

Home Education Information for parents and carers.



This information sheet has been written to support families who are just starting their journey of home educating and those currently considering home education, as an approach to meeting the learning needs of their child or young person.

I am interested in registering my child for EHE, who do I contact?

You might want to start by speaking to the home education national support groups and other parents who home educate first, to hear the pros and cons of home educating. If you decide to go ahead then the procedure is as follows - if your child is currently on roll of a school, you may notify the school that you wish to home educate your child. You may also contact the council by emailing:

educationathome@kent.gov.uk. It is recommended that both parents (who hold parental responsibility) agree to home education. Ideally both parents should sign the letter prior to sending it to the school. If parents (with parental responsibility) do not both agree with the decision to home educate, the home education team will accept the decision of the parent with whom the child resides and will advise parents to seek guidance from the family court.

Am I legally obliged to inform my local authority that I want to educate my child at home?

The law does not currently require you to notify your local authority of your intentions to EHE. However, Kent County Council has a legal duty to ensure its resident children are receiving a suitable education and may intervene, regardless of registration, if it appears this is not being provided. It is therefore recommended that you register your intentions. For further information, Elective Home Education Guidance for parents and schools is provided to you and is available on the Council's website.

My child's current school has requested I remove my child from their roll and register as EHE, can they do this?

A school cannot request or advise a parent to de-register their child from the school to home educate. Any decision to home educate must be made by you. The responsibility to provide a suitable education to your child will be effective from the date after you remove your child from the school.

My child has special needs with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), can I still home educate my child?

You have a right to electively home educate your child if you wish. It remains the responsibility of Kent County Council if your child lives in Kent or the Local Authority where your child lives, to ensure that your child's needs are met. If your child is attending a special school, Kent County Council must give consent for your child's name to be removed from the school roll.

Will Kent County Council supply textbooks, exam papers etc.?

Kent County Council does not supply textbooks or arrange for exams. If you make the choice to home educate your child, you will be expected to pay for any exam fees, should you wish your child to sit them, and the cost of textbooks, tuition fees etc. There is no funding available to the parent from the Department of Education (DFE) or the Local Authority to assist with the related costs in delivering education at home. The Internet is a valuable resource and there are a range of free educational websites available to support learning at all levels. Links to some of these can be found on our website.

Kent County Council offers financial support with core English and Mathematics GCSE's for families who meet the following criteria;

August 2019

Home Education Information for parents and carers.



would be eligible for Free School Meals (if the child was on roll at a school)
have been home educating for two full consecutive years – which includes Year 10
and where evidence has been provided to the Local Authority that the child is working towards
the exam syllabus.

What happens if I want to enter my child for public exams?

For home schooled children who have studied for a public exam, like GCSEs or A levels, either independently, through a private tutor, or via a correspondence course, it is usually your own responsibility to find an exam centre, register for the exam, find a qualified person to assess coursework and enter examinations. Information regarding exam centres can be found on our website and on our Facebook page. It is important to contact examination officers to register your child as an external candidate and to establish the exam syllabus followed.

Am I required to follow the National Curriculum?

If you decide to home educate your child, it will be your responsibility to provide your child with a suitable full-time education programme that meets your child's needs according to age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs. There is no requirement for you to follow a prescribed curriculum. However, the education programme should be designed specifically to meet the educational needs of the individual child and should instill in the child the ability to read, write and cope with arithmetical problems.

Education must include not only literacy and numeracy but also life skills such as the ability to make well-balanced decisions; to resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner and develop healthy lifestyle, good social relationships and responsibility, critical thinking, creative talents and other abilities which give children the tools needed to pursue their life options. (Committee on the Rights of the Child 2001 Annex 9)

Families who chose to home educate follow a variety of educational approaches. Being home educated offers freedom outside of the classroom and parents can make use of local amenities and the great outdoors. Education can be more hands on and suited to kinaesthetic learners.

What might my child's learning routine look like?

The time allocated to your child's education will depend upon their age but, as a general rule, a minimum of five hours of purposeful and planned educational activity should be arranged each school day during normal school terms. In addition, there should be properly supervised individual work. You should consider the amount of time that it will be necessary for your child to be taught. It is a good idea to establish a routine and you should try each day to have varied activities. This is especially important for younger children who cannot concentrate for too long.

What about compulsory subjects?

Subjects are not compulsory - the National Curriculum applies only to schools. However, you will probably want to take account of the National Curriculum which specifies certain subjects. Planning your child's work is important and it is useful to develop a clear indication of the programme and methods of assessment. You might find it helpful to record what is achieved and use these records as a basis for discussing with the child his/her progress. It is important for your child's development that they have the chance to socialise with family, friends and other children of all ages, on a regular basis. Membership of a

Home Education Information for parents and carers.



young people's organisation should be considered to provide the opportunity for forming relationships in safe and comfortable surroundings. It may also be helpful to consider joining groups for the purpose of expressing any artistic or musical talents. As part of the educational and social experience, school often gives children access to museums, places of interest and different environments. You should consider outings and visits as an integral part of the learning process.

My child is on a school roll, what happens when I notify the school that I want to register my child to home education?

When a decision is made by a parent to home educate, the school will off-roll the child through Kent's Digital Front Door. Once the referral has been processed, an EHE Support & Advice Officer will make contact with the family to introduce themselves and to offer advice and guidance regarding resources and local services to support the family with their home education. The officer will offer an initial home visit followed by a review visit. Where the family have settled into home education and there is evidence of a well rounded education taking place, the allocated EHE Support and Advice Officer, will make contact once a year to offer a visit and request evidence that the family are still home educating and that contact details for the family remain the same.

EHE Support and Advice Officers meet with large numbers of home educating families on a regular basis and are therefore well placed to share new ideas, resources and promote good practice. The remit of the EHE Support and Advice Officers is to support families where necessary and offer advice to you to provide the best possible education for your child and satisfy the local authority's obligation to establish that a child is in receipt of suitable education.

What should I expect from the visit?

The visit will be conducted in your child's home or a mutually agreed venue, with the EHE Support And Advice Officer, yourself and your child. In the case of the visit taking place outside of the home a suitable venue, such as a library or children's centre, will normally be agreed. The visit will last approximately one hour. The EHE Support and Advice Officer will discuss your child's education, share samples of work completed, provide advice in relation to resources available in your district and will consider your child's opinions of their home education experience.

Can I provide evidence of home educating my child rather than agreeing to a visit?

If you choose not to meet with your allocated EHE Support and Advice Officer and your child does not meet KCC policy criteria, ~~they~~ you would ~~then~~ be asked to provide examples of the education that your child or young person is receiving. This could be in the form of a written overview or philosophy, with supporting evidence of the learning, which may include an education plan, a diary, photographs or copies of your child's work. KCC would also accept an endorsement from a qualified professional(s) involved in the delivery of the programme and who would be able to confirm that the education provided, in their view, is suitable.

What happens if it appears that my child's home education is unsuitable?

If an EHE Support and Advice Officer visits you and is unable to establish that your child is receiving a suitable education, they will make recommendations in their report and arrange a further visit within six weeks (no longer than one school term) to reassess the education. Alternatively, the Elective Home

Home Education Information for parents and carers.



Education Support and Advice Officer will support you if you wish your child to return to school. At the next visit if the provision is still deemed unsuitable, and KCC believes that there is insufficient evidence that a suitable education is being provided, a Notice will be served instructing your child to attend school, a School Attendance Order under Section 437 (3) of the Education Act 1996. If your child has an EHCP your child or young person will need to return to the provision named on their EHCP.

Do I receive a copy of the report form the visit?

You will be provided with a copy of the report within 28 days after the visit.

What information do you hold about my child on the EHE records?

The Fair Access service will hold your child's full name, date of birth, address, ethnicity, parent details and contact details, whether they have any special educational needs or disability or have an Education Health and Care plan. We also record dates of your last visit and any information shared with us by the school and yourself regarding your child's education plan and we would like to know why you have chosen to home educate your child. The home education teams privacy notice can be found at

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/access-to-information/gdpr-privacy-notice/education/elective-home-education-privacy-notice>.

How will the EHE Support and Advice Officer support me?

Kent County Council has collated a wealth of information regarding educational resources and local services that home educating families may find useful. The allocated EHE Support & Advice Officer will be able to discuss this and provide information during their visit. Copies of these materials and additional information can also be found on the KCC website.

The main sources of information and support for home educators are:

- **Our website** – www.kent.gov.uk/ehe
There is a variety of information available to you on the EHE webpage. Copies of KCC's EHE policy and this guidance document can be accessed and downloaded. There is also a resources section that includes useful links, information and resources regarding a number of topics.
- **Our Facebook Page** – <https://www.facebook.com/KCCEHE/>
The Elective Home Education Kent Facebook page is a platform for the EHE team to provide you with up to date information regarding national and local themed days and events. It is also used to share any relevant information and resources you may find useful.

Please note, KCC cannot and do not accept any responsibility for the quality or content of external websites parents may access.

- **Home Education Groups**
There are many home education groups set up to support home educating families. These offer educational activities, classes, and provide social interaction with a network of likeminded families. There are links to some home education groups on our webpage; others can be found on social media platforms like Facebook.
- **Youth Hubs** - <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/young-people/youth-hubs>

Home Education Information for parents and carers.



Youth hubs are places for young people to meet friends, hang out, have fun, try new things and also get information, support and advice. They offer a wide range of activities, clubs and day trips and the staff are on hand to provide information and advice about education, training and employment.

- **The Kent Libraries Service** - <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>
The Library is a valued resource and is widely and regularly used by home educating families to borrow books, access computers, online educational materials and use their printing facilities free of charge. Libraries also offer a number of clubs and activities to children and their families. You can apply for a library card that records that your child is home educated which will allow you to borrow more books than standard users.
- **Kent Children's University** - <http://www.kentchildrensuniversity.co.uk/cukent/home/>
The Children's University believes that children can and do learn anywhere, when doing all sorts of activities, and that children learn best when they decide what they want to learn, when and where, and most importantly, have FUN whilst learning.

They organise a range of enrichment activities and events for all children aged 5-14. Every child taking part in the Children's University has their own special 'Passport to Learning' which they use to collect activity stamps each time an event or venue is attended, or when a learning activity is undertaken. You can purchase a family membership. The price of annual membership is dependent upon the number of children in the family and ranges from £25 - £60 per year. Kent Children's University also have an active Facebook page that is a useful source of information regarding upcoming challenges and events <https://www.facebook.com/KentChildrensUniversity/>

- DFE Guidance for parents home educating
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>

Can children and young people who are home educated complete work-experience?

Children can benefit greatly from experiencing a real work environment, however, you must be assured they can do this safely and with the right level of support and guidance to hand.

KCC do not carry out risk assessments nor do they have insurance to cover work experience carried out by home educated young people and as such, unless the employer can evidence they have risk assessed and have the appropriate level of insurance required to have a young person on their premises; work experience **is not** recommended.

Are children and young people who are home educated allowed to work?

Children are of compulsory school age until the last Friday in June in the academic year in which they turn 16. Child employment legislation means that a child can only work for a set amount of hours and that work can only take place before or after school, at the weekends or during school holidays, this applies to all children. Any employer would need to apply for a license for your child prior to employment and ensure that risk assessments and appropriate insurance is in place. For more information about child employment (hours of work, prohibited employment etc). Search <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/activities-outside-school/child-employment>

Home Education Information for parents and carers.



It is important to stress that a young person who has had their 16th birthday and leaves school during Year 11 **is not** able to engage in full time work until the end of the academic year.

What post 16 options are available to young people who are home educated ?

Young people are required to engage in education, training, or employment with training, until the age of 18. This includes college, apprenticeships, employment with training, attending sixth form or volunteering. It becomes the young person's responsibility to engage in education after the last Friday in June in the academic year in which they turn 16, however, it is expected that you will continue to support your young person with identifying and accessing their chosen pathway. During Year 11 your young person will receive a login and password to allow them to access UCAS Progress, this is an online search engine that can be used to search and apply for college and sixth form courses. Further information can be found online at www.kent.gov.uk/ehe

Can home educated pupils access post 16 college courses?

Some colleges offer courses that do not require the young person to have any formal qualifications, however, most courses have entry requirements and a set number of GCSEs may form part of the requisite for an offer to be made.

The EHE Support & Advice Officers can signpost your young person to the Skills and Employability team who can offer careers advice and to help find a suitable post 16 placement for a young person. The referral would usually be submitted in the later stages of Year 11 if a young person is unsure of their options for the next academic year.

Young people already registered can continue to be home educated until they are 18 and KCC will continue to liaise with the family about an onward route to prevent the young person from becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).