



In England, between the ages of 5 and 16 education is compulsory but school is not. The responsibility for the child's education rests with their parents - they have the duty to secure a full-time education for their children.

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 says that:

“The parent of every child of compulsory age shall cause him to receive efficient full time education suitable to

- a. his age, ability and aptitude, and
 - b. any special educational needs he may have,
- either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

The “otherwise” really refers to home based education. All parents have the right to educate their child at home but in choosing to do so assume the responsibility for providing that education – either by themselves, or by making arrangements for others to do so.

Dorset County Council recognises that there are many valid approaches to educational provision. All children must be involved in the learning process but what is suitable for one child may not be suitable for another. However the Local Authority still has a duty to ensure that all children receive a suitable education and must make arrangements to establish the identities of children in their area who are not receiving a suitable education.

Answers to some of the questions you might have.....

Doesn't every child go to school?

Most people choose to send their children to school to be educated but you are legally entitled to educate your child at home. Education is compulsory but schooling is not.

What if I'm not a teacher?

You don't have to be! The majority of home educators have no formal teaching qualifications and you may well be learning alongside your children.

Do I have to operate like a “real” school?

You can work on what you want to when you want to. You do not need a timetable and you don't have to follow the National Curriculum (although you can if you want to!).

What about my child's social life?

School isn't the only way that children access social activities. Many home educators meet regularly for museum, gallery or theatre visits as well as for play. You will find that peer group pressures are less marked and that your child will be able to enjoy the company of both older and younger children.

What if my child has Special Educational Needs?

Children with special educational needs can be home educated. If your child is currently at special school however, you will need permission from the Local Authority for them to be removed from the school roll. The LA will continue to hold an annual review for any child with a statement of special education needs (or Education, Health and Care Plan), regardless of where they are educated.





What about exams and qualifications?

Your child is not legally obliged to take any exams. However, your child can still take exams and it's perfectly possible for you to work towards them at home. They may need to go to an examination centre to sit papers and you will have to pay the associated costs. We advise that you identify a centre where your child can take exams before they start on any particular course.

Do I have to tell the Local Authority that I'm home educating?

If your child is registered at school, you need to deregister them by sending a letter to the head teacher informing them that you wish to educate your child at home. The school will inform the LA and the LA will contact you to ascertain some basic information.

Will I be inspected or monitored by the Local Authority?

When we are made aware that you are home educating your child, we will contact you to ask for some basic information such as your child's name and date of birth. We will also ask for a brief outline of your plans for home education. You do not have to provide this but it will help us to confirm that your child is not missing from education. Assuming that we have no concerns, we will normally be in touch once a year to check that your child's circumstances and details have not changed.

Do I have to meet with an EHE Visiting Officer?

We would encourage you to do so but it is entirely up to you. The EHE Visiting Officers know a lot about home education and are in an excellent position to give you advice about resources and local opportunities for your child. Their primary role is to ensure that your child is getting an education – and the best way to do this is to give you all the support that they can.

Can Dorset Local Authority provide any funding?

Parents who choose to home educate must be prepared to assume full financial responsibility, including the cost of any public examinations.

What other help or support is there locally?

This will depend on where you live. You will find contact details for local groups and national organisations overleaf, but it will also be worth searching online.

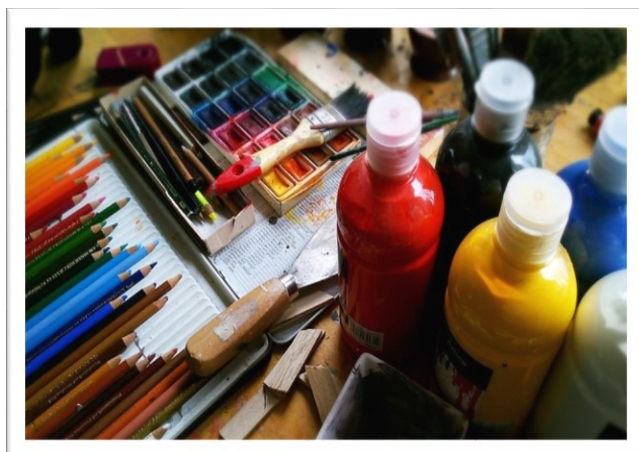
What if I want my child to go back to school at some point in the future?

That's OK. You can make an application to any school whenever you want. Your child is still entitled to a school place if that's what you want.

How to contact Dorset Local Authority's EHE team:

Miss Kate Williams
Elective Home Education Administrator
Learning & Inclusion
Children's Services
Monkton Park
Winterborne Monkton
Dorchester
DT2 9PS

Telephone: 01305 224762
Email: ehe@dorsetcc.gov.uk





For more information and support:

Please note that this list is for information only. Dorset County Council does not endorse these organisations or websites. If you become aware of any changes to the information listed, or would like to suggest other organisations to be included on this list, please let us know so that we can share with other home educating parents.

Local Home Education Groups and Information

HERA Dorset

A friendly home education social group based in Poole, with families attending from the Dorset and Hampshire areas.

Website: https://groups.yahoo.com/group/HERA_Dorset/

Education at Home

An educational website and blog created by a parent who home educates.

Website: www.sarahsellers.co.uk

Home Education Centre Chard (HEC)

Supporting Home Educating families in the South West

Website: <http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk/>

Home Education in the South West

Details of local and national home education groups.

Website: http://www.homeeducationsw.org.uk/html/he_groups.html

National Home Education Groups and Advisory Services

Education Everywhere

An information sharing service, based primarily around a Helpline. This is staffed by an experienced team of volunteers who are willing, to help anyone with a query about alternative approaches to education otherwise than going to school.

Telephone: 01942 897779

Website: <http://www.educationeverywhere.co.uk>

Education Otherwise

A UK charity offering information and support to home educating families.

Telephone: 0845 4786345

Website: www.educationotherwise.net

Educational Freedom

www.educationalfreedom.org.uk



Home Education Advisory Service (HEAS)

HEAS is a national home education charity based in the United Kingdom. It is dedicated to the provision of advice and practical support for families who wish to educate their children at home in preference to sending them to school.

P.O. Box 98
Welwyn Garden City
Herts
AL8 6AN

Telephone: 01707 371854
Email: enquiries@heas.org.uk
Website: www.heas.org.uk

Home Education UK

<http://www.home-education.org.uk/resources-educational.htm>

EdYourself

www.edyourself.org

Organisations providing resources for home educators:

CGP Books

www.CGPbooks.co.uk

3a Tutors Ltd

3A Tutors Ltd is a well-established private tutorial college and independent examination centre based in Bristol.

Address: 1a High Street, Staple Hill, Bristol, BH16 5HA
Telephone: 0117 910 9931
Email: enquiries@3at.org.uk
Website: <http://www.3at.org.uk>

Oxford Home Schooling

Oxford Home Schooling is a division of Oxford Opening Learning, a distance learning college offering courses from Key Stage upwards.

Address: Oxford Open Learning, 4 Kings Meadow, Oxford, OX2 0DP
Telephone: 0800 011 024
Website: www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk

Helping Learning

Individual learning support delivered via the internet

Address: Unit 1, Yew Tree Cottage, Bisterne Close, Burley, Hants, BH24 4BA
Telephone: 01425 402338
Website: www.helpinglearning.co.uk



National Extension College (NEC)

Offers distance learning courses, including GCSEs and A'Levels.

Address: Michael Young Centre, Purbeck Road, Cambridge, CB2 2HN
Telephone: 0800 3892839
Website: www.nec.ac.uk

World Wide Education Service

Assists families with the education of children aged 4 – 14.

Address: St Georges House, 14-17 Wells Street, London, W1P 3FP
Telephone: 0207 6372644
Website: www.weshome.com

InterHigh Education

InterHigh School offers a complete secondary school education on the internet

Address: Sawmill Court, Cathedine, Nr Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HQ
Telephone: 01874 731118
Email: enquiries@interhigh.co.uk
Website: www.interhigh.co.uk

Muddle Puddle

An independent site focusing on learning for 0-8 year olds.

Website: <http://www.muddlepuddle.co.uk/mpblog/>

Primary Resources

Free resources to download covering all areas of the National Curriculum

Website: www.primaryresources.co.uk

TES

Register for access to free resources

Website: www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resources

Parents in Touch

Information, links to suitable websites, downloadable worksheets, annual subscription £9.99 but some areas are free

Website: www.parentsintouch.co.uk

BBC Bitsize

Interactive website covering all areas of National Curriculum

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize



Conquer Maths

Free diagnostics, lessons and tests available. Additional resources available under subscription.

Website: www.conquermaths.com

EdPlace

A subscription site with home education worksheets based on the National Curriculum covering Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4.

Website: www.edplace.com/Home-Education

Simply Learning Tuition

<https://www.simplylearningtuition.co.uk/resources/definitive-guide-to-homeschooling/>

Home School Tutoring & Educational Services

www.homeschooltutoring.co.uk

General Advice Groups

ACE (Advisory Centre for Education)

ACE is a national charity that provides advice and information to parents and carers on a wide range of school based issues, including exclusion, admissions, special educational needs, bullying and attendance.

Telephone: 0808 800 5793

Website: www.ace-ed.org.uk

Ansbury (Connexions)

Principal provider of expert, independent careers guidance for Young People and Adults in Dorset.

Telephone: 0800 358 3888

Website: www.ansbury.co.uk

Examining Boards

The Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA)

www.aqa.org.uk

Oxford, Cambridge & RSA (OCR)

www.ocr.org.uk

Edexcel

www.edexcel.org.uk