

Elective Home Education

Introduction

This guidance is to help parents who are considering or are already educating their child at home, rather than at school. The education of a child at home is a significant responsibility for a family, it demands a serious commitment of time, patience and energy. We hope that this information will make clear the current legislation and it should be read together with [Medway Council's Elective Home Education policy](#). The questions and answers section in this document should assist you to reach the best decision for your child.

Do children have to go to school?

No. Education is compulsory but not necessarily by attendance at school. The 1996 Education Act states; **'it is the duty of parents to secure an appropriate full-time education for their children'**. Most parents carry out this duty by sending their child to school, but you might decide to take on the responsibility to educate your child yourself, by opting for *'elective home education.'*

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

The law requires all children to be educated from the start of the school term following their fifth birthday. However, most children will start school when they are four years old. The age when children may leave school is the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach 16. Between 16 and 18, children may leave school but only to continue through to the age of 18 in one of the following:

- work-based learning (e.g., as an apprentice or on a traineeship program).
- full-time education (at school or a college).
- part-time education or accredited training (spending at least 20 hours per week working or volunteering).
- full-time employment.

Do I need to be a teacher?

No. You do not need any formal qualifications to educate your child at home.

What are the parents' duties and responsibilities?

Under [section 7 of the 1996 Education Act](#) it is the parents' duty; **'to cause the child to receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise'**.

If you choose to electively home educate your child, you will be responsible for arranging the most appropriate curriculum for them and meeting the full cost of their education.

What is meant by efficient and suitable education?

Education is considered efficient and suitable when it enables children to achieve their full potential. This means that it must be age-appropriate, enable the child to make progress according to their level of ability and take account of their interests.

How many hours of teaching a week should my child receive when electively home educated?

Typical school hours are:

Reception / Key Stage 1	21 hours
Key Stage 2	23.5 hours
Key Stage 3	24 hours
Key Stage 4	24 hours

However, there is no legal definition of “full-time” in terms of education at home. In elective home education there is often almost continuous one-to-one contact and education may sometimes take place outside of normal school hours.

How will I teach my child?

There are many styles of education with no method being better than another. You must choose the one that is best for your child.

You might decide to educate your child yourself or plan and teach in small groups with other home educators. Alternatively, you might decide to employ a private tutor or use an online provider.

Irrespective of who teaches your child or how, it is your parental responsibility to ensure that the learning programme is helping your child to make progress.

Do I have to follow the national curriculum?

You do not have to follow the [national curriculum](#) however you may find it helpful as a framework of what your child should be achieving to keep in line with their peers.

If you intend to send your child to school in the future, referring to the national curriculum would mean they are less likely to be disadvantaged when they return. There are many resources based on the national curriculum and some useful links are available at the end of this document.

The local authority recognises that there are different approaches to educational provision. If you electively home educate your child, our

interest is in establishing that your child is being suitably educated.

What will it cost?

There are no funds available for parents that decide to electively home educate their child. You can expect to incur cost for:

- Books
- Resources
- Educational Study Visits
- Physical Exercise
- Examination Fees
- Tutors or Online Learning Courses
- Work Experience
- College Placement for Under 16s (if available)

Your child will no longer receive free school meals if they currently have these.

Will my child miss the social aspect of school?

You may want to consider the social development of your child whilst they are educated at home. Joining a variety of clubs and interest groups can aid their social interaction with peers and support their mental well-being.

What should I do if my child has an Education and Health Care Plan?

The same procedure described above applies if your child has an Education and Health Care Plan and attends a mainstream school. **However, if your child attends a special school, the consent of the local authority must be sought before the decision to electively home educate can be finalised.** This is to ensure your child’s specific needs can be met at home and ensure continuity of education.

For the duration of the Education, Health and Care Plan, the local authority will continue to hold an annual review to ensure the plan continues to be appropriate and effective. The right of appeal to a special educational needs tribunal still applies.

How do I withdraw my child from school?

You are required to write to the headteacher at your child's school informing that you intend to electively home educate your child. The school may reply to arrange a meeting to discuss how your child's needs could be met at school and the implications of choosing to electively home educate your child. Medway has 10-school days cooling off period from the school receiving the letter. Following this period, if you still wish to electively home educate your child, the school will remove your child from the register and notify the local authority.

If your child has never attended school, no notification is required but if you would like support, please contact the Elective Home Education Officer.

What Happens Next? Will the Local Authority be involved if my child is educated at home?

We like to get to know our home educating families and offer advice and guidance to you. You may be asked to complete an education provision review or send in examples of your child's work as part of the monitoring process.

The Elective Home Education Officer provides advice on education. They will contact you to ask for up-to-date information on how your child's education is progressing. If you would like a home visit or require more frequent support, please contact our team.

You can contact the Home Education Officer on:

Tel: 01634 333708

Email: homeeducation@medway.gov.uk

What will happen if suitable home education is not being provided?

Under section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996 the local authority has a duty to intervene if it appears that parents are not providing a suitable education.

Where there are concerns about a child's education, recommendations will be made to support the child's progress and engagement with learning. These will need to be met within a mutually agreed timescale. If the recommendations are not met, the local authority has a duty to notify the Education Courts Officer who may take further action such as seeking a School Attendance Order.

Can my child return to school?

Yes. If you wish for your child to return to school, please contact Home Education Team. Please be aware that your child is likely to be offered a place back at the school they were withdrawn from if there are spaces.

Can my child still access the school nursing team?

Yes. The school nursing team can be accessed via the link below

[School Nursing :: Medway Community Healthcare](#).

Here you will find details of what the school nursing team offer and also the link to the parent referral form.

Helpful Questions to Consider

- Is your child positive about the suggestion of home education?
- Are you convinced it is the best course of action for your child?
- Do you have the time to devote to your child's education on a regular basis?
- Do you have the necessary expertise to teach your child effectively?
- Will be able to educate your child to the required level if they wish to take GCSE examinations?
- Are you prepared to buy the necessary resources, if you do not already have access to them.
- Do you have some support available?
- Do you have the space to create a quiet working area and somewhere to store the resources you will use.
- Are there opportunities for physical exercise?
- Will social experiences with other children be available?
- Are you choosing to electively home educate because you are dissatisfied with the school?

You can contact Elective Home Education on:

Tel: 01634 337308

Email: homeeducation.medway.gov.uk

If you do decide to home educate your child the Home Education Team will be supportive, friendly, and approachable. We aim to form positive partnerships with our parents, offering advice and signposting to a wide range of support services.

Home Education Team

**Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham Kent
ME4 4TR**

Tel: 01634 337308

Email: homeeducation@medway.gov.uk

Charities and Organisations that offer help to Home Educators

Education Otherwise

Tel helpline: 0300 124 5690

Email: enquiries@educationotherwise.org

Website: www.educationotherwise.org

Home Education Advisory Service

Tel: 01707 371854

PO BOX 98

Welwyn Garden City

Herts, AL8 6AN

Email: enquiries@heas.org.uk

Website: www.heas.org.uk

Information for Parents of Children with Special Educational Needs

Family Action Medway SENDIAS Service

www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/send/medway-sendias/

Family Action is the national charity offering impartial support, advice and information on Special Educational Needs and Disability.

Tel: 01634 566303

Email: medwaysendias@family-action.org.uk

HE Special

www.he-special.org.uk

Information and support for parents of children with special educational needs who are home educating or considering doing so.

Autism in Mind

www.autisminmind.com

Support and information for families with children on the Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Kent Autistic Trust (Medway Branch)

www.kentautistictrust.org

Tel: 01634 405168

E-mail: office@kentautistic.com

Dyspraxia Foundation

www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Tel helpline: 01462 454986

Email: info@dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Early Years and Primary Resources for Educating at Home

Below are some useful websites for educating early years and primary age children at home. Please note that Medway Council do not produce these websites and therefore do not accept any liability for their content.

www.ahomeeducation.co.uk - This website contains some general information about educating at home as well as some useful tips and guidance on lesson planning, producing study timetables, developing social skills and taking examinations.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources> - This website is home to thousands of free quality-assured resources to support the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum - Allows you to read or download the full text of the revised National Curriculum. Although home educated children are not required to follow the National Curriculum a number do so.

www.home-education.org.uk - Provides educational resources for home educating families. These resources include online lessons and worksheets as well as links to other useful support sites.

www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/home-education - Twinkl's home school and home education resources have been designed by teachers and home educators which include planning sheets, lap books, curriculum checklists and more to cater for all home educating styles.

www.home-ed.info - Offers general information and frequently asked questions about education at home as well as links to resources, exam information and local support groups.

www.muddlepuddle.co.uk - Is an early year's website specifically aimed at ages 0 – 8. It provides a wealth of information and advice around home education including curriculum suppliers, learning styles, educational resources and links to other early year's websites.

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize - BBC Bitesize provides lots of useful information for both early years and primary aged children. This website offers support and advice for both children and parents/carers in relation to both educational and social and emotional needs.

www.edplace.com - is online learning that covers English, Math and Science across the National Curriculum in Key Stages 1 to 4. This site is based on the National Curriculum, with 1000's of worksheets in English and Math and other subjects. You can track progress online and add incentives to aid learning.

You can subscribe to single or multi-subjects for an annual cost. For more details email: support @edplace.com

www.wolseyhalloxford.org.uk/primary-homeschooling/ - focus on providing first class teaching for primary aged children aged 4-11 years being schooled at home. Using a state-of-the-art online learning platform together with an outstanding tutor team, they deliver courses to students in the UK and worldwide. For more details enquire online via the website.

www.khanacademy.org - Khan Academy is a non-profit organisation on a mission providing a free education for anyone anywhere. All the site resources are available to anyone. It does not matter if you are a student, teacher, or homeschooler. Khan Academy's materials and resources are available to you completely free of charge.

www.conquermaths.com - ConquerMaths is an online site to learn maths. It is aimed at any age from child to adult. ConquerMaths allows children to access their own personal maths tutor in the home round the clock wherever they can access the Internet. For more details and subscription call 0191 228 6027 or email: info@conquermaths.com

www.primaryresources.co.uk - Has a wealth of free educational resources in lots of subjects including Art, PE, Music, RE and Languages. This site also has a blog with regular updates.

www.teachingideas.co.uk - Contains both early years and primary educational resources some of which are free to download, and others are available at a small cost.

www.educationcity.com - Provides various educational resources for children aged between 3 –12 years old. Parents/carers can subscribe for a fee and also access support from this site during office hours or via email or forum.

www.sparklebox.co.uk/parents/ - provides a range of downloadable worksheets including colouring pages, cooking and recipes, number worksheets and alphabet / phonics

www.parentsintouch.co.uk - is an online site appropriate for all age groups offering a range of various downloadable worksheets to support home education. You can subscribe to this site for £25.00 a year.

www.schoolscience.co.uk/home - SchoolScience.co.uk is a website sponsored by industrial and research partners who provide free on-line science resources for teachers and students. This site is free for all users and promotes both resources created for this site and external resources from around the world.

www.structuredhomelearning.com - Specialises in providing individualised learning packs for school age children up to Year 9. The packs are based on the UK National Curriculum and contain all resources and planning for a full

year's work. There is a cost per year for these packs and pricing can be found on the website or by calling 07887 638 599

www.topmarks.co.uk - Is an education search engine that helps to find teaching resources, homework help and educational websites. It covers a range of subjects for all ages and also has a section that provides advice and support to parents/carers.

www.weshome.com - The World-wide Education Service (WES) is a provider of home education courses worldwide, which is accredited by the ODLQC, the national body for quality in open and distance learning. They offer resources and courses for children and young people aged 4 – 14 years old. For more details call 01228 577123 or email: office@weshome.com

www.kingsinterhigh.co.uk – Kings InterHigh School offers primary and secondary school education on the Internet. Lessons are delivered by teachers and the pupils logging into virtual classrooms. For more details call 01873 777 444 or email: contact@kingsinterhigh.co.uk.

www.studyladder.co.uk - Studyladder is a site that provides educational resources across a wide range of subjects up to 12 years old. It was created by a team of experienced schoolteachers who could not find the resources they needed on-line. It provides parents and teachers with resources to help students learn. For more details regarding subscription please access the website.

www.uk.ixl.com – Is a website offering practice in English and Math from Reception to Year 11. Subscription prices start from £7.99 per month.

www.free-teaching-resources.co.uk - This website lists resources, lesson plans and worksheets which are produced by UK charities, museums and more. They cover a range of subjects that have all been reviewed, ready to download and use.

www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/c/children-and-young-people - is a site aimed at both primary and secondary aged children, which helps to promote positive mental health and well-being. It helps to support adults to work with children on feelings and emotions.

www.storiestogrowby.org - Specialises in folk, fairy tales and stories from around the world that help children grow by focusing on positive ethics i.e., honesty, respect, justice, love, loyalty, learning, creative thinking and forgiveness.

www.medway.gov.uk/leisurecultureandsport/youthcentresandprojects.aspx - Is an online guide for young people in Medway. This site contains information about things to do and places to go.

Secondary Resources for Educating at Home

Below are some useful websites for educating secondary age young people at home. Please note that Medway Council do not produce these websites and therefore do not accept any liability for their content.

www.ahomeeducation.co.uk - The website contains some general information about educating at home as well as some useful tips and guidance on lesson planning, producing study timetables, developing social skills and taking examinations.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources> - This website is home to thousands of free quality-assured resources to support the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk - Specialises in providing structured and supported GCSE and A Level course for young people aged between 13 – 18 years. You can call them free on 0800 0111 024 or landline 01865 638809.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum - Allows you to read or download the full text of the revised National Curriculum. Although home educated children are not required to follow the National Curriculum a number do so.

www.home-education.org.uk - Provides educational resources for home educating families. These resources include online lessons and worksheets as well as links to other useful support sites.

www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/home-education - Twinkl's home school and home education resources have been designed by teachers and home educators which include planning sheets, lap books, curriculum checklists and more to cater for all home educating styles.

www.home-ed.info - Offers general information and frequently asked questions about education at home as well as links to resources, exam information and local support groups.

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize - BBC Bitesize provides lots of useful information for secondary aged young people. This website offers support and advice for both young people and parents/carers in relation to both educational and social and emotional needs. This website is also useful for providing support with revision for GCSE exams.

www.edplace.com - is online learning that covers English, Math and science across the National Curriculum in Key Stages 1 to 4. This site is based on the National Curriculum, with 1000's of worksheets in English and Math and other subjects. You can track progress online and add incentives to aid learning. You can subscribe to single or multi-subjects for an annual cost. For more details email: support @edplace.com

www.wolseyhalloxford.org.uk/level/igcse/ - focus on providing first class

teaching for Key Stage 3 and IGCSE for both mature students and young people being schooled at home. Using a state-of-the-art online learning platform together with an outstanding tutor team, they deliver courses to students in the UK and worldwide. For more details enquire online via the website.

www.khanacademy.org - Khan Academy is a non-profit organisation on a mission providing a free education for anyone anywhere. All the site resources are available to anyone. It does not matter if you are a student, teacher, or homeschooler. Khan Academy's materials and resources are available to you completely free of charge.

www.cloudlearn.co.uk - CloudLearn are online learning provider owned and operated by a dedicated group of principal teachers and educational specialists. They offer IGCSE's in a range of subjects for more details call 0330 111 4006 or email: info@cloudlearn.co.uk

www.conquermaths.com - ConquerMaths is an online site to learn maths. It is aimed at any age from child to adult. ConquerMaths allows children to access their own personal maths tutor in the home round the clock wherever they can access the Internet. For more details and subscription call 0191 228 6027 or email: info@conquermaths.com

www.parentsintouch.co.uk - is an online site appropriate for all age groups offering a range of various downloadable worksheets to support home education. You can subscribe to this site for £25.00 a year.

www.schoolscience.co.uk/home - SchoolScience.co.uk is a website sponsored by industrial and research partners who provide free on-line science resources for teachers and students. This site is free for all users and promotes both resources created for this site and external resources from around the world.

www.aqa.org.uk- AQA is GCSE exam board with opportunities for private candidates to sit examinations.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses.html>
Edexcel is a GCSE exam board, which may be useful to support external candidates with examinations.

www.nec.ac.uk - The National Extension College offer educational opportunities to people who were unable to attend a school or college. This includes GCSE's and IGCSE's. Call Customer Relations on 0800 3892 839 or visit the website.

www.weshome.com - The World-wide Education Service (WES) is a provider of home education courses worldwide, which is accredited by the ODLQC, the national body for quality in open and distance learning. They offer resources and courses for children and young people aged 4 – 14 years old. For more details call 01228 577123 or email: office@weshome.com

www.icslearn.co.uk - ICS is a distance learning provider who offers GCSE and IGCSE courses as well as BTEC qualifications. Call on 0333 331 4568 or email via the website. www.kingsinterhigh.co.uk – Kings InterHigh School offers primary and secondary school education on the Internet. Lessons are delivered by teachers and the pupils logging into virtual classrooms. For more details call 01873 777 444 or email: contact@kingsinterhigh.co.uk.

www.structuredhomelearning.com - Specialises in providing individualised learning packs for primary and secondary aged children. The packs are based on the UK National Curriculum and contain all resources and planning for a full year's work (up to School Year 9 or Key Stage 3). There is a cost per year for these packs and pricing can be found on the website.

www.topmarks.co.uk - Is an education search engine that helps to find teaching resources, homework help and educational websites. It covers a range of subjects for secondary age young people and also has a section that provides advice and support to parents/carers.

www.studyladder.co.uk - Studyladder is a site that provides educational resources across a wide range of subjects up to 12 years old. It was created by a team of experienced schoolteachers who could not find the resources they needed on-line. It provides parents and teachers with resources to help students learn. For more details regarding subscription please access the website.

www.uk.ixl.com – Is a website offering practice in English and Math from Reception to Year 11. Subscription prices start from £7.99 per month.

www.medway.gov.uk/leisurecultureandsport/youthcentresandprojects.aspx - Is an online guide for young people in Medway. This site contains information about things to do and places to go.

www.cxk.org - CXK is dedicated to transforming the lives of young people and adults across the South; providing support, advice and guidance to help them find work, or move into learning or training.

www.gov.uk - is a useful website that provides young people with details on a wide range of areas including law, employment, education, housing and benefits