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Child Benefit

Update August 28th 2025 – ON SEPTEMBER 1ST THE CHILD BENEFIT 2006 REGULATIONS ARE TO BE AMENDED, AS YET THE DECISION MAKERS MANUAL AND THE 2006 REGULATIONS GOV.UK PAGE HAVE NOT BEEN CHANGED. MORE DETAILS BELOW

Child Benefit payments stop on 31st August on or after your child's 16th birthday, unless they are a **“qualifying young person”** in education or training that counts for Child Benefit. This page should be read in conjunction with my page on Universal Credit <https://edyourself.org/universal-credit/>

The GOV.UK page on child benefit 16-19 says child benefit *“continues if they stay in approved education or training but you must tell HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)”*...and *“can include...home education – if started before your child turned 16 or after 16 if they have special needs”*

The most comprehensive reference is HMRC's Child Benefit Technical Manual. (See CBTM07030 for an explanation of 31st August)

At some point in the school year the child turns 16, parents should receive a letter asking whether the child will be continuing their full time education post-16. (**This letter doesn't always arrive**; see below re online form) If you fill in the paper form to say your child will be home educated, you will then be sent **a follow-up form** through the post asking for more details.

Alternatively you can notify HMRC online about your child continuing in full-time education rather than by post. The online form has a home education option. The online form may be sufficient and **you might not need to fill out the follow-up form**.

The online form asks

- What type of education is the young person staying in [*home education is an option*]
- Does the young person live at the same address as you
- Home education details
- Date home education started
- Did the child or young person previously attend school or college
- Date the young person last went to school or college
- Date home education will end
- Number of hours supervised education per week SEE 1.9.25 CHANGES
- Subjects or courses the child or young person is studying
- Will there be a final exam
- Does this child do any other study as part of their course each week
- Number of other study hours per week

The paper follow up form asks:

On what date did they last go to a school or college? DD MM YYYY

When did they first start to be educated somewhere other than at a school or college? DD MM YYYY

When do you expect their education somewhere other than at a school or college to end? DD MM YYYY

What subjects are they studying?

Are they studying for any qualifications?

If Yes, please tell us what they are

When will they take their final exam? DD MM YYYY

Do they get supervised study, tuition or instruction?

This can be provided by a teacher, a tutor or another person

If Yes, what subjects do they get supervised study, tuition or instruction for?

Where does the supervised study, tuition or instruction take place?

How many hours of supervised study, tuition or instruction do they get each week?

Tell us about any other study they do as part of their course each week

This can be work set by a tutor, coursework, exercises, practical work, projects or examinations.

How many hours of other study do they do each week?

~~Do they have a plan or assessment made by a local authority, which identifies and assesses their special educational needs? For example, and educational health care plan. If Yes, send us a copy of it.~~

~~Has the local authority approved the education?)~~ CHANGING 1.9.25

If Yes, send us a copy of the local authority approval.

Do they get Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit or tax credits in their own right?

If Yes, which benefit do they get?

If Yes, which benefit do they get?

~~The SEN question is ONLY relevant if the home education has begun AFTER the age of 16 as otherwise you would meet the conditions of pre-16 home education. You only need to check this box if you intend to rely on the provisions of the EHCP for education otherwise than at school in your post-16 Child Benefit claim (eg because home education only started post-16)~~ CHANGING 1.9.25

~~There is no new requirement for LA approval where the pre-16 home education condition has been met. "Local authority approval" ONLY arises in cases where home education has begun AFTER the age of 16 and where you are relying on LA approved education otherwise than at school via eg an EHCP in your post-16 Child Benefit claim.)~~
CHANGING 1.9.25

It is not necessary for the young person to be studying for exams or to be on a course. HMRC has said *"Working towards qualifications is the same as studying towards qualifications from a Child Benefit entitlement perspective. Studying in this instance means a child/young person in a learning environment other than at school/college where they are progressing in an educational sense even though that learning environment may be structured differently than at a school/college."*

Under certain conditions, 16+ Child Benefit can be paid while a young person is ill and unable to participate in education, this is called INTERRUPTION.

Child Benefit continues to be payable even if the young person works up to 23 hours a week as long as it is not more than 24 hours of paid work a week. (NB there may be other means tested benefits claimed at the same time that are affected by a LOWER weekly paid hours limit, ie it may not be 24 hours across the board)

Regulations

Regulation 1 of the Child Benefit Regulations 2006 is amended by The Child Benefit (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2025 which come into force on September 1st 2025.

“full-time education” ~~[F2]except in regulation 3(2)(ab)]—~~

~~(a)
is education undertaken in pursuit of a course, where the average time spent during term time in receiving tuition,
engaging in practical work, or supervised study, or taking examinations exceeds 12 hours per week; and~~

IS REPLACED BY

“(a)is education undertaken in pursuit of a course, where the time spent during term time in receiving tuition,
engaging in practical work, or supervised study, or taking examinations—

(i)on average exceeds 12 hours per week, or

(ii)in the case of a person who suffers from an illness or physical or mental disability, is any amount of hours
appropriate for that person’s individual circumstances, and”.

In other words (ii) about **any amount of appropriate hours for illness, physical or mental disability is NEW** but it will
take some time for the GOV.UK latest version of the 2006 Regulations to be updated.

**The other significant change is to Regulation 3 where reference to education provided elsewhere being “approved
by the Commissioners” has been removed, as has reference to having received education otherwise than at school
before the age of 16 UNLESS there is a statement of special educational needs (or equivalent Plan) and the LA has
approved the education.**

Regulation 3 would then read as follows:

Education and training condition

3.—(1) This regulation applies in the case of a person who has not attained the age of 20.

(2) The condition is that the person—

(a)is undertaking a course of full-time education, which is not advanced education and which is not provided by
virtue of his employment or any office held by him—

(b)having undertaken such a course as is mentioned in [F3]paragraph (a) [F4]has been accepted or is enrolled to
undertake a further such course;]

(c)is undertaking approved training that is not provided by means of a contract of employment[F5; or

(d)having undertaken a course mentioned in paragraph (a) or approved training mentioned in paragraph (c), has
been accepted or is enrolled to undertake such approved training].

(4) A person who is aged 19 is only a qualifying young person by virtue of [F7]paragraph (2)(a),or (2)(c) if he began the
education or training (as the case may be) referred to in that sub-paragraph[F8, or was accepted or enrolled to
undertake that education or training,] before attaining that age.

For the sake of completeness, this is how Regulation 3 is being amended.

Education and training condition

3.—(1) This regulation applies in the case of a person who has not attained the age of 20.

(2) The condition is that the person—

(a)is undertaking a course of full-time education, which is not advanced education and which is not provided by virtue of his employment or any office held by him—

~~(i)which is provided at a school or college; or~~

~~(ii)which is provided elsewhere but is approved by the Commissioners;~~

~~[F1(ab)is being provided with “appropriate full-time education” in England within section 4 (appropriate full-time education or training) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, which is not—~~

~~(i)a course in preparation for a degree, a diploma of higher education, a higher national certificate, a higher national diploma, a teaching qualification, any other course which is of a standard [F2above ordinary national diploma, a national diploma or national certificate] of Edexcel, a general certificate of education (advanced level), or Scottish national qualifications at higher or advanced higher level;~~

~~(ii)provided by virtue of his employment or any office held by him;]~~

(b)having undertaken such a course as is mentioned in [F3paragraph (a) ~~or (ab)~~] [F4has been accepted or is enrolled to undertake a further such course;]

(c)is undertaking approved training that is not provided by means of a contract of employment[F5; or

(d)having undertaken a course mentioned in paragraph (a) or approved training mentioned in paragraph (c), has been accepted or is enrolled to undertake such approved training].

~~[F6(3) A person (P) is not a qualifying young person by virtue of paragraph (2)(a)(ii) unless either—~~

~~(a)P was receiving the education referred to in that paragraph as a child, or~~

~~(b)P begins to receive that education after attaining the age of sixteen where—~~

~~(i)P has received a statement of special educational needs; and~~

~~(ii)the local authority has assessed the programme of home education as being suitable for P’s special needs.]~~

(4) A person who is aged 19 is only a qualifying young person by virtue of [F7paragraph (2)(a), ~~(2)(ab)~~] or (2)(c) if he began the education or training (as the case may be) referred to in that sub-paragraph[F8, or was accepted or enrolled to undertake that education or training,] before attaining that age.

~~[F9(5) In this regulation “a statement of special educational needs” means a statement, plan or assessment made by a local authority, which identifies and assesses the special educational needs of a person and specifies the special educational provision required by that person.]~~