

Kent Council Elective Home Education web pages

The main page is

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home>

Educating your child at home

This page says:

"Parents have a responsibility to make sure that their child is educated. Most children attend school for their education, but parents have the right to educate their child at home, called elective home education (EHE).

Educating your child at home is a big commitment and there's a lot to think about, if you are considering it our guidance can help you make your decision.

To discuss educating your child at home call the Elective Home Education Team on 03000 416969 or email educationathome@kent.gov.uk ."

It also has 3 boxes

Box 1

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/PolicyEHE/consultationHome>

Home education policy

We are currently engaging with Kent home educators on the draft elective home education policy.

Box 2

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education>

Guide to home education

~~If you are considering educating your child at home read our guidance to help you make your decision. Whether you are just thinking about home education or you are already home educating, we hope you will find our guide useful.~~

Box 3

Resources to help you

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/resources-to-help-you-home-educate>

There are a number of websites you can use and groups you can get involved with ~~to help you provide an education.~~

<http://www.heas.org.uk/>

<http://www.educationotherwise.net/>

[+ local groups](#)

This is what you get from Box 2

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education>

Our guide to elective home education

There are many reasons parents decide to educate their child at home, like religion, personal preference, their child's specific need or as a short term intervention.

It's your responsibility to make sure that from the start of the term following your child's 5th birthday they receive a suitable full time education, either by regularly attending school or otherwise,

including home education. See our school term dates and information about school age.

To discuss educating your child at home call us on 03000 416969 or email educationathome@kent.gov.uk .

Please use the feedback buttons at the bottom of this page to tell us what you think of the information on this page.

The Guide links to

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-1> Things to Consider

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-2> What to Teach

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-3> How to get started

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-4> How we're involved

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-5> Exams

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-6> College training and school

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-1> **Things to Consider**

Educating your child at home is a big decision and will require a great deal of your time and energy, ~~but when properly engaged in your child's education it can~~ be a beneficial and satisfying experience for both parents and children.

You will not receive any financial assistance, so there will be expenses including:

- costs associated with teaching resources
- access to the internet
- learning materials
- the cost of taking exams if you want your child to gain qualifications.

~~It may be difficult for one person to teach a broad range of subjects so you may also need to consider if you will be paying for a tutor for some or all of the education.~~

~~The council does not provide a tutor for children who are electively home educated. Many home educators don't necessarily think in terms of 'teacher' and 'pupil', instead they learn alongside their children or they belong to a home education group where children can learn together. If you are considering exams, there is a very knowledgeable internet group where home educating parents can get information and support (see Resources section).~~

Going to school is not simply about lessons and exams. There are the friendships, socialising with other people, development of communication skills and learning from a range of teachers sharing wide ranging interests and experiences ~~which may be missed.~~ If you are thinking about home educating ~~we would encourage you you should try~~ to meet with other home educating families to discover ~~see if there can be~~ opportunities for children to socialise with other children ~~see Resources section) their age.~~ We would also recommend you talk to your child about how they feel about home education in this wider context.

If you ~~want~~ your child to return to school at any point, or wish to take exams ~~like GCSEs or A-Levels,~~ you need to think about how they will be prepared for this:
Further information

You can also read the elective home education guidelines for local authorities on GOV.UK.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-2> **What to Teach Your Home-Based Education**

You will need to provide a full time, efficient education that is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and special needs. You do not need to be a qualified teacher, but by working together and identifying how and what your child wants to learn you can equip them for their future.

~~If your child has special educational needs, the education must meet these needs.~~

~~The education you provide should prepare your child for life in our modern society and enable them to progress towards reaching their full potential.~~ You don't need to follow the National Curriculum, but you might wish to think about how your child will develop a range of skills, for example:

- communication
- observation and awareness
- problem solving
- creative and imaginative
- numerical
- physical
- personal and social

We recommend you consider some elements of the core subjects, for example Maths, English, Science and ICT but how and what you choose is your decision.

Details of what is covered in the National Curriculum is available on GOV.UK.

~~Teaching time~~

~~As a guide, children who go to school attend for 190 days a year, and the following weekly teaching hours are recommended by the Department for Education and Skills:~~

- ~~— 21 hours for 5-7 year olds~~
- ~~— 23.5 hours for 8-11 year olds~~
- ~~— 24 hours for 12-16 year olds~~

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-3> **How to get started**

If you have definitely decided to home educate, and your child is already at school you must write to the school to inform them of your decision to home educate and ask for the child's name be taken off the school roll. The school will inform us, (the local authority) that you are going to be responsible for educating your child.

If your child has never been registered at school, you don't have to do anything, but we encourage you to tell us so we can keep you up to date with information and events you may be interested in. Call 03000 416969 or email educationathome@kent.gov.uk.

Children with special educational needs


You have the right to educate your child at home even when the child has special educational needs (SEN), whether a child has a statement of special educational needs or education, health and care plan (EHC) or not. If a statement or EHC is in place, we have a duty to make sure the


child's needs are met, and that parents make suitable provision, including provision for the child's special educational needs.

However, if your child goes to a special school, you will need permission from us before you can take your child out of special school and start home educating them.

Relationships with the school


If you have had a disagreement with the school, this alone should not be a decision to take your child out of school and educate them at home. In these instances please speak with the headteacher or contact us to help you broker a resolution to the situation that is acceptable to you and in the child's best interest.

Also, if you are feeling pressured into ~~taking your child out of school~~starting home education, speak to us so we can provide you with support, ~~f-or example if your child keeps being excluded or you have been told that your child is about to be permanently excluded~~ or if there is a disagreement over whether your child needs extra support in school. 

Please be aware that once your child's name has been taken off the school roll, there is no guarantee that your preferred school/s will be able to offer your child a place if you change your mind. 

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-4> **How we're involved**

Before you start

When we are informed that you ~~are educating plan to educate~~ your child at home, we will contact you to offer an initial discussion ~~to provide advice and guidance which may be helpful to you when planning to home educate.~~ This could be by phone, email or a face to face meeting. 

~~During this visit we would talk about how you plan to provide a suitable education, and ways you can keep evidence that you are doing this. We will also put you in touch with helpful provide details of organisations and websites that offer useful support for home educators.~~

With your agreement, we will ~~come and see you~~ make contact again after a few months to see how things are going you are progressing, and then make periodic contact at your discretion to offer support if and when needed. Parents are also welcome to contact us.

~~If you do not require a visit you do not need to agree to one, we will not impose where parents choose not to engage with us. (Our proposed draft elective home education policy sets out strictly limited situations where there are strong indications the child may not be receiving a suitable education where we would expect a meeting to be arranged).~~

Providing a suitable education

We have a duty to act if it appears that home educated children are not receiving a full time, efficient education that is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude.

~~We will contact you to discuss your approach to education, and ask for evidence, such as:~~ 

- ~~— reports~~
- ~~— examples of work and logs to record learning~~
- ~~— getting work endorsed by someone independent~~
- ~~— meetings with us to discuss work and progress.~~

Usually any concerns can be addressed informally. But if not there are statutory procedures that we enter into.

We will write to you about the concerns.

There is an opportunity to adapt the education being provided.

We will then review the [situation work the child is doing](#).

If suitable education is still not being provided, we may [send a formal notice requiring you to provide evidence](#). [Ultimately if we are still not satisfied we may](#) consider a School Attendance Order (SAO), requiring parents to register their child at school. This is only the case once all reasonable steps have been taken to resolve the situation and would be a last resort.

Safeguarding

We have a duty to safeguard all children, including those who don't attend school.

If you are employing others to educate your child, for example tutors, we strongly recommend you carry out the appropriate checks and references and have arrangements in place for how you supervise them. Find out about Disclosure and Barring Service Checks (DBS) on GOV.UK.

We have general duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and a responsibility to do this through our work. We must act upon any concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm, in accordance with our child protection procedures available on the Kent Safeguarding Children Board website.

However, such powers cannot be used in order to establish whether the child in question is receiving suitable education at home

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-5> **Exams**

If you want your child to take exams, ~~such as GCSEs, your plan must include the year your child will sit exams, you will need to think about~~ deadlines for applying, where they will take exams, and you will need to be familiar with the details of the correct syllabus to follow.

~~Many subjects do have coursework, which will need to be marked by someone the exam board has approved.~~

[If you are considering exams, there is a very knowledgeable internet group where home educating parents can get information and support https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/info) <http://edyourself.org/articles/exams.php> <http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk/> (home educators' exams wiki)

You will also need to contact the exam board directly and [pay for your child to enter your child for](#) the exams. ~~You will be responsible for all the fees.~~

Exam boards

OCR
AQA
EdExcel

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/our-guide-to-elective-home-education#panel2-6> **College training and school**

College courses for 14-16 year olds (key stage 4)

Home educated young people aged 14 to 16 can go to college, either full or part time, and the government will pay for the course. It is up to the colleges whether or not to admit under 16s.

These students can do any course agreed by the college, not just a designated 14-16 course, although many colleges still don't offer GCSE courses. Read the full details on GOV.UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enrolment-of-14-to-16-year-olds-in-full-time-further-education/full-time-enrolment-of-14-to-16-year-olds-in-fe-and-sixth-form-colleges#introduction>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enrolment-of-14-to-16-year-olds-in-full-time-further-education Annex C](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enrolment-of-14-to-16-year-olds-in-full-time-further-education/Annex_C)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377113/Full_time_enrolment_of_14_to_16_year_olds_Annex_A_to_C.pdf

See also <http://edyourself.org/articles/14-16collegeFAQ.php> and <http://edyourself.org/articles/WolfReport.php>

Find details of all colleges in Kent.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training/options-at-16-and-beyond#panel2-2>

Planning your future career, education or training

We usually encourage young people to explore their future options around career choices, and continuing their education and training, from around the age of 14 read our information about making these choices.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training>

Returning to school

Should your circumstances change, and you need or want your child to return to school, you ~~should need to~~ apply for a school place through an in year admission. There is no guarantee that your preferred school/s will be able to offer your child a place and it may be particularly difficult to find a suitable school place from Y10 onwards. You need any help or support in accessing a school place you can discuss this with us, your elective home education contact can ~~guide~~ help with this process.

If you have been using the National Curriculum as a guide for your teaching, this could make it easier for your child to return to school, children can contribute along with their peers on familiar subject matters.

Resources to help you

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/educating-your-child-at-home/resources-to-help-you-home-educate>

There are a number of websites you can use and groups you can get involved with ~~to help you provide an education to your child.~~ You can also join local groups to meet with other parents who educate their children at home.

Please note that we are not responsible for the content of external websites.
Home education website and organisations

Home Education Advisory Service - home education charity dedicated to giving advice and practical support for families who want to home educate.

[Education Otherwise home education charity](http://www.educationotherwise.net/)

<http://www.educationotherwise.net/>

Northstar Worldwide - established specifically to provide support to home educating families, a

community of learners and tutors using the internet to learn and study together. 

[Ed yourself http://edyourself.org/](http://edyourself.org/) for up to date home education information

Medway, Maidstone and Kent Home Educators - a group of home educating families in Medway and Kent dedicated to supporting and enriching the sports, arts, science, nature and adventure activities, facilities and opportunities available to home educators.

Education resources

Department of Education - responsible for education and children's services in England.

Advisory Centre for Education - independent advice for parents on education issues.

CGP books - from Primary to A-Level, SATs to GCSE, a large selection of revision and practice books

BBC Schools - resources and study guides for primary and secondary education

Channel 4 Learning - online education resources, games and activities for primary and secondary schools

Primary resources - lesson plans, activity ideas and resources for primary teachers.


Libraries - join the library to get free access to over 2 million books, eBooks, audiobooks and online resources.

College, 6th form and training - how to apply for education and training opportunities, including apprenticeships, for 14 to 19 year olds

Special educational needs (SEN)

Support and advice for special educational needs

HE Special UK - a website run by a group of families who home educate children with special educational needs and disabilities.

<http://ehe-sen.org.uk/> home education and SEN 

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[July 2nd 2015](#)