home educated children sit exams.

139.We always respond to requests for help with exams and would approach schools but nobody has asked in the past 3 years. Information and guidance is available for home educating families.

140.The Local Authority is currently consulting with schools about how they can support home educators. This could include schools providing examination facilities. The LA doesn't hold a list, but there are a small number of schools who offer exam centre facilities to their former pupils.

141. Currently there is nowhere in the city where EHE children can sit exams and families must travel elsewhere in the region. However, the EHE Coordinator hopes to develop exam centres within the city over the next twelve months.

142. Families are advised that home educated young people may sit exams at the Council's Behaviour Support Centre and access is brokered via the Council's home education consultant.

143. Headteachers are briefed about Elective Home Education and parents' rights. We don't explicitly mention exam centres, though would be happy to do so. Usually, any arrangements are based on a direct dialogue between parents and schools. We are aware of two secondary schools which have assisted in this respect. The Council doesn't keep a list of schools which will take private candidates.

144. The Council leaves the decision regarding these arrangements to the individual school/academy and does not currently have a central list. The Council's Education Officers, who monitor home education in the city, provide advice and support to individual parents regarding this issue as appropriate.

145. We do not have the power to direct schools to allow external students to sit exams. We do however undertake annual visits to EO pupils and if requests are made for help in finding a suitable exam centre we do what we can to help.

146. Home education is covered by the service which runs the Pupil Referral Unit. The PRU has held a number of open meetings to which all home education parents have been invited. The PRU offers to enter children for exams. We also keep a list of schools which may accept private candidates.

147. Exams can be taken at the pupil referral unit. At present, the Council does not keep a list of local schools which will allow private candidates to sit exams. Where a family requests help regarding exam preparation in a more specialised subject, the Alternative Education Service has facilitated contact between the family and a local school that is able to provide support in that area. The Council is developing its information and support available to parents who elect to home educate their children.