



Child Protection when educating children other than at school

August 2024

Key Documents:

Child Protection

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

[The Children Act 2004 –section 11](#)

[The Education Act 2002 – section 175](#)

[Elective Home Education](#) - Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities (Department for Education, April 2019)

The Department for Education has produced guidance to help parents think about some of the questions they would want to ask the person who runs an out-of-school setting in order to reassure themselves that the setting is a safe place. This can be accessed via the elective home education page on the Gloucestershire County Council website: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/home-education/>

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership



Are you:

- Educating children outside of school?
- Looking for a private tutor?

“The action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.”



Regulated Activity

In accordance with Government guidelines, education settings are responsible for ensuring that their staff, including volunteers, are properly checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and have received training in all aspects of Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Jurisdiction over private individuals such as tutors or teachers who are not registered with a school or recognised club remains with the parent or guardian who appoints a private tutor:

- family arrangements and personal, non-commercial arrangements
- peer exemption – activity by a person in a group assisting another member of the group'

Talk to your child on a regular basis about his or her relationship with a tutor that they are working with.

DBS checks do not run out but should be re-applied for if the person has had a break in service of more than three months or there are concerns about the person's suitability to work or volunteer with children and young people.

In either of these cases, a new DBS check would be required, and parents can insist the individual working with their child has an enhanced disclosure before employing them.



Disclosure and Barring Service

Further information about DBS checks can be found on the DBS website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

Child Protection Queries and Concerns

If parents have any questions about wider Child Protection or Safeguarding issues, they can get information online from the following areas:

- [Support & advice for parents | NSPCC](#)
- [Advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm](#)

For immediate Child Protection concerns

telephone the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 01452 426565 during office hours and 101 (the Police) out of office hours.



Advice for parents of home educated children

If parents have taken the decision to educate a child other than in a school, they may decide to look for a tutor or private individual to assist in educating their child at home.

Parents may also decide to enrol a child into a group educating their children in an alternative setting.

The following questions might help parents to establish whether the tutor, individual or group are working inside legal guidelines:

- Does the person who will be with the child hold an enhanced DBS Certificate? Are parents able to see the certificate and its date?
- If the individual has not had a DBS check but the parent feels they are right to help your child, are you able to reduce any risk by ensuring they are not left alone with the child?
- Is the individual Tutor aware of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedure Manual. This can be found at: [Welcome to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Partnership Procedure Manual](#)
- If enrolling a child in a group, the parent will want to be assured that the group has a Designated Child Protection Lead or someone responsible for ensuring that children are safe?
- Does the group have a Child Protection or Safeguarding Policy? If so, ask for a copy. If not, what steps would they take if such an issue arose?
- If the parent or the young person has any concerns relating to the tutor, private or any professional individuals working with the child's conduct, advice and support can be sought from the [Local Area Designated Officer](#) (LADO)

