

Elective Home Education

Frequently asked questions

I want to educate my child at home, where do I begin?

If you are considering educating your child at home, it may be useful to discuss the idea with a member of our team. They will be able to give you an overview of the responsibilities and support available to you. The Department for Education has produced detailed guidance for parents outlining their responsibilities in relation to EHE, which can be accessed via their website <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>

If you feel it would be useful to speak with a member of the team, please contact us on 01452 427622 or email us at ehe@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Parent advisers are also available to talk to you, please contact them on 01452 426015 or email them on parentadvisers@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Who do I need to tell if I want to begin home educating?

If your child is currently on roll at a school and you want to home educate, you will need to:

- Write to the head teacher and let them know that you are taking responsibility for your child's education.
- Once the school receives your letter, they will be able to remove your child from school roll. They may invite you in for a meeting to discuss your decision.
- The school deregisters your child and informs the Elective Home Education Service.
- An adviser from the team will usually contact you within a couple of weeks; however you are very welcome to contact us before this, if you wish to do so.

If your child is not currently known to us and you would like them to be, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Do I need to meet with anyone from the local authority?

We aim to build positive and trusting relationships with families. If we learn 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 a visit. If this is the case, we will fully respect your decision.

We do ask parents who choose not to meet with an adviser, to provide us with information about the provision they are making for their children. This can be done in a variety of ways including, verbally, written plans, diary extracts, video clips, etc. We would usually ask for this on an annual basis. We have been advised by case law in this respect.

Will I receive funding from the Local Authority to help with educating my child?

By electing to home educate your child, you will have chosen to accept full financial responsibility for their education. You will have to provide any books, equipment and other resources including exam and course fees. There is currently no financial assistance from either central government or Gloucestershire LA to assist families who choose to home educate.

Do I need to keep the same hours as school when educating at home?

You can choose the times to suit you and your child. There is no expectation that typical school hours are kept when educating at home. It is important to note that learning should be the principal activity within the child's week. The Local Authority recognises that there is no prescribed number of hours that an electively home educated child should follow and that learning can take place in many forms.

Do I need to be a qualified teacher?

You do not need to be a qualified teacher nor have any formal teaching qualifications to educate your child at home. Children learn in a variety of ways and each family may choose to adopt a variety of approaches to ensure their child is receiving a suitable education.

Can my child still choose to take GCSEs and other examinations?

Home educators can choose to follow the international IGCSEs, many of which do not have a coursework element. The IGCSEs can be studied over one or two years as the specification remains mainly the same from one year to the next. You will need to find an examination centre that allows your child to sit external exams. The LA has a list of settings that vary slightly from year to year.

What do I do if I want my child to return to school?

If you would like your child to return to a school at any point, or indeed attend a school for the first time, you will need to complete an in-year application form for each child requiring a school place. This form is available on the GCC website. Once completed, the forms should be sent to all of your preferred schools.

When does a child reach the end of compulsory schooling?

A child currently ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach 16 years of age.

What are my child's options once they reach the end of compulsory schooling?

Young people can choose how they wish to continue in education or training, post 16. This could cover a range of options including:

- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training
- An Apprenticeship www.apprenticeship.org.uk