

Guidance Notes - Parent Plan for Home Education

There is no prescribed way of setting out your plans for educating your child but you may find this template helpful.

The information you provide will help us in understanding the educational arrangements you are making for your child and will assist the Local Authority in discharging its responsibilities to identify any children in its area who may not be receiving a suitable education.

The Legal Context

Parents' responsibility in relation to their children's education is set out in section 7 of the Education Act 1996. The law does not say that parents must register their child at a school, but the parent of every child of compulsory school age must ensure they secure a suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

The education must be:

- Full time (there is no legal definition of full-time for these purposes, but education and learning would be a significant feature of the child's week)
- Efficient (this means it must achieve what it sets out to)
- Suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. The education must equip the child for life within the community in which they live and must not limit their options later in life.

Whilst you are not legally obliged to provide us with any information we do encourage families to share details of the educational arrangements that are in place. Further information is available in our leaflet 'Elective Home Education - A Guide to the Law'. We are happy to visit you at home but you may consider that the most straightforward and least intrusive way that we can fulfil our statutory duty is for you to provide us with some written information. Please do use the contact details below if you would welcome a home visit or any help with the form.

Enrolling your child at a school, college or training provider

For some families home education arrangements may be working less well or they plan to supplement what happens at home with something else. Parents may be considering seeking a school place or registering with a training provider (for older children).

Your link officer is able to support and advise on the process to follow and ensure that the receiving school/training provider understands your child's needs and how best to support them. Depending on the type of institution your child may or may not remain on our list of children we consider to be home educated and we can discuss this with you depending on the circumstances.

Personal details

Please complete this section to make sure we have your correct details

Reasons for home educating

Whilst you are not required to tell us, we like to understand the varied and different reasons why parents elect to educate their children at home. For many people this will have been a well-considered and

proactive choice. We understand that for others the reasons may have been in response to particular difficulties or challenges at the time.

Did any of the listed circumstances apply in making your decision to withdraw your child from school or not take up a school place? If more than one applies, please feel free to rank them and please feel free to expand if the options do not adequately describe your situation.

How you are home educating

Please outline your approach for your child's learning including specific reference to English/Literacy and Maths/Numeracy *e.g. child led learning, following a curriculum*

For example, are you planning experiential child led learning following and adapting their learning to their interests, a more structured routine that mirrors what is taught in school or a combination of these things?

The Local Authority does not expect any prescribed method of delivery and recognises that home learning may take many forms. You may have provided us with this information before, but we recognise that approaches and philosophies can change over time.

As the education must be suitable and not limit options later in life it is important to include details of how your child will learn English/Literacy and Maths/Numeracy.

Please describe how learning is organised over a typical week. *We recognise that learning can take place at different times of the day and outside of school terms*

It is important to note that learning (in its many forms) should be a significant feature of the child's week, so please will you (where possible) give an indication of the extent to which your child is engaged in learning activities or where learning is being facilitated across a typical week.

Whilst full time for children registered with a school is typically 25 hours per week, the Local Authority recognises that there is no prescribed number of teaching and learning hours in relation to home education and that learning can take place at different times of the day and outside of school terms.

We recognise that learning can take place incidentally, can happen anywhere and in different ways meaning that, for some families, it might be difficult to quantify the amount of time depending on the philosophy and approach being followed. For other families though this may be easier to do.

Please list the types of equipment, resources and software that you use to support your child's learning? *e.g. private tutors, online learning programmes, home education groups, workbooks.*

For example do you use private tutors, any online learning programmes such as Khan Academy or BBC Bitesize, do you access groups where home educating families come together for shared learning experiences or the natural environment?

As learning can happen outside the home and in many different settings, does your child belong to any groups or attend any activities *e.g. home education groups, sports clubs, church groups, scouts, forest school, cadets, science groups, outdoor education, farm groups etc?*

As well as providing learning opportunities home educating families tell us taking part in these kinds of activities gives their child the opportunity to mix and socialise with other children.

In order to prepare your child for the adult world, further study or employment, what do you see as the key learning priorities for your child over the next few years? *Are there any particular milestones or skills you are hoping your child will be able to achieve over a given timescale?*

We are able to advise on different pathways and routes to college / further learning.

Please add any other information or comments you feel may be helpful, including any additional learning needs your child may have or any other key adults / organisations who may be involved in supporting your child.

If your child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) please list the outcomes from Section E of your child's EHCP and how the learning that takes place enables your child to achieve those outcomes. *Note: parents of home educated children are not required to deliver the provisions set out in the EHCP as a school would.*

It is possible through the annual review process to amend the outcomes if the needs of your child have changed, or to better to reflect the current situation.

What are your child's views

We believe that it is important your child has an opportunity to say what they think about their education. This space is for your child's views about their education at home, or they might want to send a piece of writing or a picture with this plan.

Child Participation / The Voice of the Child - We believe that we should always seek to understand the views of the child in all matters that concern them and their education, and that it is important they have an opportunity to comment on how they view things.

In line with the Children and Families Act 2014, we consider the voice of the child to be central to the way we work with families. Your link Local Authority officer may be able to offer a few sample formats that children might like to use to offer their views but there is no prescribed way in which this should be approached, and we appreciate that there are different ways of approaching this based on the age of your child and any additional needs they may have.

We would like to know how you consider it is best for your child to contribute their views about their learning, so please provide your thoughts here and please consider attaching something from your child as we are interested in their views.

Any other children?

Would you mind letting us know if there are any other children who live with you that are currently being home educated or who you think will be in the future?

In November 2018 we designed this form and guidance in liaison with some parents who home educate their children. If you have any suggestions how we could improve the way we seek information from you, then please do give us your feedback.

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