



Ceredigion County Council

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

**GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
WHO ARE CONSIDERING ELECTIVE HOME
EDUCATION**

The Local Education Authority often receives queries from parents and guardians who are contemplating Elective Home Education and

has, therefore, produced this booklet in an attempt to answer the most frequently asked questions.

All prospective home educating families need to be fully aware of their role and the LEA's role. Ceredigion LEA is keen to support you and to ensure that you make an informed decision about your child's education.

For an informal chat about Elective Home Education or for further help and guidance please contact: -

Tanya Wynne
Education Inclusion Service,
Education Dept,
Canolfan Rheidol
Rhodfa Padarn,
Llanbadarn Fawr,
Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion,
SY23 3UE.

☎ 01970 633 651

Your first step should be to ask yourself why you are considering Home Education. Effective Home Education requires commitment along with patience and perseverance and your decision could have major implications on your child's future.

▯ **Is your child being bullied at school?**

Every school in Ceredigion has an anti-bullying policy with suggestions as to how they intend resolving matters. Speak to the school about the problem as bullying is not tolerated in our schools; the Headteacher will be keen to listen to you.

▯ **Does your child have Special Educational Needs?**

The school should have discussed these matters with you and explained what extra support they will be providing for your child. If your child has a Statement, or is on the SEN register, and you are not happy with progress you should raise your concerns at the Annual Review. If you find it difficult to put your views across in a meeting you can request advice and support from SNAP (Special Needs Advisory Project). You can contact SNAP on 01545 571 538 or Unit 5, Aberaeron Craft Centre, Aberaeron, SA46 0DX.

▯ **Is your child reluctant to attend school?**

Have an open and frank discussion with your child as to why s/he doesn't want to go to school. There could be many possibilities, e.g. problems with other pupils, difficulties with a particular subject or teacher, fear of failure etc. Discuss these matters with the Headteacher or Head of Year as quite often problems that appear impossible to overcome can be quickly and easily resolved.

If your child is in year 10 or 11, s/he may have become disaffected with the school curriculum. You can meet with the school to discuss alternatives or additions to the curriculum. This could involve a certain number of days in school to study the core subjects as well as work experience or attendance at a training provision, project or Further Education College course.

▯ **Are you concerned that your child is struggling with the Welsh language?**

Many non-Welsh speaking families regularly move into Ceredigion. In most cases the children absorb the language far easier than their parents do! Welsh is a compulsory subject that is taught at many different levels, but, if you are particularly worried that it is causing a problem, you should speak to the school as it is possible that extra support can be provided.

□ **Have you made a complaint to the school which has not been resolved to your satisfaction?**

In the first instance, all complaints should be discussed with the Headteacher. If this does not resolve the problem, you should make a written complaint to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors meets regularly to discuss many matters; they will endeavour to give a satisfactory response to your complaint.

If, having considered all matters, you decide to withdraw your child from

school, this will doubtless raise further questions in your mind.

Q. *I thought that all children had to attend school, is home education legal?*

A. Yes. The Education Act 1996, Section 7, states that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their child receives a suitable education "either by regular attendance at school or otherwise".

Q. *Do I have to be a qualified teacher?*

A. No. You simply need the desire to help your child to learn. What is required is time, commitment and resourcefulness. You do not need to do all the 'teaching' yourself; you can get help from friends and family or employ tutors. Older children (14-16) may be able to access courses at Coleg Ceredigion. The internet also provides a wealth of information and resources to assist you.

Q. *Do I have to follow the National Curriculum?*

A. No. The National Curriculum only applies to children in school. Some parents use the National Curriculum as a guide but there are no compulsory subjects. It would, however, be wise to develop literacy and numeracy skills as these skills will enable your child to better understand all other subject areas.

Q. *Do I need a rigid timetable?*

A. No. Some families choose to have a structured timetable; however, Elective Home Education provides flexibility, and learning can take place at any time and anywhere.

Q. *Will the LEA provide financial help?*

A. No. Once a child has been deregistered, the LEA does not provide any funding.

Q. *Can my child return to school in the future?*

A. Yes. Your child can return to school at any time.

Q. *What about examinations?*

A. Home educated children can sit their exams at any time, although there is no legal obligation to do so. Many home-educated young people enrol in college to follow GCSE courses. For further information you should contact Coleg Ceredigion.

Q. *Can the LEA/school help me to home-educate?*

A. No. By choosing to deregister your child you are taking personal responsibility for his/her education. The LEA's role is to take certain actions should it appear that a child is not being properly educated. The LEA keeps a database of Home Educated children and will ask parents to confirm details of the educational provision at the outset, and again in the future if you continue to Home Educate. There are other organisations and support groups that can offer assistance and a list of useful contacts is provided later in this booklet.

Q. *I have decided that I want to educate my child at home, what do I do next?*

THE PROCESS

1. Write to your child's school informing them that you are withdrawing your child and that his/her name should now be deleted from the register. Remember to include the date from which your instructions become effective. Verbal instructions are not legally acceptable.
2. The school will forward your letter to the LEA; however, to save time it would be useful if you could send a copy of your letter immediately to the Education Inclusion Officer responsible for Elective Home Education.
3. The LEA will acknowledge your letter and send you an Enquiry Form to complete, sign and return. This is a short form which asks you to detail how your chosen curriculum will be covered and the methods used. The information you provide will be kept by the LEA as evidence that you are providing education which is suitable to your child's age, aptitude and ability. From time to time you will be asked for up to date information to ensure that the educational provision continues to be adequate.
4. Should you fail to return the Enquiry Form, or to respond to LEA enquiries to confirm that you are fulfilling your legal duty, the LEA will assume that your child is not being properly educated. In such cases, the LEA will investigate further and may seek a School Attendance Order under Section 437 of the Education Act 1996.
5. Under some circumstances, the LEA may request to meet you. This might be to clarify the information you have supplied or to investigate allegations or suggestions that you are not educating your child properly. This is a rare occurrence, and usually happens due to misunderstanding the law regarding Elective Home Education. The LEA can also meet you at your own request if you would like further advice and guidance. Some parents find these meetings particularly useful at the outset to discuss their

child's specific learning programme; however, we can arrange to meet you as and when the need arises.

USEFUL CONTACTS & FURTHER INFORMATION

Education Otherwise
PO Box 325
Kings Lynn
PE34 3XW

☎ 0845 478 6345

www.education-otherwise.org

Home Education Advisory Service
PO Box 98
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6AN

☎ 01707 371 854

www.heas.org.uk

Advisory Centre for Education (A.C.E.)
1c Aberdeen Studios
22 Highbury Grove
LONDON
N5 2DQ

☎ 0808 800 5793

www.ace-ed.org.uk

Ceredigion College
Park Place
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SA43 1AB

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☎ 01239 612 032

☎ 01970 639 700

www.ceredigion.ac.uk

Equipment:

Philip Harris
Hyde Buildings
Hyde
Cheshire

☎ 0845 120 4520

www.philipharris.co.uk

Books:

Collins Educational
Harper Collins Publishers
Freepost GW2446
Glasgow
G64 1BR

☎ 0870 787 1610

www.collinseducation.com

Examinations:

Welsh Joint Education Committee
245 Western Avenue
Cardiff
CF5 2YX

☎ 02920 265 000

www.wjec.co.uk

Curriculum:

Qualifications and Curriculum Group
Castle Buildings
Womanby Street
Cardiff
CF10 1SX

☎ 02920 375 400

www.accac.org.uk