



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Elective Home Education

Guidance for parents and carers

*Revised in the light of Department for
Education Guidelines March 2012*

Introduction

You have decided, or are considering, the option of home education for your child or children. This booklet is designed to be helpful to you.

Parents choose to educate their children at home for a variety of reasons. This is not a decision to be taken lightly as it means you will be responsible for all aspects of their education. It requires a considerable commitment of time and energy. You will not be entitled to any financial support for books or equipment, examination entries or work experience.

Guidance on the Law

Under the 1944 Education Act education was defined, for the first time, as compulsory. For the vast majority of families this was translated into an assumption that children had to be educated at school. However, it was, and still is 'education' that is compulsory, not 'school'. The 1944 Act clearly stated that it was the duty of parents to ensure their children were educated either at school or otherwise.

The responsibility of parents is recognised in section 7 of the Education Act 1996 - previously section 36 of the Education Act 1944.

"The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause them to receive efficient full-time education suitable -

- to the child's age, ability and aptitude, and
- to any special educational needs the child may have,
- either by regular attendance at school or otherwise"

Although this responsibility is usually delegated to schools, parents may decide to educate their child/children at home. This may be for a range of reasons including religious, cultural and philosophical beliefs.

Further legislation – referred to as ***Raising the Age of Participation*** – states that from 2013 all young people will need to stay in some form of learning until the age of 17, increasing to 18 in 2015.

Local Authority Duties

The Local Authority (LA) believes in the value of school-based education as it provides a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural, physical and mental development and prepares all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life - National Curriculum 2000.

However, we respect your right as a parent and carer to choose to educate your child/children other than at school.

The LA has a duty to make sure that the child/children receive a "suitable" education for the child's age, ability, aptitude and for any special educational needs that the child may have.

A “suitable” education is one that equips a child for life within the community they belong to.

Section 437 of the 1996 Education Act states:

“If it appears to a Local Education Authority (LEA) that a child of school age in their area is not receiving a suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or ‘otherwise’ they shall serve notice in writing on the parent requiring him/her to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education”

The LA’s legal duty is only concerned with children who do not appear to receive suitable education. The LA has no automatic legal right of access to the home. Parents may, if they wish to, permit access to the home, or offer an alternative venue for a meeting. At the initial meeting, the nature and frequency of future contact should be agreed.

In some exceptional cases - as a last resort - we will issue a school attendance order. This order specifies the school where your child should be registered. If you do not comply with a school attendance order you will have committed an offence, unless you can demonstrate that your child is receiving suitable education otherwise than at school.

Where the LA’s assessment is that the education is not suitable they will consider an application to the courts for an education supervision order. This will enable home education to continue under supervision and allow education staff to engage, advise, assist and befriend parents and carers.

Other Information

Home education can take many different forms. In some cases you might take on the task of teaching children yourselves, employ private tutors, subscribe to a distance-learning package and/or work together with other home-educating families. What is suitable for one child may not be suitable for another, but all children should make reasonable progress. It is reasonably expected that the provision should include the following characteristics:

- consistent involvement of parents or other significant carers
- recognition of the child’s needs, attitudes and aspirations
- opportunities for the child to be stimulated by their learning experiences
- access to resources/materials required to provide home education for the child – such as paper and pens, books and libraries, arts and crafts materials, physical activity, ICT and the opportunity for appropriate interaction with other children and other adults

Curriculum Content

The curriculum is everything that is done to educate your child. It should provide opportunities for physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and emotional development.

It should be broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated:

- Broad** It should provide the pupil with a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding
- Balanced** There should be sufficient time for each aspect, allowing for all essential parts of learning
- Relevant** This should be related to the pupil's experiences and to adult life.

The curriculum should be matched to the pupil's ability and aptitude. There should be opportunities to mix with, and relate to, other children, young people and adults and a possible mix of:

- national curriculum subjects
- information technology
- health education
- personal and social education
- citizenship
- careers education
- physical education



National Curriculum

The National Curriculum does not apply to children educated at home. However, you may wish your child to re-enter the state system at some time in the future.

The following subjects are compulsory in Derby City Schools, up to the age of 14:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- History
- Geography
- Religious Education
- Art
- Design & Technology
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)
- A Modern Foreign Language (from the age of 11).

In primary schools, the subjects may be integrated and not taught as separate subjects. In secondary schools subjects will generally be taught separately.

Children learn in different ways, at different times and at different speeds. It is a good idea to have a timetable or plan to show what you are doing.



Responsibility

Whilst it is your responsibility to plan and carry out your child/children's educational experiences, the monitoring and support of children educated otherwise in Derby City LA is the responsibility of the Inclusion Adviser.

Procedures

The LA is notified of the parent/carer's intention to educate their child/children otherwise than at school. There is no legal obligation on the parent to notify the LA unless the child is already registered as a pupil.

De-registration of pupils is allowed if the head teacher **and** the LA has received written notification from you that your child is receiving education otherwise than at school.

When a school receives written notification of a parent's decision to home educate, they can remove a child from the school roll and the Headteacher must inform the LA within 10 school days.

As a LA we respect your decision to educate your child at home and we would like to support you. An Education Officer is available to arrange a visit to see how you are getting on. This will usually take place within 12 weeks after you start to teach your child at home. If parents wish to, they may inform the LA directly.

You may choose to meet an Education Officer at your home, or at a mutually convenient location, or you may choose not to meet at all. If we do not hear from you, an Education Officer will be in touch.

The purpose of the visit is to monitor the range of the curriculum you are offering and offer some advice. It is important to recognise that there are many, equally valid approaches to educational provision. The Education Officer will be keen to discuss with you the ways in which you feel that the education you offer is the most appropriate for your child. Our procedures are intended to provide a good foundation for the development of trusting relationships and mutual respect.

He/she will need to understand how you intend to fulfil your duties under the 1996 Education Act to provide an efficient full time education suitable to the age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs of your child.

- A child may come to the attention of the Local Authority through an alternative route. In these circumstances, the Admissions Team will make contact.
- In September of each year, the Head of Social Development and Inclusion is notified of the number and age of children being educated other than at school and a Derby City Council record maintained.
- Where a child has a statement of Special Educational Needs, the Principal Educational Psychologist will identify a named Educational Psychologist.

Elective Home Education for a child with a formal statement of SEN

It is possible for a child with a formal statement of SEN - under section 324 of the Education Act 1996 - to be educated other than at a school. The provision to be made and considered appropriate by the LA should be written in part 4 of the child's statement by the LA. The authority must ensure that parents can make suitable provision, including provision for the child's special educational needs.

When a child with a statement is educated other than at school, the general timetable and arrangements for the annual review of the statement will remain the same as for children in schools. However, the LA will convene the review meeting, and invite the child's parents. The range of professionals involved may be wider and, in some respects, different from those involved in a school-based review.

Some helpful questions for you

- How am I planning to ensure that I offer a broad and balanced curriculum?
- What are my short and long term plans?
- How can I link different subjects together?
- How is the work organised?
- How will I know my child is making progress?
- How can I provide for my child's physical development?
- How can I arrange for my child to meet and play with others?
- What are the costs involved – visits, equipment, books?



Some useful suggestions

- Provide a quiet area for the work.
- Vary the style and content to make learning enjoyable.
- Ensure reading is a priority.
- Plan activities to be active, practical and participative as possible.
- Prepare a flexible timetable or plan
- Check they understand and are learning.
- Check your child's work and give them positive feedback
- Take full advantage of the resources available.
- Provide opportunity for independent study and research.
- Plan educational visits
- Use the local library

Costs

Parents are strongly encouraged to think carefully about the costs associated with educating children at home (especially in the longer term when they may wish to take public examinations). There are no funds directly available from the LA for parents who decide to home-educate their children.

For enquiries relating to Elective Home Education in Derby City please contact:

01332 640350

Education Welfare Service

01332 641448

Other useful sources of information

(Derby City LA is not responsible for the content of external websites)

Derby City website

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/parental-support/school-home-schooling/>

Education Otherwise

<http://www.education-otherwise.net>

0845 478 6345

Connexions

www.connexions.gov.uk

Curriculum materials, resources and online activities relevant to Key Stage 1 & 2, Special Needs and Early Years (www.curriculumonline.gov.uk)

Department for Education (DfE)

www.dfe.gov.uk

Home Education Advisory Service

www.heas.org.uk

01707 371854

Advisory Centre for Education

www.ace-ed.org.uk

0808 800 5793

BBC Bitesize

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

National Curriculum in Action

www.ncaction.org.uk

OCR: Oxford, Cambridge & RSA Examinations Board

www.ocr.org.uk

01223 553998

AQA Examinations Board

www.aqa.org.uk

0161 953 1180

EdExcel Examinations Board

www.edexcel.org.uk

Parents centre

www.parentscentre.gov.uk

Derby and Derbyshire Parent Partnership Service

www.derbyshireparentpartnership.co.uk

01332 641414

Information about immunisation vaccines

http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/immunisation_Schedule