Elective Home Education

Information for Parents and Children

December 2017
## Contents

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>The Law and Elective Home Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Your Responsibilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Local Authority Responsibilities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Raising the Participation Age (RPA)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Different Approaches to Elective Home Education</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Getting Started</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Deregistering from School</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>GCSE Examinations</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Children in Employment and Entertainment</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Child Employment</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Children in Entertainment</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Gifted and Talented Children</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Useful Contacts</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>Safeguarding Children</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>Elective Home Education in Gloucestershire</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>If an Adviser is concerned about the education being provided at home</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>Confidentiality and Data Protection</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>Compliments, Comments and Complaints</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>Other Sources of Information, Advice, Guidance and Educational Resources</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>Other organisations that may be able to provide resources and guidance to home education families</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>Examination Boards</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>Ideas for Low cost/Free Educational Visits in Gloucestershire Support from home educating families</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>Other Home Educating Families</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.0 Introduction

Elective home education (EHE) is where parents provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school. It is not home tuition provided by the Local Authority (LA) or when the LA provides education otherwise than at school.

You may already be a home educator, with established ideas about an approach that works for your family or may be considering educating your children at home for the first time. In either case we hope you will find this booklet helpful. Contact details for various organisations are listed at the back of this booklet and they may be able to provide information that answers any questions you have.

We have used a range of sources for this booklet including other LA websites and information provided by groups supporting elective home educating families. Get in touch with us if you have any ideas about how we can improve it.

2.0 Abbreviations

We have used the following abbreviations in this guide:

- DBS: Disclosure and Barring Service (previously Criminal Records Bureau)
- EHE: Elective Home Education
- EHCP: Education Health Care Plan
- EP&I: Education Performance and Inclusion Team
- GCSE: General Certificate of Secondary Education
- GSCB: Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children’s Board
- iGCSE: International General Certificate of Secondary Education
- LA: Local Authority
- LSE: Library Education Service
- SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

3.0 The Law and Elective Home Education

3.1 Your rights and responsibilities

You have the legal right to choose to educate your children at home rather than at school. In England and Wales the main legislation relating to home education is the 1996 Education Act. Section 7 of this Act states:

“the parent of every child of compulsory school 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 European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Article 2 of Protocol No 1 also supports this by saying:

‘No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.’

In brief:

- You have a right, if you choose to do so, to educate your children at home
- You do not have to inform the LA that this is your choice

See further on for information about children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

‘One of the luckiest things that can happen to you in life is to have a happy childhood.’

Agatha Christie, crime novelist, home-educated

Drawing by Elizabeth (11), Home-educated

3.2 Local Authority Responsibilities

The LA has neither a legal duty to monitor the quality of home education nor to investigate any instances of home education reported to LA officers except when there are grounds for thinking that a child may not be receiving a suitable education.

There is a duty under Section 437(1) of the 1996 Education Act, which states that:

‘If it appears to a local education authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance 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.’

If the LA concludes that your child is not being suitably educated it may issue a School Attendance Order. This Order means that you must register your child at a school. If you do not comply by registering your child at a school named on the Order or at another school of your choice, you may be prosecuted for a criminal offence under the 1996 Education Act.

In brief:

- The LA has no legal duty to routinely monitor the quality of elective home education.
- The LA must act if it appears that a child is not getting a suitable education.
3.3 Definitions

- **Compulsory School Age**
  A child reaches compulsory school age on the 1 January, 1 April or 1 September immediately following their fifth birthday. They currently cease to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach 16 years of age.

- **Parent**
  In education law the definition of ‘parent’ includes natural parents as well as anyone who has parental responsibility as defined by the 1989 Children Act, or who has care of a child. There may be people other than natural parents who have responsibility for, and are entitled to be consulted about, a child’s education.

- **Full-time Education**
  There is no legal definition of full-time education. The hours set for children to be in school do not apply to children educated at home. Children are often taught on a one-to-one basis, or in small groups at home, in conditions very different to schools.

- **‘Efficient’ and ‘Suitable’ Education**
  The Education Act does not define these words. However, at Worcester Crown Court in Harrison & Harrison v Stevenson (1981), parents appealed against their convictions for failure to comply with school attendance orders. The Court held that education is suitable to a child’s age, ability and aptitude ‘if, and only if, the education is such as:

  - to prepare the child for life in modern civilised society, and
  - to enable the child to achieve his full potential.’

  In the case of R v Secretary of State for Education and Science, ex parte Talmud Torah Machzikei Hadass School Trust (1985) Mr Justice Woolf held that:

  “Education is ‘suitable’ if it 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 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.’

  In the case of Harrison and Harrison v Stevenson (1982) QB (DC) 729/81, the court of appeal reported that:

  “education” demands at least an element of supervision; merely to allow a child to follow its own devices in the hope that it will acquire knowledge by imitation, experiment or experience in its own way and in its own good time is neither systematic nor instructive... such a course would not be education but, at best, child-minding. We should not, in the ordinary case, regard a system of education as suitable for any child capable of learning such skills, if it failed to instil in the child the ability to read, write or cope with arithmetical problems, leaving it to time, chance, and the inclination of the child to determine whether – if ever – the child eventually achieved even elementary proficiency in those skills’
3.4 **Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**

All young people must continue in education or training after they cease to be of compulsory school age. This legal requirement to participate is on your son or daughter. The law has changed, but there will be no action taken against any young people who don’t participate.

Any child who turned 16 between September 2013 and the last Friday of June 2014, or any year thereafter, will need to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday.

This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people can choose how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through:

- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider.
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training.

4.0 **Different Approaches to Elective Home Education**

Parents decide to educate their children at home for many varied reasons:

- They may feel that schools are too big, impersonal or too far from home.
- They may have religious reasons or a personal philosophy that they feel is at odds with school life.
- They may wish to help their children develop particular talents or abilities and feel that they can do this more successfully at home.
- Their child may have been particularly unhappy at school.

‘It is all to do with the training: you can do a lot if you’re properly trained.’

*The Queen monarch, home-educated*

Children learn in many ways and all home educating families vary in their approach. You do not need to be a trained teacher or have any particular qualifications or experience to home educate your children.
Some families follow a structured, ‘school at home’, adult led approach, using textbooks, workbooks and often choosing to follow the National Curriculum. Families generally use this approach if they are planning to send their children to school in the near future.

Other families choose a semi-structured approach to learning, which involves a focus on key subjects such as mathematics and English and on areas of learning that particularly interest them.

Other families may choose an autonomous approach to learning, which allows the children to follow their own interests entirely while parents provide support and encouragement.

Many parents adopt an eclectic approach, taking into account their child’s character, personality and preferred way of learning.

Whatever approach you decide to take, home education should be something you choose. Please speak to us if you feel that you are being pressured into home education.

4.1 Getting Started

When deciding to educate your child at home, remember that you will have to pay for any books, equipment and all other resources including exam and course fees. Neither central government nor Gloucestershire LA currently provide any financial assistance to home educators.

However, home education does not need to be expensive. Children can learn a huge amount from everyday experiences and projects that cost very little. What works varies from family to family and you may find it helpful to talk to your children about how they would like their education to continue at home.

Remember your child does not have to follow any set curriculum, nor sit any public examinations that children in school sit, but you might choose for them to do so.

You can access the Internet and many other resources at libraries and community facilities throughout the county. Most bookshops stock lots of educational publications and work programmes. Some suppliers will offer discounts to home educators. There is also a wide range of informative public broadcasting to supplement your child’s learning.

We at the Education Performance and Inclusion team in Gloucestershire now fund a scheme that allows you to borrow a wide range of educational resources for free from the library to support your child’s learning at home. To contact the Library Services for Education (LSE):

Phone: 01452 427240
Website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/LSE
4.2 Deregistering from School

If your child is on roll at a school and you have decided to home educate, you will need to let the head teacher know in writing that you intend to take responsibility for your child’s education at home. The school can only remove your child’s name from the register when they have this written notification. The head of the school will then contact us at EP&I to tell us that your child will be educated at home.

If your child is on roll at a special school you must have the consent of the LA to withdraw your child from the school.

4.3 GCSE Examinations

Due to coursework for GCSEs needing to be supervised in schools, home educators can follow the International GCSE courses (IGCSEs), many of which do not have a coursework element.

There are two organisations that provide IGCSE courses, Cambridge International Examinations Edexcel [http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates.html](http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates.html) and [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk). They both offer a wide range of subjects and course details. Specifications for individual subjects can be downloaded and additional resources, such as textbooks, can be purchased. Previous examination papers can also be found on the organisation’s website. A small fee may be required. We advise you to contact the organisation to confirm which IGCSE courses are available to home educators.

The IGCSEs can be studied over one or two years as the specifications mainly remain the same from one year to the next. However, it would be advisable to check with them for minor changes, if you intend to study over two years.

If you want your child to sit IGCSE examinations, you will need to find a centre that will allow your child to sit their exams there before starting your child on a particular course, i.e. a school or college. You may find it helpful to think about the following:

- If you already have a positive relationship with a school or college you may wish to ask if your child could be entered there for the IGCSE exams. There are some Gloucestershire schools that will consider private candidates for IGCSEs and will include a child’s name on their exams entry list. A fee will be requested for this service.

- If you do not have any relationship or contact with a school or college, you will need to contact the IGCSE organisation, which should be able to give you a list of the nearest exam centres.

- You will need to confirm with the exam centre when an exam entry should be made before the exams, which will take place during the months of May and June. Some IGCSEs exams can also be taken in October or November. These details will be on the organisations’ websites.
5.0 Children in Employment and Entertainment

5.1 Child Employment

There are rules for Child Employment that apply to all children of compulsory school age whether they attend a school or are home educated. Children may not work until they are 13 years of age and then only for a restricted number of hours. Before your child is able to start any form of employment they must have a Work Permit. You can get further information on:

Phone: 01452 427800
Email: ChildEmp@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Website: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/apply-for-a-child-employment-permit/

5.2 Children in Entertainment

Rules for children in entertainment apply to all children of compulsory school age whether they attend a school or are home educated. You will need a performance license if your child is involved in paid work in the theatre, in a film or television, in modelling or sport or if the performance is during normal school hours. You can get more information by contacting us:

Phone: 01452 427360
Email: ChildEmp@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Website: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/apply-for-a-child-performance-licence/

6.0 Gifted and Talented Children

Some parents may choose to home educate because their child is gifted and talented and they want to develop their gifts and talents to their full potential. These children are likely to show signs of being advanced from an early age. You and perhaps friends, health visitors, doctors and previous teachers will probably have noticed that your child is more able than his peers.

‘I can only think of music as something inherent in every human being – a birthright. Music coordinates mind, body and spirit.’

Yehudi Menuhi, Violinist, home-educated

Drawing by Laurie (10), home-educated

Some children have talents in a particular area, such as in a sport or a single subject area, while others will be gifted in a more general sense. Gifted and talented children often learn quickly and sometimes learn without seeming to be taught.
6.1 Useful Contacts

- **Gifted and Talented**
  Providing innovative personalised programs that help students become advanced learners in Mathematics and English.

  Website: [www.giftedandtalented.com/](http://www.giftedandtalented.com/)

- **Potential Plus UK**
  Aiming to enable children of all ages with high learning potential to grow in confidence, thrive and achieve social, emotional and academic fulfilment.

  Address: Suite 14, Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley MK3 6DP
  Phone: 01908 646433
  Website: [www.potentialplusuk.org](http://www.potentialplusuk.org)

- **National Association for Able Children in Education**
  Providing guidance, support and training, enabling teachers to attain the best from able learners, whilst enabling all learners to flourish and achieve

  Address: NACE, Core Business Centre, Milton Hill Abingdon Oxon OX13 6AB
  Phone: 01235 828280
  Website: [www.nace.co.uk](http://www.nace.co.uk)

7.0 Safeguarding Children

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) is responsible for ensuring that teachers and non-teaching staff, including volunteers in schools and other educational settings are properly checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and have received training in all aspects of Child Protection and Safeguarding.

However, GSCB has no control over private individuals such as tutors or subject teachers who are not registered with a school or recognised organisation. You might decide to look for a tutor or private individual or to enrol your child into a group educating children in an alternative setting as part of your child's education.

A GSCB guidance leaflet that includes a list of questions to help you to establish whether a tutor, individual or group is working inside GSCB guidelines is available. This can be downloaded from the GSCB website or you can telephone them for a paper copy:

Phone: 01452 426994

Leaflet: [http://www.gscb.org.uk/media/1219/ehe_and_tutor_leaflet_-_sept_16-67276.pdf](http://www.gscb.org.uk/media/1219/ehe_and_tutor_leaflet_-_sept_16-67276.pdf)

Website: [www.gscb.org.uk](http://www.gscb.org.uk)
8.0 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

In September 2014, the law for children and young people with SEND changed. The LA has replaced Statements of Special Educational Needs with a single Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Your legal right to home educate applies equally if your child has special educational needs including a statement of SEND or an EHCP.

A statement of SEND or an EHCP is a legal document and so long as your child has one, the LA has a duty to make sure your child’s needs are met and to review it annually, following the procedures set out in the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Parents are always involved in the reviews of their child’s statement or plan.

If your child is on roll at a special school, please contact the Education Performance & Inclusion Team (EP&I), before taking any action about home education. The headteacher of a special school cannot take your child’s name off roll for you to pursue home education without the agreement of the LA. We will not withhold your request unreasonably but will work closely with you and the SEND department to develop a plan suited to your child’s needs.

If you are educating your child at home, you can ask the LA to carry out a statutory assessment or reassessment of your child’s special educational needs and disabilities.

Your request will be processed within the same statutory timescales and in the same way as requests made through schools.

**If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves**

*Thomas Edison, inventor, home-educated*

Contact details for the Local Authority SEND Service:

Address: Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester
GL1 2TP

Phone: 01452 427536

Email: SENGenEnq@gloucestershire.gov.uk

If you need help and support understanding the assessment process, you can contact SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service Gloucestershire):

Address: Flr 2, Messenger House, 35 St Michael's Square, Gloucester GL1 1HX
Phone: 0800 158 3603, 01452 389344, 01452 389345
Email: sendiass@carersgloucestershire.org.uk
Website: http@://sendiassglos.org.uk/

9.0 Elective Home Education in Gloucestershire – the Education Performance and Inclusion Team (EP&I)

We believe:

- There are many diverse and varied approaches to education.
- Parents should have access to clear and relevant information to help them make choices about their child’s education.
- School and home-based learning are equally valid methods of education.
- Children learn in different ways and at different speeds.
- Home education covers diverse approaches and philosophies, ranging from a formal structured, timetabled programme to a more informal, experiential approach to learning.

We provide the following services:

- A first point of contact for parents who want additional information relating to EHE
- Up-to-date written information relating to EHE for parents, schools and other professional groups.
- Trained, experienced advisers who provide support and guidance to parents who want help, as well as advice to other professionals in all matters relating to EHE. These advisers will ask you about your aims for your child’s education and will usually offer to meet to discuss your plans.
- Free resources for home educators via the Library Service for Education to support your child’s learning at home

We maintain a database of children whose parents have chosen EHE.

We aim to build positive trusting relationships with families. If we learn that you are educating your child at home, one of our advisers will make contact with you. We understand that some families prefer not to have any relationship with us and we will treat you fairly and reasonably whether you choose to have contact with us or not.

We do ask parents who choose not to meet an adviser, to provide us with information, usually annually, about the provision they are making for their children. We have been guided by case law in this respect.
Phillips v Brown, (1980) established that a Local Authority can initially ask parents who are educating their children at home for information. In Phillips v Brown, Lord Donaldson said:

‘Where an authority has a duty to take action in particular circumstances, it also has a duty to be alert to detect the possibility that those circumstances exist...I do not accept that it should do nothing...the most obvious step is to ask the parents for information. Of course such a request is not the same as a notice...and the parents will be under no duty to comply. However it would be sensible for them to do so. If parents give no information or adopt the course of merely stating that they are discharging their duty without giving any details of how they are doing so, the LEA will have to consider and decide whether it ‘appears’ to it that the parents are in breach of s 7 of the Education Act 1996’.

Please bear in mind you can provide information in many ways. You may choose a different written format or prefer a telephone conversation or a home visit.

Home education can be rewarding and is a considerable responsibility that will demand a substantial commitment of your time and energy. Only you and your family can make this important decision but please do talk to an EP&I adviser and other families with experience of home education to help you with your decision.

We want all children who attend school to be successful and happy. If your first choice for your child is school and you are considering home education because of an unresolved issue or dispute with a school, an EP&I adviser may be able to help you to resolve this before you make a decision.

If at any time you decide that your child’s best interests would be served by going to school, we can help you find a school place.

If at any point your child enters or returns to school please let us know.

‘I fit studying in as much as possible around my training times and matches. Any chance I can get during the day I have my books out.

Laura Robson, Tennis Player, home-educated

Drawing by Fletcher (12) Home educated

9.1 What if an EP&I adviser is concerned about the education being provided at home?

Wherever possible the adviser will:

- Talk to you about the concerns about your child’s education and will discuss ways in which the provision could be enhanced.
- Suggest other services that may be useful to you and your child.
- Direct you to additional sources of advice.
The adviser will:

- Write to you outlining any concerns and their recommendations/suggestions to address these concerns.
- Suggest timescales and arrangements for future contact to make sure your child is being suitably educated.

If the adviser continues to be concerned that you are not providing your child with a suitable education, or if you decline the offer to meet and refuse to send us any information, we will consider issuing a School Attendance Order.

These procedures are always a last resort and it is rare for us to use these legal measures. Parents and advisers can usually agree what needs to happen to resolve any concerns at an early stage and in most cases advisers are satisfied with changes that families make.

9.2 Confidentiality and Data Protection

Gloucestershire County Council abides by the Data Protection Act and the Human Rights Act, and we respect your right to confidentiality. We will only share personal information about you or your child with external agencies if you have given informed consent. In exceptional circumstances we will share information without your consent and where there are legal grounds to do so, for example, to prevent serious harm or to detect or prevent crime.

We may share statistical data with partner agencies such as Health or Youth Justice in a way that maintains the anonymity. At no time will we pass your details on to organisations external to Gloucestershire County Council for marketing or sales purposes.

9.3 Compliments, Comments and Complaints

We seek to continuously improve our service and we encourage you to tell us about those areas of the service we have provided that are good and any areas where you feel we could do better.

To pass on a comment about any aspect of our work please use the Your Feedback Form, at: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/18046/feedback_form.pdf. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact us in writing or by telephone and we will send you a paper copy:

Address: Education Performance & Inclusion Team, Shire Hall, 3rd Floor, Block 4, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TP
Phone: 01452 427800 or 01452 427360
Email: ehe@gloucestershire.gov.uk

If you are unhappy about any part of our communication or contact with you, please let us know. We aim to acknowledge receipt of your feedback within 2 working days and respond to your feedback as soon as possible.
If you continue to feel that we have acted unreasonably in relation to home-educated young people you can appeal to the Secretary of State for Education under Section 68 or 69 of the 1944 Education Act or to the Ombudsman.

'I could never have done what I have done without the habits of punctuality, order, and diligence, without the determination to concentrate myself on one subject at a time.'

Charles Dicken, Novelist, home-educated

Drawing by Isaac (15) Home educated

10.0 Other Sources of Information, Advice, Guidance and Educational Resources

10.1 Other organisations that may be able to provide resources and guidance to home education families

The organisations listed below are a sample of the available resources. Gloucestershire County Council carries no responsibility for the content or quality of the materials or resources from these organisations or websites. It is for you to judge the suitability and quality of the materials.

Education Otherwise
Education Otherwise is the largest UK membership organisation that provides support and information for families whose children are being educated at home. General information and contacts for local support groups.

Address: 125 Queen Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S1 2DU
Phone: General Enquiries 0845 478 6345 Local number 08445 867 542/43/44
Website: www.education-otherwise.org
**Home Education Advisory Service**
HEAS is a support group that offers information for home educators including advice about educational materials, resources, GCSE examinations, special educational needs, information technology, and legal matters.

Address: PO Box 98, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6AN
Phone: (and fax) 01707 371854
Email: enquiries@heas.org.uk
Website: www.heas.org.uk

**Free Range Education**
Resources, links, information, legal help and an e-mail support service.
Website: www.free-range-education.org.uk/

**Home Education**
Legal guides, mailing lists, chat, articles, events calendar, research questionnaire, FAQs, support group listings, scrapbook, games, quizzes and other resources.
Website: www.home-education.org.uk/

**HE Special UK**
Provides information, articles, resources and mailing list for parents of children with special needs who would like to educate at home.
Website: http://www.he-special.org.uk/

**North Star UK**
A UK-based organisation providing online learning for children aged 11-16. Online learning including iGCSE available in the UK and for overseas families.
Address: 2-4 Lea Road Dronfield S18 1SB
Phone: 01246 410222
Website: http://www.northstarworldwide.org

**Educational Freedom**
A group of Home Educating parents from all walks of life and from all Home Educating backgrounds with one purpose in mind – to make Home Education support available to all, including articles and news about alternatives to school-based education, eg Montessori, Rudolph Steiner and the Waldorf method, with emphasis on education at home.
Website: http://educationalfreedom.org.uk/
Christian Home Education
Home education information, articles, resource and suggested reading.

Website:  http://www.homeschool.co.uk/

Muddle Puddle
Home education resources and ideas for parents with younger children.

Website:  http://www.muddlepuddle.co.uk/

Educational Heretics Press
Articles, books and e-books about home-education and alternative learning systems.

Website:  http://www.educationalhereticspress.com/

Friends, Families and Travellers
FFT offers information and training, including educational advice, to all travellers, whether traditional, new, settled or on the road.

Address:  Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton, East Sussex  BN1 3XG
Phone: 01273 234 777
Fax: 01273 234 778
Email: fft@gypsy-traveller.org
Website: www.gypsy-traveller.org

The Travellers’ School Charitable Trust
The Trust exists to support Travellers and their children to access opportunity, freedoms and choice, through education.

Address:  The Plot at Cefn Y Garn, Llangeitho, Tregaron, Ceredigion  SY256TF
Phone: 07786 466 107
Email: info@travellersschool.org.uk
Website:  http://www.travellersschool.org.uk/

The National Association of Teachers of Travellers + Other Professionals
Committed to the education of Gypsy, Roma and Travellers of Irish Heritage, Fairground, Circus, New and Bargee children and young people, NATT+ works to promote and improve the education of these groups and provides a national list of educational contacts.

Phone: 01726 771322
Website:  www.natt.org.uk
Department for Education
Government department responsible for education.
Website:  https://www.gov.uk/browse/education
Phone:  0370 000 2288

Potential Plus UK
Address:  Suite 14, Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, MK3 6DP
Phone:  01908 646433
Website:  www.potentialplusuk.org

National Association for Able Children in Education
Address:  Core Business Centre, Milton Hill Abingdon Oxon OX13 6AB
Phone:  01235 828280
Website:  www.nace.co.uk

10.2 Examination Boards

AQA Education
Address:  Stag Hill House, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XJ
Phone:  0800 197 7162 or 0161 696 5995
Email:  eos@aqa.org.uk
Website:  www.aqa.org.uk

EDEXCEL
Address:  Cribbs Business Centre, Hollywood Lane, Cribbs Causeway BS10 7TW
Phone:  0845 618 0440

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA)
Address:  1 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1GC
Phone:  01223 553 998   Fax: 01223 552 627
Website:  www.ocr.org.uk

Welsh Joint Education Committee - WJEC & CBAC
Address:  WJEC, 245, Western Ave. Cardiff, CF5 2YX
Phone:  029 2026 51000
Website:  www.wjec.co.uk
10.3 **Ideas for low and no cost educational visits in Gloucestershire**

**Stroud Valleys Project**
Talks, walks, training, surveys, and projects suitable for families with any aged children.

Address: 8 Threadneedle Street, Stroud GL5 1AF
Phone: 01453 753358
Email: info@stroudvalleysproject.org
Website: www.stroudvalleysproject.org

**Gloucester Vale Conservation Volunteers**
Twice monthly conservation activities such as woodland management, scrub clearance, tree planting, stile/bridge building, fencing, dry stone walling, hedge-laying and footpath maintenance as well as some social events. Suitable for families with teenagers and young adults. Transport with other volunteers can be arranged from pickup points.

Email: info@gvcv.org.uk
Website: www.gvcv.org.uk

**Cotswold Lion Newspaper**
Find information about guided walks and events in the local area suitable for families.

Website: http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/?page=CotswoldLion

**Edward Jenner Museum**
Educational packages, workshops, activities and work packs to download. Check opening dates and times on the website.

Address: Dr Jenner’s House, Museum and Garden, Church Lane, Berkeley
GL139BN
Phone: 01453 810631
Email: education@edwardjenner.co.uk
Website: www.jennermuseum.com

**English Heritage (EH)**
Home educators can visit the 400+ sites free of charge – subject to conditions. Teaching resources are available onsite and on the website.

Phone: 0370 333 0606
Email: bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk
Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn
Gloucester Geology Trust (GGT)
Family Rock and Fossil road shows, guided walks and field trips and other events and activities at several sites. The trust can advise on suitable local sites for fossil hunting.

Phone: 01452 864438  
Website:  http://www.glosgeotrust.org.uk/diary_dates.shtml  
Facebook:  https://www.facebook.com/glosgeotrust/

Gloucestershire Archives
Historic archive collections and local and family history resources relating to Gloucestershire. The core collection is in Alvin Street, Gloucester and area-specific collections located in Libraries in Cheltenham, Cinderford, Cirencester, Stroud, Stow and Tewkesbury. Free entry

Phone: 01452 425295  
Website:  http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/learning-for-all/

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
The Trust holds numerous wild events throughout the year to learn about wildlife and the Gloucestershire landscape. Offering hands-on activities and practical work for children to learn more about their environment.

Phone: 01452 383333  
Address: Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road Gloucester GL4 6SX  
Website: http://www.gloucestershierewildlifetrust.co.uk/learn-and-discover/activities-children  
Facebook www.facebook.com/gloswildlife

Forestry Commission
All forests are open and accessible 24/7 and can provide classrooms without walls for schools and learners of all ages. Resources include tree name trails, activity packs, free learning resources and lesson plans for children from early years to secondary, forest research and information to facilitate studies and apprenticeship and careers information.

Address: Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, Tetbury GL8 8QS  
Phone: 0300 067 4890 Learning Team: 01299 266929 Fax: 01666 880559  
Email: westonbirt@forestry.gsi.gov.uk  
Website:  https://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-learning
Gloucester Life Museum and the Museum of Gloucester
Exhibitions, tours and monthly Culture Club talks as well as other events. Gloucester Museums offer a variety of hands-on educational sessions, loans boxes and resources to support and extend knowledge, skills and key curriculum aims. Objects and experimental learning provide a tangible link to our past. They offer excitement, and stimulate curiosity and discussion.

Annual Passes are available for unlimited access to the above 2 museums plus the Waterways Museum and the Soldiers of Gloucestershire e Museum: £10.00 for an individual or £20.00 for a family/year

Phone: 01452 396139
Admission: Adult £5.00, Child £3.00, Under 5 Free
Website: http://venues.gloucester.gov.uk/Freetime/Museums/education/education.aspx

Museum and Art Gallery, The Wilson, Cheltenham
The museum operates a loan box scheme with special rates for home educators and offers a wide range of inspiring hands-on activities, programmes and imaginative workshops led by The Wilson’s experienced Learning Team such as art, history, creative writing, design and technology and performing arts.

Address: The Wilson, Clarence Street, Cheltenham GL50 3JT
Phone: 01242 237 431 Fax: 01242 262 334
Email: learning@cheltenhamtrust.org.uk
Website: http://www.cheltenhammuseum.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=125

Museum in the Park, Stroud
Free entry. Museum’s learning officer has free online learning resource 7-11 years, including activity days, school time boxes, tours of historical buildings and a range of downloadable school programmes.

Address: Stratford Park, Stratford Road, Stroud
Phone: 01453 763394(Learning and Programmes Officer)
Website: www.museuminthepark.org.uk/school-programmes/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMuseuminthePark

The National Trust
Home educators can benefit from educational group family membership. This will cost £43.25 per year for use during normal school hours in school term time and includes free planning and preparation visits and 3 magazines a year.

Address: NT Supporter Services Centre, PO Box 574, Manvers, Rotherham S63 3FH
Telephone: 0344 800 1895 (local rates apply)
Email: enquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk
Website: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/educational-group-membership

**Over Farm**
Free educational sessions and activities for families during school holidays plus visits to the farm for children aged 2-12 to enable them to understand more about food production and farming, wildlife and conservation.

Address: Over, Gloucester, GL2 8DB  
Phone: 01452 341510 (Alyson Chilvers, resident teacher)  
Website: http://www.overfarm.co.uk/education/

**SkillZone – Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue**
Gloucestershire’s first safety education centre, this life-size village is a fully interactive learning environment to teach how to recognise dangerous situations and stay safe. Also available on line is Kidzone.

Address: Tuffley Lane, Gloucester GL4 0AS  
Phone: 01452 834150  
Email: skillzone@glosfire.gov.uk  
Website: http://skillzone.glosfire.gov.uk/kidzone/

**Slimbridge WWT**
The centre has several education programmes on offer as well as outdoor learning visits, hands-on investigation into habitats and wetland life, survival and conservation of species including guided and self-guided sessions and online resources.

Address: Bowditch, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT  
Phone: 01453 891 117 (Learning team)  
Email: education.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk  
Website: https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge/

10.4 **Support from Other Home Educating Families**

With the growth of social networking such as Facebook, there are support groups available that you can link to this way. This can be a useful way for parents who are new to home education to get in touch with parents who already have experience of home education and can therefore offer guidance and signposting to other organisations, local groups and sources of information that they have found useful.