

EHE Parent resource Pack

Our Role in your child's Home Education

Hackney has a legal duty to ensure that all children living in the borough are receiving a suitable education. If you decide you would like to consider home educating and your child is already at school, you are required to write to the school to inform them of your decision to home educate and ask for the child's name be taken off the school roll. The school is then required to inform us that this has taken place and that you are going to be responsible for educating your child.

When we are informed that you plan to educate your child at home, we will contact you and ask you provide additional information about your child and your plans to home educate. We will offer an initial visit to provide advice and guidance which may be helpful to you when planning to home educate. During this visit we would also talk about how you plan to provide a suitable education, and ways you can keep evidence that you are doing this. We will also put you in touch with helpful organisations and websites that offer useful support for home educators.

We will then make contact periodically while your child is of compulsory school age, to ensure that your child is receiving a suitable education.

If we have reason to believe your child is not receiving a suitable education, we will contact you to discuss this. We may ask to see evidence, such as reports, samples of your child's work, or meetings to discuss your child's progress. If the local authority is not satisfied that a child is receiving a suitable education, they may issue a School Attendance Order and / or the court may make an Education Supervision Order, which requires a parent to register their child at a school. These are a last resort after all reasonable steps have been taken to improve the child's education.

The local authority also has a duty to safeguard all children living in the borough, including children who are home educated. If you employ other people to work with your child (such as tutors) we recommend that you carry out appropriate checks, and make arrangements to supervise them.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I need to tell my child's school that they will be home educated?**

Yes. If you decide to home educate, you must inform your child's school in writing (by email or letter) that you will be withdrawing them from the school. The school will then remove your child from their register and notify the local authority.

- **Do I need to follow the National Curriculum?**

No. Parents who are home educating must provide their children with a suitable and efficient education, but it does not have to follow the national curriculum. However, many parents find the structure of the national curriculum useful when designing their educational programme. Also, many other books and resources you may use will follow the levels of the national curriculum.

- **What is a suitable education?**

Parents who are home educating are responsible for providing their children with a suitable education. This means that the education is appropriate to the child's age, abilities and interests; and that it is suitable for any special education needs the child may have.

- **Do I need to follow a school timetable?**

No. There is no obligation to follow a set timetable, although you may find the structure of a routine helpful. Your child must receive a full time education. As a guide, children who go to school attend for 190 days a year. The Department for Education recommends weekly teaching hours of:

21 hours for 5-7 year olds
23.5 hours for 8-11 year olds
24 hours for 12-16 year olds

- **Can my child still take exams?**

Yes. While it is not mandatory for home schooled children to take exams (such as GCSEs), you can enter them for these qualifications. Parents will be responsible for organising and paying for exam entry. You will need to contact the exam board directly to enter.

Remember that different exam boards cover different topics, so your child's learning will need to fit the exam board they are entering. Many exam boards require coursework as part of their qualification, so remember to factor that into your timetable for the year.

- **Will anybody provide me with resources?**

No. If you decide to electively home educate, the school will not provide any materials, resources or lesson plans. Parents become responsible for providing all resources for their child's education.

- **Is there any funding available?**

No. All financial costs associated with home education must be met by the parents. This includes any books, resources or materials you may need. If you choose to employ a tutor or for your child to attend online school, you must meet this cost yourself. If you choose to enter your child in exams (e.g. GCSEs), then you are responsible for the cost of entry too.

- **Can I Electively Home Educate if my child has an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?**

Yes, you can still choose to home educate if your child has SEN, including if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). If your child has an EHCP, the local authority has a duty to ensure that your child's needs are met, including if they are educated at home. We recommend you discuss any plans to home educate with your EHCP co-ordinator before you commit to doing so.

If your child attends a special school, you will need to have permission from the Local Authority before you can withdraw them from the school roll.

Resources

There are an enormous range of resources available including dictated programmes of study, tutoring services, online tutorials and resources that can be accessed from home and home education groups set up by local parents. What you choose to use and how you choose to educate your child is your own decision and we do not dictate what materials or curricula should be used. We have, however, collated a list of some approved online resources that you may wish to explore as part of your home education journey.

Your home education need not be limited to the home. Use the world around us and our bustling, exciting city to help your child to explore and understand the world. With Epping Forest a bus ride away, Hackney City Farm and Shoreditch City Farm on our doorstep, a range of well stocked libraries and miles of open spaces like Victoria Park, London Fields and Hackney Marshes, take your learning outside as much as you can to engage and excite young minds.

The following museums provide a range of offers and resources for Home Educated children

- <https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do-home-educating-visit>
- <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources.html>
- <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/families/fun-home>
- <https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/home-educators>
- <https://www.horniman.ac.uk/schools/learning-at-home/>
- <https://www.postalmuseum.org/visit-us/schools/home-educators/>

Primary

Literacy

Audible Website: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2 Description: all children's audiobooks are available for free while schools are closed. Registration: not required

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/about/homeschool/>

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

<https://letters-and-sounds.com/>

Authorfy Website: <https://authorfy.com> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2 Description: access to masterclasses on texts from a range of authors, including videos from the authors and activities linked to novels. Registration: is required

Book Trust Website: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2
Description: a site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, including fiction and non-fiction. Family activities are included in the 'Home Time' section. Registration: not required

Classroom Secrets Website: <https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs/> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2
Description: downloadable resource packs which cover a range of subjects, including reading and writing. Registration: not required

Elevenes with the World of David Walliams
Website: <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenes/> Key stages: key stage 2
Description: one free audio book reading is available to listen to every day.
Registration: not required

English Mastery Website: <https://www.englishmastery.org/> Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2
Description: downloadable resource books providing 8 weeks of activities. Registration: not required

Literacy Shed Website: <https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-gb/browse/free-resources/key-stage-2-activity-packs> Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2
Description: downloadable resource packs with tasks based on video clips on YouTube. Registration: not required

Love Reading 4 Kids Website: <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2
Description: a site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, covering fiction and non-fiction.
Registration: not required

Pobble 365 Website: <https://www.pobble365.com/> Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2
Description: a new image is published each day as a basis for creative writing. Story starters, questions and drawing ideas are provided. Registration: not required

Poetry by Heart Website: <https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/> Key stages: key stage 2
Description: a wide selection of poetry covering different topics
Registration: not required to view poems, but it is required to access teaching resources.

Purple Mash Website: <https://2simple.com/purple-mash/> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2
Description: free during the school closure period. Each week, a selection of daily activities is produced on different subjects, including comprehension and grammar. Registration: is required

Storytime with Nick Website: <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/help-during-school-closure/> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2
Description: available from Monday 20 April. Films of well-loved stories read by Nick Cannon, a trained actor, teacher and trainer. Registration: not required

The Children's Poetry Archive Website: <https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2 Description: an archive of spoken poetry recordings. Children can listen to poems read out loud. Registration: not required

The Day newsletter Website: <https://theday.co.uk/subscriptions/the-day-home> Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2 Description: a daily newsletter for parents and carers at home with children, helping to enrich learning with real-world knowledge and skills. Registration: is required

Maths

This initial list of maths resources is based on recommendations from the National Centre of Excellence in the Teaching for Mathematics (NCETM) and maths teachers. Some maths publishers are now making their offers to schools free or providing free trials. Schools already using a trusted or familiar maths package should continue to do so.

Hamilton Trust (home learning section) Website: <https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/> Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2 Description: downloadable resource packs with teacher guidance. A week's worth of resources is provided for each year group. Registration: not required

Mathematics Mastery Website: <https://www.mathematicsmastery.org/free-resources> Key stages: early years foundation stage, key stage 1 and key stage 2 Description: downloadable guidance and resource packs for parents and pupils. Registration: not required

Nrich Website: <https://nrich.maths.org/> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2 Description: a range of activities. Some are interactive and some are to be completed offline. Activities are categorised by age range. Registration: not required

Numberblocks Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-with-maths> Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2 Description: videos for numeracy development designed for children aged 0 to 6. There are fun activities that can be applied to everyday life and play. Registration: not required

Top Marks Website: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games> Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2 Description: a range of interactive maths games categorised by age group. Registration: not required

Science

Primary BBC Bitesize Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary> Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2 Description: interactive resources covering the primary science curriculum. Registration: not required

STEM Learning (Home learning) Website: <https://www.stem.org.uk/primary-science> Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2 Description: an online resource bank, which links to resources on external websites. The site features a live chat function offering support from subject experts. New home learning resources are being developed. Registration: not required

I hope you find these helpful and please feel free to contact me in future for any advice or guidance. My contact details can be found at the bottom of this email.

Secondary

The following websites cover a range of subjects

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zb9ppg8>
- <https://www.thenational.academy/>
- <https://www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk/>
- <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/schools/home-educators/#gs.dby8jg>
- <https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/schools/home-education/>

English

- <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/>
- <https://poetryarchive.org/>
- <https://visuwords.com>

Maths

- <https://www.transum.org/Software/>
- <https://nrich.maths.org/>
- <https://www.mathsisfun.com/>
- <https://www.cimt.org.uk/>
- <https://singaporemathsacademy.co.uk/>
-

Science

- <https://www.schoolsobservatory.org/>
- <http://www.periodicvideos.com/>
- <https://phet.colorado.edu/>
- <https://www.discoveryuk.com/>
- <https://eol.org/>
- <https://www.stem.org.uk/>

Key exam boards for private exam candidate information

- AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/student-and-parent-support/private-candidates>
- Cambridge <https://help.cambridgeinternational.org/hc/en-gb/articles/115004342889-Do-we-offer-home-schooling-or-distance-learning-courses->
- City and Guilds <https://www.cityandguilds.com/>
- Pearson <https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners.html>
- OCR <https://www.ocr.org.uk/students/private-candidates/>