

The Derbyshire Approach to Elective Home Education

Guidance for Parents/Carers

February 2019

If you wish to receive this guidance document electronically please email
cs.ehe@derbyshire.gov.uk .

An electronic version will allow you to open hyper-links to all the websites listed.

The Department for Education has published new guidance for local authorities dated April 2019. Derbyshire County Council's Guidance will be revised accordingly in the near future.

Dear Parent,

Welcome to the **Derbyshire Approach to Elective Home Education** [EHE] – Guidance for Parents/Carers

If you are reading this, you are likely to have either recently started home-educating your child, or are considering it as an option in the near future. The reasons that parents elect to home educate their child, or children, are extremely varied. Some parents make a philosophical, planned decision to home educate their child or children, and research the area in depth.

However, we find that some parents turn to home education as a reaction to a school-based issue or dissatisfaction with a school environment.

If there is a school-based issue, unless you really want to electively home educate and understand all the expectations on you, we strongly advise you not to withdraw your child from school until you have explored all the options with the school. Once your child is off a school roll, you are responsible for ensuring they have a full-time, suitable education. There are no automatic support services or resources for home education. If you want your child to take GCSEs, this can be very costly. If you would like your child to go back to school in the future, there is no automatic right to return and you will have to go through the normal admissions procedures and there may not be an available place at the school you choose. If you would prefer your child to go to another school, the local authority may be able to help.

For all these reasons, we would suggest you take advice, before “opting out” of school, either from the EHE Team on 01629 532843/532803 or one of the independent home education organisations.

Regards

The Derbyshire Elective Home Education Team

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION IN DERBYSHIRE

Derbyshire Principles for Elective Home Education

Derbyshire local authority (LA) believes that:

- In accordance with section 7 of the Education Act 1996, every child has the right to education that is appropriate to their age, ability, aptitude, and any special educational needs they may have.
- Parents have the legal responsibility for ensuring that their child is properly educated and we respect their right to choose to educate their child, other than at school, according to their philosophical, ideological or religious views/beliefs.
- Although we consider that school provides the best learning opportunity, for the majority of children, we affirm that parents have the right to choose how to educate their children outside of the school system and that they do so for a variety of reasons.
- The decision by parents to elect to educate their child at home should be an informed, active and positive one. It is important that parents obtain sufficient information about home education before making the decision.
- In order to fulfill our statutory duty to assure ourselves that children who are home educated receive a suitable education, we should promote an active dialogue with parents and work in partnership with them. We find the best way to do this is to offer a home visit with one of our EHE consultants
- If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from school to home educate them, we recognise that they may need time to establish their home education practice. We therefore do not necessarily expect a detailed plan at the beginning and will maintain a regular and supportive dialogue with parents, as appropriate.
- As well as their educational needs, the local authority will be mindful of a child's personal, health, safety and welfare needs, at all times.

Derbyshire LA will support the choice of parents who elect to home educate, unless it appears to us through informal enquiries with parents that suitable provision is not being made for the child. If we consider that provision is not suitable, we will make further reasonable enquiries.

For the purpose of this document the term "parents" includes anyone who has parental responsibility, including guardians and carers

What education should I provide?

The law expects you to arrange an education that is "*suitable for your child*". What you provide and how you provide it, is up to you.

Some parents follow the National Curriculum, but this is only one way of meeting your child's educational needs. Following the National Curriculum may make it easier for your child, if they ever wish to return to school. The content of the National Curriculum can be obtained from the address at the back of this document.

When your child is 16 years of age, they will be able to take up post-16 education, training and employment opportunities. Access to these opportunities will depend on your child's ability and skills. We therefore suggest that the *development basic skills of reading, writing,*

maths, computer literacy and inter-personal skills are a minimum requirements.

To ensure some breadth to your child's education, areas such as science, humanities, creative arts and physical activity should also be included, where possible.

How should I approach home education?

It is entirely up to you to decide the most appropriate approach.

You should decide what you are ultimately hoping to achieve for your child. You will need to take account of their character and personality and their preferred learning styles.

There are three very broad approaches used by home educators.

1. *School at home* - This is usually subject-based and may follow textbooks, workbooks and traditional programmes of study. There is usually a "timetable" of subjects being learned.
2. *Semi-structured learning* - There is a structured learning programme but it is more broadly based than a traditional subject based one. Often children choose areas that interest them and study them in depth.
3. *Autonomous learning* - This approach involves the child following his/her interests entirely, with encouragement by parents to access a wide range of resources. It does not mean the child doing or learning nothing.

Many new home educators start with "School at Home" and then become more flexible as their children become more independent learners.

What you teach and how your child learns is up to you. There are many different ways to plan teaching and learning.

Whilst the following list is not compulsory, Derbyshire LA offers the following suggestions for your consideration:

- Try to make the learning process *active, practical, enjoyable and participative*, rather than something that is "done" to your child.
- *Vary* the style and content of the approach so that your child does not get "bored".
- *Plan* the learning programme systematically rather than piecemeal or with purely haphazard activities, to occupy time.
- Give appropriate opportunities for *independent studies* and research as well as *direct teaching*.
- Consider ways of *assessing what your child has learned* from time to time, so that your child can see the progress they are making. Some home educators write a "diary of learning", which can be used to map progress and identify learning gaps.
- Take *advantage of all the resources available to you* e.g. the local environment, library (including the wealth of free resources on the Internet) "night-school", education courses, leisure facilities, places of interest etc.,
- Give great importance to *reading*, as being able to read will enable your child to access a wide range of information and knowledge.
- Don't forget both *physical and social activities* that will help develop your child's skills.

What about socialisation?

When a child attends a school, there are daily opportunities to meet with and interact with other children and adults. There is no reason why home educated children cannot meet with and interact with other children and adults. The only difference is that *you will have to create the opportunities*. Thousands of children are home educated. Many formal and informal groups exist that meet together, not only for educational activities but also social activities. These groups network and share ideas and resources. There are details at the back of this booklet on how to make contact with these groups.

What funding for equipment, books or visits is available?

Unfortunately there is *no specific national or local funding for home-educators*. Some museums etc, give free or discounted admissions to home educators. You may find it useful to build up contacts with other parents also educating their children at home. This also allows you to exchange ideas and resources. You can always explore the possibility of group discounts on entry fees for educational visits.

There is an increasing amount of *free learning material on the internet*.

What about GCSE examinations?

Home educated children can take GCSEs, but this invariably *costs money*.

- In the majority of cases, if a young person wants to take a GCSE which requires an exam, the exam has to be taken at an *approved* exam centre, usually a secondary school or post 16 provider. As a home educator you will have to *contact the provider directly*. You can contact individual examination boards in order to find out the precise way in which they handle private candidates. Making contact with one of the home education support organisations for advice on GCSEs can be most useful.
- You will have to *pay for any exam registration fee* and assessment of coursework by an accredited person. The registration fee for a GCSE exam is approximately £30 -£35.
- Correspondence courses are also available, although they can be expensive (about £300+ per subject).
- Some GCSE courses are offered by Derbyshire Adult Community Education centres, from time to time. Some of these Centres offer the facility for pre-16 year olds to attend adult courses, but again you will have to contact them directly for clarification and pay any necessary fees.
- If your child wants to go on to Higher Education, universities do not necessarily expect GCSEs, - A-level grades are more important. Universities do not discriminate against home educated applicants as they often view home educated children as motivated self-learners.
- If you want your child to take GCSEs, *at no cost*, they will need to be *on a school roll*. To enable them to be on a school roll for Year 10 and Year 11, you should start the process *the preceding autumn*. Some schools start GCSEs in Y9. You should contact the Schools Admission team on 01629 537479 for advice on school places.

Planning for the future

When embarking on home education, you need to consider what you and your child wants the *outcome* to be at the end of the journey. All parents will want their child to be a happy, rounded individual who can be successful in whatever they choose to do in the future. At some point, your child is likely to want a job or career. The route for achieving this needs to be considered carefully. If exams, qualifications and academic success are important, advance planning is essential.

Education opportunities in the wider community

There is a wealth of resources in the *wider community*, available to home educators such as libraries, parks, community centres, museums, nature reserves, art galleries, historic buildings, theatres, colleges, tourist information centres. See below, about how home educated, secondary aged children can get a **b_line** card, providing the discount and travel reductions for young people in Derbyshire.

Discount and Travel - b_line cards

b_line is the discount, travel and library card for secondary aged young people in Derbyshire. **b_line card** application forms are provided for pupils at their school. If you are home educated you can apply for a **b_line card**.

For 11 to 13 year olds, **b_line** is a discount and library card that gives money-off and discount deals in some local and national shops and businesses. It can be used to prove you are under 14yrs and therefore get child face rates on buses and trains.

For 14 to 18 year olds, a **b_line** is a discount and library card that gives you money-off and discount deals in some local and national shops and businesses and gives you half fare travel on buses and trains in Derbyshire.

Home educated children, who do not have a **b_line card**, can apply using **Application Form BX** on the Derbyshire website.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/b_line

You will need your details verified by someone who is not a family member, such as a doctor, police officer or your EHE consultant.

They will need to:

1. Sign the back of your photograph.
2. Sign a photocopy of your identification document e.g. passport, birth certificate, NHS card.
3. Sign Part B of your application form.

Send the completed form to: **b_line** applications [BX], Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG.

Please allow up to three weeks to be sent your **b_line** card. It will be sent to your home address.

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Does my child have to go to school?

- A No - school is not compulsory, but *education is*.
The Education Act 1996 [Section 7] states that:
“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient, full-time education, suitable:
a. to his age, ability and aptitude, and
b. to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”
Most children attend school but for various reasons, some parents decide to undertake the responsibility for their child’s education outside the school system.
If you elect to educate your child “otherwise” than at school you must make sure that a *suitable full-time education is provided*.

Q What is an “efficient and suitable” education?

- A An “efficient” and “suitable” education is not defined in the Education Act 1996. However, a judgement at Worcester Crown Court in 1981 ¹resulted in a statement by the judge that described “efficient” as an education that *“achieves that which it sets out to achieve”* and a “suitable” education is one that *“primarily equips a child for life within the community of which he is a member, rather than the way of life in the country as a whole, as long as it does not foreclose the child’s options in later years to adopt some other form of life if he wishes to do so.”*
This means that you must have some sort of educational *philosophy, plan or framework* for your child’s education.
No matter what model of home education is chosen, all children have to *“be involved in a learning process”*².

Q What does “full-time” mean?

- A There is no legal definition of “full-time”.
Children in school normally spend between 22 and 25 hours working at school each week. The Department for Education has advised that their interpretation of “full-time” is that anything less than 20 hours per week is *not* full-time.
However the type of educational activity can be varied and does not have to be formally time-tabled.

Q At what age is it compulsory for children to have to receive full-time education?

- A Home-educated children must receive full-time education from the start date of what would be the school term *following their 5th birthday*, if they were at school.
“Compulsory education” currently continues until *the last Friday in June* in the year in which the child becomes 16 years of age.
In school, this is a child who turns 16 years of age between September 1st and 31st August.
The law requires young people in England to remain in education or training until they are 18 years of age.

¹ Mr Justice Woolf in the case of R v Secretary of State for Education & Science ex parte Talmud Torah Machzikei Hadass School Trust (The Times, 12 April 1985)

² Elective Home Education – Guidelines for Local Authorities, paragraph 2.5

Q Do I need anyone's permission to educate my child from home?

A No - it is your parental right but *also your duty* to ensure your child is *suitably* educated. If your child is already *registered at a school* you must inform the headteacher of that school *in writing*, of your decision to home educate and the school will inform the local authority.

If your child *is not registered at a school* then you do not legally need to register with the Local Authority [LA]. Many parents do register with the LA so that the LA can confirm to members of statutory authorities, such as the police when doing Truancy Sweeps, that the child is home educated. The LA will also, from time to time send useful information to all home educators who they have on their register.

If the LA *becomes aware* that your child is being home educated, we will make *enquiries* with you in order to help us decide whether it appears that you are fulfilling your duty under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

In our experience it is much easier and simpler for you to tell us you are home educating and have an *informal* meeting with one of our consultants.

Q What if I don't inform the school?

A If your child is registered at a school, and *does not attend* s/he will be marked as "absent". Absence for any significant time will result in a *referral from the school* to the Education Welfare Service (EWS) to investigate the reason for your child's absence. Deliberate *non-attendance* at school may result in you being *prosecuted* under the Education Act 1996.

Therefore it is essential, that if you withdraw your child from school in order to educate them from home *you must inform the school, in writing*, to avoid potential prosecution.

Q Can I educate my child part-time at home and part-time at school?

A Part-time/flexi-schooling are *options*, (defined below) which are *entirely at the discretion of the head teacher of the school you approach*, rather than the LA or the parent. Part-time or flexi-schooling are *not legal rights* for parents. Both flexi-schooling and part-time education, are covered by the Pupil Registration Regulations³.

Part-time school timetables are usually seen as a *temporary* arrangement for a school pupil who for example, cannot attend school full-time due to a medical condition, to improve their behaviour, or as part of a re-integration package for a child who has been absent from education. By definition, pupils who are only "*present*" for part of the week are "*absent*" for the rest of the time. The school has to record their non-attendance at school as "*approved absence*".

Flexi-schooling, however, means that the child *is registered on the school roll and is in full-time education*. At the discretion of the head teacher, a child registered at the school can be "*educated off site*" outside the school premises. The "*off site activity*" must be of an educational nature and must be supervised by a person authorised by the school e.g. the parent.

We have a small number of collaborative examples of flexi-schooling in Derbyshire where both the parents and the schools have agreed a combination of "education at school" and "education off site".

Q Can I re-register my child at school at a later date?

A Yes, but you will need to contact the Schools Admissions Team on 01629 537479 for advice on how to apply for a school place or refer to admission information on the DCC website.

Once your child is "off-roll" it can be very hard to get your child back on a school roll. *A place at a particular school is not an automatic entitlement*. Parents should therefore

³ The Education[Pupil Registration] [England] Regulations 2006
PUBLIC

consider carefully before withdrawing a child from a school especially when the school is a popular one.

If your reason for choosing home education is dissatisfaction with the school environment or bullying, you are *advised NOT to de-register your child* until you have spoken to the Education Welfare Service, at your local area education office, the EHE team on 01629 532843/532803, the Education Inclusion Service 01629 533529

Q What is the LA's role, regarding home education?

A If the LA has reason to believe that you are *not* providing an education for your child that is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs that they may have, LA will make *further enquiries* to assure itself that suitable education provision is in place.

We also have, in addition, legal duties to promote the *safeguarding and welfare of all children* in Derbyshire⁴ and to make arrangements to enable us to establish the identities so far as is possible of children in the area who are of compulsory school age but are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.⁵

In Derbyshire, we choose to fulfil our duties by offering an *informal meeting* with you about how you are going to arrange your child's education. The *informal meeting* with one of our experienced EHE consultants usually enables us to meet our duty to satisfy ourselves that education provision is suitable and you are fulfilling your legal duties.

Q What are "informal enquiries"?

A In Derbyshire, "*informal enquiries*" mean that we will offer an *informal initial* meeting between yourself and one of our experienced home education consultants to discuss the educational provision you are planning. Part of the purpose of this *initial* meeting will be to establish a *positive relationship* between the family and the LA. This visit can take place at your home or in a mutually convenient venue.

The EHE consultant will talk with you and make notes from the discussion. These will be typed up and sent to you as a *Record of Visit*. The Record provides evidence that you are meeting your statutory duty to provide *suitable education* for your child. Establishing a *positive relationship* will help both the parents and the LA in fulfilling their statutory duties. This informal meeting can avoid misunderstandings and reduce the need for formal/legal proceedings.

Q How will the LA decide if I am providing an "efficient" and "suitable" education for my child?

A In Derbyshire, we believe the most effective, efficient and easiest way for us to be assured that you are meeting your legal duties is by having an *informal discussion* with one of our EHE consultants

Our EHE consultants will talk with you and your child about your approach to home education. *We do not have a rigid view* of what is a "suitable" and "efficient" education and recognise that there are many approaches to educational provision. We will consider *a wide range of evidence* from home educating parents.

- If you are a new home educator we *will not expect you to have necessarily planned*, in detail, what and how you are going to provide for your child's education at the initial visit with the consultant.
- The way in which you provide *evidence of educational suitability* is entirely up to you. It can be in any form, sufficient enough to "convince a reasonable person" of its appropriateness for your child's age, aptitude, ability, and any special educational needs they may have.
- If you would like to offer any *specific examples of learning* -

⁴ Children Act 1989 (as amended), Sections 17 and 47

⁵ Education Act 1996, Section 436A (inserted by the Education and Inspections Act 2006)

e.g. pictures/paintings/models, diaries of work, projects, assessments, samples of work, books, educational visits etc, - we would be happy to view them. Some of our home education consultants have been privileged to hear children read their own poetry; listen to musical instruments being played and even be an audience for a play!

- Our EHE consultants are trained, not only in the law on home education but also in understanding the *varied range and philosophies* of home education.
- We find that the majority of parents report that the visits are helpful and/or reassuring despite initial worries that some new home educators may have about it.
- The government guidance document for LA's, on EHE, offers the following as examples of evidence you could provide;
 - write a report;
 - provide samples of your child's work;
 - invite the local authority representative to your home, with or without your child being present;
 - meet the local authority representative elsewhere, with or without your child.

Parents have no duty to comply with requests for information by the LA and/or an EHE consultant to show they are providing a suitable for their child. However, it is sensible for parents to do so (*Philips v Brown [1980]*). If parents provide no information or insufficient information, the LA will have to consider and reasonably decide whether it appears to it that parents have fulfilled their duty in providing a suitable education under section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

Q What if the LA Consultant is not satisfied with the education I have arranged?

A We find that the vast majority of initial home education visits result in the LA being satisfied that parents meeting their legal duties.
After the discussion with the consultant s/he will write a summary of the main points (*Record of Visit*) and send a copy to you. *You do not have to produce a report – unless you want to.*

If the consultant considers you are *not* meeting your legal duty to ensure a full-time education, suitable for your child's age ability, aptitude and any special educational need they may have, *they will tell you and explain the reasons why*, e.g. no tangible or clear evidence of suitable education. The Record of Visit will state that you are not meeting your legal duties.

The consultant will make some practical suggestions as to how the provision may be improved so that it becomes suitable.

A follow-up visit will be arranged, within an agreed period of time [between 1-3 months] to discuss what progress you have made has been made.

Each case will be considered on an individual basis by the LA.

Q What if, after the agreed period of time, the LA Consultant is still not satisfied with the provision?

A In very rare cases if, after a number of discussions we consider that your child is not receiving a suitable education we may refer you to the Education Welfare Service (EWS) who may, apply for a School Attendance Order (SAO) requiring your child to attend the school named in the order. This is the formal intervention stage.

Not ensuring that your child attends school would then become an offence in schools under the Education Act 1996.

Under Section 437 of the Education Act 1996-

(1) If it appears to a local authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance or at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring him to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education.

(2) That period shall not be less than 15 days beginning with the day on which the notice is served.

If a parent fails to comply with the notice served by the LA at (1) above and it is in the

opinion of the LA that it is expedient that the child should attend school, it is only at this stage when the LA can serve on the parent a SAO.

At any stage following the issue of the Order you may present evidence to the LA that you are now providing an appropriate education and apply to have the Order revoked. In Derbyshire, we only take out SAOs as a *last resort*, after all reasonable steps have been taken to resolve the situation.

Q Will the LA Consultant give me any practical support?

A The LA is not funded from central government to provide *support* for elective home education and therefore will not be able to provide you with practical support, resources or educational materials. However *in the context of partnership* with you, the consultant will offer some suggestions for development. There are also a wide range of addresses and useful websites in the LA guidance document. If you have not received this, please phone the EHE team, on 01629 532843 or 532803, who will send you one, or email us on cs.ehe@derbyshire.gov.uk

Q What happens if I don't want to meet the EHE consultant, with my child?

A Although the LA has no legal right to see your child or visit your home, in relation to EHE, we have a statutory duty to assure ourselves that the educational provision you arrange is suitable.

The Derbyshire approach to EHE is based on a principle of promoting an active dialogue with home educating parents and working in partnership with them. We have long established positive relationships with our home educating families. We therefore offer an *informal home visit*, with a consultant, the parents and the child. If you would rather meet at a neutral venue, this can be arranged.

If you choose *not* to meet the consultant, then in order to fulfil our legal responsibilities we will ask you to provide *alternative evidence* of the way in which you are fulfilling your statutory duties. The type of evidence that *would satisfy us* could include:

- a *detailed description* of the provision, including your (or other significant carers) involvement;
- a recognition of your child's *needs, attitudes and aspirations*;
- what *opportunities* you provide for your child to be stimulated by their learning experiences and
- the *resources/ materials* you provide for their education.

If you do provide evidence that convinces us that you are providing suitable provision we will write to you *to confirming that we are satisfied* that you are meeting your legal duties.

The Derbyshire Approach to EHE includes establishing a *regular dialogue* with our home educating families. Approximately 12 months after our initial acceptance of the suitability of provision, we will again offer a visit with one of our EHE consultants. This is because your child will have developed, emotionally, socially and educationally over the year, as should the provision you arrange. If you choose not to meet the consultant the following year, we will expect the evidence you provide us to show your *child's educational progress*.

Our experience shows that it is *easiest for parents to provide sufficient evidence by meeting and talking to one of our consultants*.

If you have any concerns about meeting the consultant and would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact: The EHE team (01629 532843/532803) which is responsible for arranging visits with the consultants.

Q What should I consider, before I decide to home educate?

A First, be certain you are doing the *best thing for your child*. Talk it through with him or her and agree *how* you are going to arrange *suitable* provision which will meet his/her educational needs.

If you are withdrawing or thinking of withdrawing your child from school because they

are being *bullied*, you must talk it through with the school. All schools have an anti-bullying policy which states who the person responsible for dealing with bullying is. The policy should also tell you what to do if you are dissatisfied with the schools' approach to preventing or addressing bullying. This includes how to put your complaint in writing to the Chair of the school governors, or ultimately to the LA.

If you are withdrawing or thinking of withdrawing your child from school because you feel the school is not meeting their *educational needs*, you should discuss this with the school.

If you are considering home education because your child is *refusing to attend* school we would encourage you first to explore all other possibilities, through the school or the local Education Welfare Service. If you choose to home educate you will have to explain how you will ensure that the education is appropriate to your child's age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.

The reasons why families choose to home educate are varied and the decision to home educate is unlikely to be taken lightly. Parents may wish to provide for their child's education in a different environment or by using different methods than those used in school or feel that the child is not yet ready to attend school.

The education of a child at home can be very rewarding and demands a serious commitment of time, patience, energy and the ability to provide appropriate stimulation and resources. You will need to consider what skills or time you can offer or whether you need to find an appropriate teacher/tutor or other form of support.

If you do choose the home education route for your child, it is important that you fulfil your legal duty to ensure that your child does receive *suitable full-time education*.

If you cannot demonstrate that you are fulfilling your legal duty, we will make further enquiries and consider more formal action.

Q What if my child has Special Educational Needs?

A If your child is on a *school roll* and the school identifies that they have special educational needs, then depending on the level of need the school should provide extra support in the classroom.

If your child is not on a school roll i.e. home educated, there is currently *no funding to support you, or your child's* special educational needs. The law states that, *you*, the parent/s need to be able to convince the Local Authority (LA) that *you* can make suitable provision for your child whether they have any special educational needs, or not.

Children with Education, Health Care (EHC) Plans

Where a child has an EHC Plan and is home-educated, the local authority still has a duty to ensure there is a statutory Annual Review to assess whether the EHC Plan is still appropriate.

Recommendations to amend or cease the EHC Plan have to be considered by the LA. Even if the LA is satisfied that suitable provision is being made, the LA remains under a duty to maintain the EHC Plan and review it annually, unless it can be shown that the objectives of the EHC Plan have been achieved.

There is a right of appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal if the LA decides not to amend the EHC Plan, or decides to cease the EHC Plan.

In Derbyshire the Elective Home Education Consultant will normally undertake the Annual Review, *as part of the home education visit*.

Parents of a child who has an EHC plan and is a registered pupil at a *special school* must obtain the consent of the LA before removing him/her from school to start home education.⁶

Q What about GCSE examinations?

A Home educated children can take GCSEs, but this invariably *costs money*.

Taking GCSEs privately

⁶ Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, Regulation 8(2)

Home educating families have a variety of experiences regarding GCSE examinations:

- In the majority of cases if a young person wants to take a GCSE which requires an exam, the exam has to be taken at an *approved* exam centre usually a secondary school or post 16 provider. As a home educator you will have to contact the provider directly. You should contact individual examination boards in order to find out the precise way in which they handle private candidates. Making contact with one of the home education support organisations for advice on GCSEs can be most useful.
- You will have to pay for any exam registration fee and assessment of coursework by an accredited person. At the time of writing, the registration fee for a GCSE exam is approximately £30 -£35.
- Correspondence courses are also available, although they can be expensive (about £300+ per subject).
- Some GCSE courses are offered by Derbyshire Adult Community Education centres from time to time. Some of these Centres offer the facility for pre-16 year olds to attend adult courses, but again you will have to contact them directly for clarification and pay any necessary fees.
- You and your child will need to consider long-term job/career aspirations, *before deciding whether they actually need to study GCSEs*. GCSE exams are not necessarily a pre-requisite to higher levels of formal education but may be a requirement for some post-16 college courses and types of employment.
- A placement at a College of Further Education is a legal possibility, depending on the current national and local funding for under sixteen year old students. *In Derbyshire there is currently no funding available for this*. It is worth noting that once a pupil is 16 years of age, they can enrol on a wide range of adult courses, including GCSEs, A/AS level exams.
- If your child wants to go on to Higher Education, universities do not necessarily expect GCSEs, - A-level grades are more important. Universities do not discriminate against home educated applicants as they often view home educated children as motivated self-learners.
- If you want your child to take GCSEs, *at no cost*, they will need to be *on a school roll*. To enable them to be on a school roll for Year 10 and Year 11, you should start the process *the preceding autumn*. A growing number of schools actually start some GCSEs in Y9. You should contact the Schools Admission team on 01629 537479 for advice

Q Will my child miss the social aspect of school?

A Some children may miss the daily contact with friends at school. Others will be happy to see their old school friends outside school hours, as well as making new friends. Many home educating families have a wide circle of like minded friends and have contacts with other home educated children of all ages. You will need to consider the social development of your child, which would be enhanced through sharing activities with other children. Joining a variety of clubs and special interest groups etc, can prove very enriching, as can mixing with and sharing skills with other people of all ages.

Will my child still be entitled to careers advice?

A The national Careers Service is a free careers service for young people aged 13 and over. Advice and guidance can be accessed via telephone and online. The confidential service helps children make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> / tel: 0800 100900

Derbyshire County Council's Multi-Agency Team (MAT) Personal Adviser (PA)
MAT PAs are independent and give impartial advice. They're trained to look at each

young person's situation and then give information, advice and practical support to meet their needs. For example, this could involve:

- provide information about occupations and entry requirements.
- offer advice to help find the right learning opportunity to enter at 16, and support young people with any personal issues that might be affecting their career plans or progress.

If you do not wish us to pass your child's name and address to the Multi-Agency Team Personal Adviser, please put this in writing to cs.ehe@derbyshire.gov.uk

Q Should I withdraw my child from school for home education to prevent him/her being permanently excluded?

A *No* - if your child *is permanently excluded* the LA will still have a duty to provide alternative educational provision, either locally or through the Home Tuition Service. If you take your child off school roll *then you will be legally responsible for his/her educational provision.*

The Education Inclusion Service can provide support and guidance if your child is in danger of being excluded – 01629 533529/535802

Q Can I get advice from the LA before I make the decision to home educate?

A Yes of course you can. Before making the decision to home educate, you can contact the EHE team on 01629 532843/532803

Q What financial support is available to me if I home educate my child?

A Parents who choose home education must take *full financial responsibility* for their child's education, including the cost of any public exams. This is the same for parents who choose to send their child to private school. There is no public funding. However there are a number of home education organisations you can join who offer support. [see below]

Q Who can help me?

A If you decide to home educate your child, we suggest you make contact with one of the home-education support agencies for advice, or check the information on their website.
www.educationeverywhere.co.uk Tel: 01942 897779
www.education-otherwise.org Tel: 0845 478 6345
www.heas.org.uk Tel: 01707 371854

Q Do I have to follow the National Curriculum?

A *No* - you do not need to follow the National Curriculum. The programme you arrange should meet the needs of your child, depending on their *age, aptitude, ability and any special educational needs.* Following the National Curriculum may be one of the ways of meeting their needs. The subjects of the National Curriculum form a broad and balanced range of subjects and you can use them as a guide if you wish. *Following the National Curriculum may make it easier for your child if they ever wish to return to school.* The content of the National Curriculum can be obtained from <http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk> The government intends to slim down the National Curriculum in the near future but current content may still be useful as a guide.

Q Do I need to construct a timetable?

A *Not necessarily.* There is no one form of education as children learn in many different ways, at different times and speeds and from different people. Your home education programme will not necessarily follow a set or regular timetable, but the LA considers it

good practice for there to be *some structure and routine* to the learning and that there is *some record kept*.

Many new home educators start with a subject timetable to guide them. You do not have to keep records of work or date them, but if you do it will help you and your child to see what progress s/he is making. As you and your child get used to home education, you will be able to develop the most useful or preferred approaches to learning.

Q What is the local authority's role in keeping you child safe?

A The LA has statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under the Children Act 1989 (as amended) and the Section 175(1) of the Education Act 2002. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and there is an expectation that *all* those who come into contact with children and families, in their everyday work, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Sections 17 and 47 of the Children's Act, allows local authorities to *see children* in appropriate circumstances, in order to enquire about their welfare. In Derbyshire, our trained EHE consultants visit the child and the parent to discuss their home education provision. Although the primary purpose of the EHE consultant visit is to ensure that the parents are fulfilling their *statutory educational duties*, the visit allows us to also *meet our safeguarding duties*.

If the EHE consultant has *significant concerns* about the safety or well-being of the child, they will exercise reasonable discretion and may tell the parent verbally and record the concerns in the consultants' Record of Visit. The consultant may then make a referral to Social Care with or without parents' consent and knowledge.

STEPS IN THE DERBYSHIRE EHE PROCESS

Once the LA becomes aware that a parent is home-educating or intends to home educate:

Step 1	We will send you an initial letter enclosing the LA Guidance on Elective Home Education and explaining what will happen next.
Step 2	We will allocate an Elective Home Education Consultant and write to you with a date for them to visit you. The initial visit is so that you can explain your personal philosophy on home education and give details of your plans for ensuring your child will receive an appropriate education. If the date is inconvenient you should phone 01629 532843 or 01629 532803 to arrange an alternative one.
Step 3	The Elective Home Education Consultant will come on the pre-arranged date to talk with you about how you are providing for your child's education. It is helpful if you have some evidence of the educational programme e.g: resources used, timetable, subjects, projects undertaken, examples of your child's work etc. If you are new to home education we understand that there may be limited evidence. We would ask you to show, by whatever means you can, what you have or intend to arrange for your child's education.
Step 4	At the visit the consultant will consider any evidence you have. S/he will make notes of the discussion, which will be typed up as a record of the visit. If you ask them to, the consultant will make some suggestions for further improvement. The majority of home educators have clear reasons for choosing home education and can easily satisfy the consultant that they have suitable plans in place. If the consultant is satisfied that you are providing, or have clear plans to provide, a suitable education for your child, s/he will tell you and a follow-up visit will be made

	approximately 12 months later.
Step 5	Two copies of the record of visit will be sent to you. You will be asked to read the record to ensure its accuracy, sign one copy and return it to us (with any suggested amendments) and keep the other for your records.
Step 6	Approximately 12 months after the visit, we will write to you again with a proposed date for a follow-up visit to discuss your child's educational progress.
Step 7	If the consultant considers that you are not providing, or cannot provide a suitable education, they will tell you and arrange a further visit. If after further visits the consultant considers that you are still not providing, or cannot provide an suitable education the matter will be referred to the Education Welfare Service to consider more formal action.

If, as a result of any visit the Consultant has major educational, health, welfare or social concerns, in the interest of the child, they may refer them to the appropriate education/safeguarding or social care department.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

DERBYSHIRE CONTACTS

Derbyshire Education Improvement Service

The Centre for School Improvement
John Hadfield House
Dale Road
Matlock
DE4 3RD

Derbyshire Education Improvement Service is responsible for arranging and managing the visits to parents who elect to educate their child at home.

For any queries about home education please phone: **01629 532843 or 01629 532803**

Email: cs.ehe@derbyshire.gov.uk

Call Derbyshire – **0845 6058058** - any enquiries about Derbyshire County Council

www.derbyshire.gov.uk - links to all County Council departments.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/toodoo - lists what is on in Derbyshire, places to go, how to get there

Derbyshire Information, Advice and Support Service (DIASS)

If your child has special educational needs, has been excluded from school or is at risk of being excluded and want some impartial advice and support, then contact the DIASS on 01629 533660

Further information is available on: dias.service@derbyshire.gov.uk

Derbyshire Children's Centres

Children's Centres are key to the Derbyshire County Councils commitment to improving outcomes for all children and young people in Derbyshire. Children's Centres are more than a building. They work to bring services together to improve outcomes for all children. They are particularly aimed at children under 5 years of age, but can also contribute to improving

outcomes for older young people. Many of the Centres run programmes for children and parents, which home educators are able to access. The Children's Centres are bases in Sure Start Centres. Call in to your local Sure Start Children's Centre to see what is available

Addresses and phone numbers of Children's Centres are on the Derbyshire County Council website or can be obtained from **Call Derbyshire – 0845 6058058**

Child Health Services

School Nurses within Derbyshire work to deliver the healthy child programme, ensuring that every child has the opportunity for a healthy start in life, as well as access to universal health services, which include core contacts and immunisations. The school nurse service can be accessed by any child or young person who is in mainstream, special educational provision, or who is home educated.

For more detailed information, including contact details for staff in each locality please go to the website <http://www.derbyshireschoolnurses.org.uk/>

Derbyshire school nurses also have a Facebook page 'Derbyshire school age teams' that can be accessed by young people and their families.

You should let your GP know that you are home educating so that they can provide information, guidance and advice about routine health checks.

Immunisation Services for school age children and young people

The School Aged Immunisation Service will need to be aware that your child is being electively home educated so that they can invite you to attend for the routine school aged immunisations. If you have recently started to educate your child at home or have not had contact with the service in the past it is important to let us know so that we can add your child's details to the system and offer the service.

Please email DCHST.ChildrensAdminTeam@nhs.net

If you would prefer to contact us by phone please call 01246 299933 (Admin North)
01773 525059 (Admin South)

The following vaccinations are currently offered to children and young people of school age

School age flu vaccination

- All children in reception and school years 1,2,3,4 and 5 are offered the nasal spray flu vaccine every year during the autumn/winter.

HPV – Cervical cancer vaccination

- Girls aged 12 to 13 years are offered two dose of HPV vaccination between 6 and 24 months apart.

Tetanus, diphtheria and polio and Meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y

- All young people aged 14 years or school year 9.

The schedule does change from time to time and the most up to date information about school vaccinations can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/>. For more information or to access vaccinations please contact the school immunisation team on Immunisations North 01246 252953. Immunisation team South 01283 707178

HOME EDUCATION CONTACTS

Christian Home School	www.homeschool.co.uk A Christian based site, with a range of interesting resources and links.
Education Everywhere	Website: www.educationeverywhere.co.uk An information sharing service, primarily based around a Helpline E-mail: info@educationeverywhere.co.uk ☎ 01942 897779
Education Otherwise Association Limited 125 Queen Street Sheffield South Yorkshire S1 2DU	Website: www.education-otherwise.org Email: eoemailhelpline@education-otherwise.org Helpline: ☎ 0845 478 6345 Nationwide charity for home education information and support. Subscription of £25 in the first year, £20 in subsequent years also entitles members to receive a handbook, UK and overseas contact list and bi-monthly newsletter, access to further resources, special interest and local groups and national gatherings.
Freedom in Education	www.freedom-in-education.co.uk Independent website with news, articles, links and information about alternatives in education.
Home Education Advisory Service P.O. Box 98 Welwyn Garden City Herefordshire AL8 6AN	Website: www.heas.org.uk E-mail: enquiries@heas.org.uk ☎ 01707 371854 HEAS produces a range of publications and leaflets on different aspects of home education. Annual subscription (currently £16) gives access to the Advice-line, quarterly magazine, card for educational discounts, resources for loan and a regional list of other subscribers.
Home Education in the UK	www.home-ed.co.uk A Christian based site but open to all. A range of “info”, “articles”, “insight”, “giggles”, “links”. Free subscription, via Yahoo.
Home Education Resources	www.home-education-resources.co.uk Site with lots of education resources for home educating families.

Home Education Organisation	www.home-education.org.uk An impressive website with almost all a home educator needs to know about home education. A range of support and information, from legal matters, to events, to ongoing research and to free resources and software.
Muddle Puddle	www.muddlepuddle.co.uk This is an independent website compiled by a home educator. It is mainly focused on learning for children aged 0-8 years old, home education and parenting support.
The Home Service 48, Heaton Moor Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 4NX	www.home-service.org ☎ 0161 432 3782 (Annual Prescription £20 per family) A national Christian home education group, who for an annual subscription provide support, a quarterly newsletter, national members contact list, free annual NfER testing for children, negotiated rates for educational sites nationwide etc. They also organise an annual HE conference in September, with various guest speakers and a range of educational activities for children to take part in.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

Derbyshire LA commissioned local home educators to review and describe the following websites.

Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the details below are correct, Derbyshire LA has reproduced these in good faith, and does not guarantee their accuracy. The Derbyshire LA is not responsible for the content of websites listed below.

GENERAL

www.cornucopia.org.uk

An online database of what is available in museums, galleries, archives and libraries.

www.educationcity.com

Subscription service with a free trial.

www.educationwebsites.co.uk

Links to a huge number of education websites.

www.examtutor.com

Relatively cheap subscription tutor service, for secondary age. Starts at £19.99 for first subject then £5 for additional ones.

www.google.com/educators

Massive American portal on education.

www.havefunteaching.com

American website with worksheets, flash cards, games and resources.

www.howstuffworks.com

Answers to wide range of questions with games and puzzles.

www.lettsed.co.uk

Well known revision guides, covering all ages and National Curriculum subjects.

www.listening-books.org.uk

Postal and internet based audio-book library service.

www.netmums.com

Local networking site for mums includes things to do and arts and crafts.

www.parentsintouch.co.uk

Parents help site. Geared for supporting parents of children at school but with useful resources.

www.printfreegraphpaper.com

Different types of printable graph paper for science, maths and crafts work.

www.schoolnet.org.uk

Powerful search engine for any subject you wish to research. It provides links to web pages with the best resources and information.

www.schoolzone.co.uk

Described as the UK's top educational site – huge range of activities, lesson plans etc. Education events in the UK.

www.student-support.co.uk

The Student Support Centre offers personalised learning programmes for pupils aged 4-17, in English and mathematics.

www.teachernet.gov.uk

Extensive range of lesson plans and resources for learning. Online debates feature top educational officials. Local community section with links to museums, libraries etc.

www.teachers.tv

Programmes for teachers with a wide range of practical ideas.

www.teachervision.fen.com

American site with lesson plans, printables and resources.

www.topmarks.co.uk

Link to a huge variety of games and resources, divided by range and subject.

www.what2learn.com

Interactive learning resources and games

HOME EDUCATION SPECIFIC

www.donnayoung.org

American website offering free home schooling planners, calendars, planners etc.,

www.freedom-in-education.co.uk

Free subscription news letter for home educating families. Not recently updated.

www.home-ed-magazine.com

Although American based [different laws to the UK] this site has some interesting resources and links.

www.primaryhomeeducation.co.uk

Comprehensive and flexible learning programme specifically for home schooling families in UK and abroad. Covers English, Maths and science and includes tutor support.

www.questia.com

Online subscription to a large repository of books.

www.schoolhouse.org.uk

Scottish home education website.

www.thenuk.com

Network of support for home education families.

www.witsendcs.com

Very structured home education learning resource programme. Each subject costs £300-£500.

HOME EDUCATION FAITH GROUPS

www.islamichomeeducation.co.uk

Islamic home schooling advisory network with forums and teaching activities.

PRIMARY AGE

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

Wide ranging educational site based on nature [videos, activities and games].

<http://pbskids.org>

American educational, music games and colouring activities site for younger children.

www.123coloring.com

Portal to open up a range of hundreds of pages of colouring and web links.

www.activityvillage.co.uk

Thousands of educational and fun activities.

www.atschool.co.uk

Primary National Curriculum and Early Years subscription resource website. £29.00 annual subscription.

www.cbeebies.co.uk

Early years fun and games, stories and rhymes, printing and colour, make and do, music and songs.

www.edheads.org

American, slightly off-the-wall interactive site with free online activities about machines and hard to teach concepts. It's fun, entertaining, educational and some good resources.

www.edhelper.com

An American subscription site providing a range of literacy and numeracy worksheets, based on themes.

www.happychild.org.uk

Range of activities including section on accelerated learning techniques, detailed guide to children's books and entertainment e.g. Pokemon and Harry Potter plus features on issues concerning "less fortunate" children.

www.pbskids.org

Huge American website including music, games and colouring for younger children.

www.primaryclassroomresources.co.uk

Resources to buy and download.

www.primaryresources.co.uk

Free resources, lots of ideas on every National Curriculum subject from maths resources to songs to learn. Rather complicated front page for each subject but worth persevering.

www.teachingideas.co.uk

Curriculum ideas and resources. Primary phase activities galore, plus book reviews as the best in recent educational books for adults and children.

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/

Free resources, activities and Interactive games based on the school's curriculum.

SECONDARY AGE

www.eriding.net/amoore

Unusual but fascinating, free, personal resource website, set up by Andrew Moore in support of the "open source movement". Deals primarily with the study of English Literature at GCSE and A level, with some drama, history, ICT and scripture studies.

www.gcse.com

GCSE revision guides.

www.homeworkelephant.co.uk

Mainly secondary age links to help with homework.

www.littleearthur.org.uk

This small independent school on the Isles of Scilly, offers Home Educators Packs for KS3 English, maths and science [£120 per subject] and international GCSE courses [£170 per subject] in a range of subjects with distance learning and exam facilities offered.

Further details from www.homeeducationspecialists.org.uk

www.northstaruk.org

Christian, online learning community for secondary education. Full tutorial service for GCSEs and A levels. Approx £140 for curriculum courses per subject, £292 for GCSEs.

www.revision-notes.co.uk

Free GCSE and A level revision notes.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

www.autismsupport.co.uk

Derbyshire Autism Services Group, 28d High Street, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 3HH
A parent led, parent run, voluntary group. Includes befriending schemes, family support, parent and local groups, short breaks and respite, social groups and social skills.

www.he-special.org.uk

Home education support for parents of children with special educational needs.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC

Art and Crafts

www.accessart.org.uk

Practical and inspirational visual arts resources.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/art/

Free GCSE study site. Videos on graphics, photography and sculpture. Exploration of artists.

www.childrensscrapstore.co.uk

Reasonable prices art and craft materials

www.flying-pig.co.uk

Fun automated models to make from kits provided at reasonable prices.

www.specialistcrafts.co.uk

Massive range of art and craft material, at reasonable prices. Free catalogue to home educators – Specialist Crafts Ltd, PO Box 247, Leicester, LE1 9Qs.

Tel: 01162 697711.

Geography

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize

Free GCSE geography study site. Topics videos and revision exercises.

www.countryreports.org

260 countries profiled, with historical, geographical and political information, maps, opportunities to join online discussions about hot issues.

www.eduplace.com/ss/maps

Printable outline maps.

www.nationalgeographic.com

Huge portal for information about the natural world.

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/education

Wide range of teaching and learning resources on maps

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone

Interactive mapping tools, free downloads, on-line photograph gallery, games, homework help

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freefun

Geographical games, maps and resources.

www.printablemaps.net

Free printable maps of countries.

History

www.bbc.co.uk/history

Wide range of information about historical events

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history

Free GCSE history study site. Modern World History, Schools History Project, British Social and Economic History and revision exercises.

www.brimms.co.uk/romans

www.brimms.co.uk/tudors

Interactive, light-hearted primary site with tutorials, fascinating facts and quizzes about Romans and Tudors.

www.channel4.com/history

Historical TV programmes which can be watched online

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education

Government sponsored history website.

www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk

Dedicated to history with a wealth of information, biographies of key historical figures and “hot words” linking to different themes and time periods.

ICT

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ict/

Free GCSE study site. Includes systems, hardware, software, communications, data measurement etc.

www.teach-ict.com

Mainly subscription service but some free activities

Languages

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french

Free GCSE study site. Revision activities for listening, reading, speaking, writing and grammar.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german

Free GCSE study site. Revision activities for listening, reading, speaking, writing and grammar.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish

Free GCSE study site. Revision activities for listening, reading, speaking, writing and grammar.

www.skoldo.com

French primary age work books.

Maths

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/maths

Free GCSE study site. Algebra, data handling and number.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/maths

Free KS3 study site. Number, algebra, handling data handling and measures.

www.mathsblog.co.uk

Web link to primary maths resources.

www.mathscats.com/contents.html

Link to a range of maths sites.

www.mathsisfun.com

American so money sums are in dollars.

www.pfeg.org

Website to help schools teach financial capability, but good resources for all children.

www.rhlschool.com/mathematics.htm

Basic free maths sheets.

www.teachingtables.co.uk

Link to worksheet (interactive) Home user download (£10 plus vat).

Music

www.themusicland.co.uk

Musical education website with study guides for purchase

PE

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/pe

Sports videos, performance and basic anatomy and physiology.

www.getbodysmart.com

Free online textbook about human anatomy and physiology.

RE

www.al-islam.org

Online library of resources about Islam

www.reonline.co.uk

Family of RE websites, for all ages. Information and resources about different religions, topics and festivals

www.request.org.uk

Free website for teaching about Christianity in RE

www.sikhs.org

Website explaining the Sikh religion

Science

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com>

Science based website with links.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science

Free GCSE study site. Topics for different exam boards.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/science

Free KS3 study site. Organisms, chemical and materials behaviour, energy and electricity, the environment, the Earth and the universe.

www.cellsalive.com

Film and computer enhanced images of living cells and organisms

www.creative-chemistry.org.uk

Activities for all ages. Worksheets and quizzes.

www.explainthatstuff.com/activities.html

Range of science experiments that can be done at home

www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer/index.html

Family science experiments

www.garden-birds.co.uk

British garden birds website with photos, sounds and habitat information

www.howtoteachscience.com

Website for teachers with some useful links.

www.kids-science-experiments.com

Long list of scientific investigation/experiments that can be done at home

www.medtropolis.com/VBody.asp

Interactive site on at the human body; the skeleton; the human heard and the digestive tract

www.naturegrid.org.uk

Canterbury environmental education centre website with wildlife information, activity sheets and investigations

www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only/index.html

Natural History Museum website for children

www.nutrition.org.uk

British Nutrition Foundation site with information on healthy living and nutritional science.

www.omsinfo.com/explore

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry website with online science activities and resources

www.periodicvideos.com

A wonderfully wacky site with science videos, produced by Nottingham University. Videos about all the elements on the periodic table, a range of explanatory videos and experiments: molecules; penicillin; crude oil; frog poison; exploding cakes and smashing pumpkins.

www.planet-science.com

Fabulous science website with an almost endless range of fun science activities to do at home – regularly updated reviews of other science websites, weekly newsletter with focus on hot topics in the news.

www.rigb.org

The Royal Institution of Great Britain science website. Many parts to the site which includes computer generated educational games.

www.sciencekids.co.nz

New Zealand website with experiments, facts, quizzes, projects, lessons, images, videos

www.sciencemadesimple.com

Science site which answers many questions that children ask. – Why is the sky blue? etc.

Projects and experiments to try.

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Although based in London entry is free and there are many events and resources available

www.sciencenewsforkids.org

Site for children aged 9-13, with plenty of resources and ideas for hands-on activities, with 6 zones; Puzzle; Game; Sci-fi; SciFair; Lab; Teacher.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

BBC Education:

BBC Education provides a very wide range of useful information and links useful to pupils and parents of home educators

Website: www.bbc.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/learning/

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/

BBC Learning Zone

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone

Overnight programmes on BBC 2 covering a wide range of subjects. To get a free copy of the latest programme details, send a self-addressed A4 envelope, with stamps to the value of 34p, to the above address

Channel 4 learning

Online education resources, games and activities for primary and secondary schools.

www.channel4learning.com

Co-ordination Group Publications] [CGP]

Kirkby-in-Furness,

Cumbria

LA17 7WZ

Website: www.cpgbooks.co.uk

☎ 0870 750 1252

Good value study and workbooks for all ages. Home educators can buy these at the reduced school price.

Joint Council for GCSEs

Devas Street

Manchester M15 6EX

☎ 0161 935 7557

Contact for the address of the examining boards

Kumon

Educational uk.co.Limited

11 Raven Wharf

Lafone Street

London

SE1 2LR

Kumon method of study focuses on developing maths and English **learning skills through** study centre-based programmes and worksheets.

www.kumon.co.uk

☎ **0800 854 714**

MELETO

88 Lyndhurst Road
London
N22 5AT

An excellent online tutorial programme for primary or secondary aged learners. Currently it only covers maths, but English and science are planned. There are various subscription rates. A full course. For a year is £48. A free trial is available before signing up
www.meleto.co.uk

National Association of Gifted and Talented Children

A support group for gifted and talented children. Membership is £30 for an individual and £35 for a family

NACT

Suite 12
Challenge House
Sherwood Drive
Bletchley
Milton Keynes
MK3 6DP

☎ 0845 450 0295 or 01908 646433

Website: www.nagcbrtain.org.uk

National Extension College[NEC]

Michael Young Centre
Purbeck Road
Cambridge
CB2 2HN

£30 discount for home educators who are members of Education Otherwise or Home Education Advisory Service

☎ 0800 389 2839

Website: www.nec.ac.uk/courses

Email: info@nec.ac.uk

National Curriculum

The complete National Curriculum on line:

Website: <http://www.curriculum.qcda.gov.uk/>

National Curriculum information

Network Educational Press Ltd

PO Box 635
Stafford
ST16 1BF

☎ 01785 225515

A range of educational books. "Help Your Child Succeed" – Bill Lucas and Alistair Smith is useful for parents.

Oxford Home Schooling

☎ 0800 0 111 024

Distance learning programmes for KS3 and GCSEs, with tutor support and marking. Courses range from £350-£495 per subject. The more subjects the cheaper it works out. Payments can be spread over the year

Website: www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk

Parents Centre

Web-based information and support for parents on how to help your child's learning

Website: www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/index.htm

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency

53-55 Butts Road
Earlsdon Park
Coventry
CV1 3BH

☎ 0300 303 3010

Website: www.qcda.gov.uk

For information regarding the National Curriculum and GCSE coursework.

World-Wide Education Service

Waverley House
Penton
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA6 5QU

The World-Wide Education Service supplies nursery, primary and secondary courses for children aged 3 -13 years living all over the world. Parents teach their children at home following a UK-based National Curriculum. The service consists of three elements:

- a range of courses/subjects broken down into lesson plans that parents can teach and adapt to their child's needs.
- a personal Home School Tutor to support the parent throughout the year.
- regular assessment of the child's progress by the WES tutor. Cost of course fees, books and delivery available on request.

Website: www.weshome.com

☎ 01228 577123

Email: office@weshome.com

ADDRESSES FOR THE UNITARY AWARDING BODIES

Assessment and Qualifications Alliance [AQA]

Devas Street, Manchester, M15 6EX

☎ 0161 953 1180 (For an entrance pack) 0161 953 1170 (for a publications pack)

Website: www.aqa.org.uk Email: mailbox@aqa.org.uk

Procedure is to apply to the exam board as a private candidate. It is important to understand that centres are under no obligation to accept private candidates at all. AQA will send a pack and a list of centres that have previously accepted private candidates. The candidate approaches one of these centres. The centre will enter them, and pay the fees and the candidate reimburses them.

EDEXCEL

Edexcel Customer Services,
190 High Holborn London WC1V 7BH

☎ 0870 240 9800

Website: www.edexcel.org.uk : www.edexcel-international.org is providing the International GCSE in a range of subjects from summer 2005 Email: enquiries@edexcel.org.uk

EDEXCEL publishes its booklet "Information for Private Candidates" on its website. A full list of centres, which have indicated that they are willing to accommodate private candidates, is included in the booklet. Again there is no obligation for them to accept private candidates.

Oxford Cambridge and RSA [OCR]

1 Hills Rd Cambridge. CB4 1GC

☎ 01223 553998(for an entrance pack) 01223 551600 (for a publication pack)

Website: www.ocr.org.uk Email: helpdesk@ocr.org.uk

Procedures for entering - the candidate needs to find a school/centre for themselves, who is using OCR for the subjects they wish to take and that will accept them as a private candidate (not all schools do). The school/centre will enter them and pay the fees and the candidate reimburses the school

General Books on Home Education

Free Range Education: How Home Education Works	Edited by Terri Dowty
Learning without School: Home Education	Ross Mountney
How Children Learn at Home	Alan Thomas, Harriet Pattison
Teach Your Own: The John Holt Book of Homeschooling	John Holt, Pat Farenga
Getting Started in Home-education	Mary Ann Rose, Paul Stranbrook
Teach Yourself Home Education	Deborah Durbin
One-to-one: A Practical Guide to Learning at Home Age 0-11	Gareth Lewis, Lin Lewis
You Don't Have to Send Your Child to School: Parent's Guide to Home Education	Gareth Lewis
Unqualified Education: A Practical Guide to Learning at Home Age 11-18	Gareth Lewis
Home Educating Our Autistic Spectrum Children: Paths are made by walking	Terri Dowty
Freaks, Geeks and Asperger Syndrome: A User Guide to Adolescence	Luke Jackson
Homeschooling the Child with Asperger Syndrome: Real Help for Parents Anywhere and on Any Budget	Lise Pyles

**Appendix - The Derbyshire Approach to Elective Home Education (EHE)
Guidance for Parents/Carers**

The guidance document is due to be revised. However, in April 2018, the government launched a consultation:-

“The Department for Education (DfE) is calling for evidence to help consideration of whether the current arrangements for oversight of elective home education are adequate to fulfil the government’s aspiration that all children in England should receive a good education. It also seeks views on the proposed updating of departmental guidance on current arrangements for elective home education” (www.gov.uk). Therefore the Derbyshire Approach to EHE and this guidance document will be revised following the outcomes of the DfE consultation.

We totally recognise that it is a parental right to electively home educate. However we are finding that a number of parents are considering home education as a reaction to what they perceive is a school-based issue. If this is the case, we strongly advise you not to withdraw your child from school until you have explored all the options. There are school and other services which can help. Once your child is no longer registered at a school, you, as the parent are responsible for ensuring they have a full-time, suitable education. There are no automatic support services or resources for home education from the LA. From experience, some families have found the home education to be a greater challenge than they had anticipated and despite their efforts have not been able to provide a suitable education for their child. They have then found it difficult to access their preferred school place.

We work very hard to work in partnership with parents and have a positive relationship with many families. Our focus is on the good education all children should receive. We know about the home education offered to their children through our enquiries made to home educating parents. We acknowledge that there are times when families are under various pressures and this affects the child’s education wherever they are registered. When we are aware of other services, such as Early Help, Social Care or Health being involved, we will consider the potential or actual effect on the child’s education. In some of these circumstances, we will ask for additional information so that the suitability of child’s learning is considered. This request for information can be made at any time and where appropriate, before the school place is removed. Where parents do not provide the information or it appears that the parents are not providing a suitable education, a referral will be made to another council service for their action.