



**Herefordshire
Council**

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

HEREFORDSHIRE

GUIDANCE

FOR PARENTS / CARERS

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION IN HEREFORDSHIRE

When considering home education these questions may help to inform your decision, before you choose to withdraw your child from school.

- Is the decision to home educate based on a 'breakdown' in the relationship with school due to unresolved issues such as bullying? Are there alternatives?
- Do you have the time and energy to provide a 'suitable' education' for your child?
- Are you prepared for contact with your child 24/7?
- Do you have the financial means to meet your child's needs such as; clubs, events, resources, courses, or examination fees?
- Does your child want to be home educated or is it something that you are more interested in?
- Have you considered the impact on the family as a whole if you opt to educate your son or daughter at home?
- Do you have a lap top or desk top computer? Do you have access to the internet?
- What are you trying to achieve by educating your child at home?
- How will you avoid 'socially isolating' your child?

These questions are meant to guide your decision making **NOT** to dissuade you from educating your child at home. A well-considered home education package can enrich and enhance a child's learning, however an ill- conceived or sudden decision, can lead to poor outcomes.

The Herefordshire Home Education Service is available to offer positive support, help and guidance with your initial decision to home educate and to offer on-going support if requested.

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Herefordshire's Principles for Elective Home Education

The Children and Families Directorate believes that:

- School - based education provides a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes social and physical development, moral and spiritual awareness and equal opportunities.
- Parents have the legal responsibility for ensuring that their children are properly educated and we respect their right to choose to educate their child, other than at school, according to their philosophical, ideological or religious views and beliefs.
- The decision by parents to elect to educate their child other than at school should be an informed, active, and positive one. It is important that parents obtain sufficient information about home education when making the decision.
- In order to fulfil its legal responsibility, [Education Act 1996, Section 7,437] to ensure that children who are home educated are receiving a suitable education, Herefordshire Council will promote an active and where possible, regular dialogue with parents and work in partnership with them in the best interests of the child.
- Educating a child within the home may be a more challenging way in which to provide an efficient and suitable full-time education than at school.
- As well as educational needs, we will take the personal, health and welfare interests of individual children into account, at all times.

Herefordshire's Children and Families Directorate will support the choice of parents who elect to home educate, unless it appears to us, through informal enquiries, that suitable provision is not being made for the child.

* For the purpose of this document the term "parents" includes anyone who has parental responsibility

The law about your child's education

Q Does my child have to go to school?

A No, school is not compulsory, but education is.

The Education Act 1996 [Section 7] states that:

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

a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and

b) to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise."

Most children attend school but for various reasons, some parents decide to undertake the responsibility for their child's education, outside the school system. If you elect to educate your child "otherwise" than at school you must make sure that a suitable education is provided.

Q At what age is it compulsory for children to have to receive full-time education?

A Home-educated children must receive full-time education from the start date of what would be the school term following their 5th birthday

Were they at school. 'Compulsory education' continues until the last Friday in June in the school year in which the child becomes 16.

Q Do I need anyone's permission to educate my child from home?

A No, this is your parental choice.

However, if your child is registered at a school you must inform the Headteacher of your child's school, preferably, **in writing**, to prevent any confusion, of your decision to home educate and the school will then inform the Children and Families Directorate. If your child is not registered at a school, then you do not need to register with the Directorate. However, it is strongly recommended that you do so to enable you to receive advice and support, if requested.

If the Directorate becomes aware that your child is being home educated we will make *informal enquiries* in order to help us decide whether it appears that you are fulfilling your duty under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

Q What if I don't inform the school?

A If your child is registered at a school and does not attend he/she will be marked as 'absent'.

Deliberate non-attendance at school may result in a prosecution under the relevant section of the Education Act 1996. It is essential, therefore, that should you withdraw your child from school in order to educate him/her at home you inform the school, **in writing**.

Q **Can I educate my child part-time at home and part-time at school?**

A Part-time schooling is a legal option but is at the discretion of the Headteacher and governors. The responsibility for the coverage and assessment of the National Curriculum will be the schools. The school may expect that some of the school's work is done at home so that your child is not disadvantaged if or when he/she returns to school.

Q **Can I re-register my child at school at a later date?**

A Yes, but it is up to you to contact a school to negotiate re-admission, and a place cannot be guaranteed in the future. Parents should, therefore, consider carefully before withdrawing a child from a school especially when the school is a popular one.

Considerations before electing To Educate Your Child At Home

Q **What should I consider before I decide to home educate?**

A First, be certain you are doing the best thing for your child. Talk it through with him or her. Talk to the school, if appropriate. Make contact with the Children and Families Services Elective Home Education Officer and/or one of the home- education support agencies [pages 16 and 17] for advice. The reasons why families choose to home educate are varied, and the decision to home educate should not be made lightly.

Parents may wish to provide for their child's education in a different environment or by using different methods than those used in school, or feel that the child is not yet ready to attend school.

The education of a child at home can be very rewarding and demands a serious commitment of time, patience, energy and the ability to provide appropriate stimulation and resources. You will need to consider what skills or time you can offer, or whether you need to find an appropriate teacher/tutor or other form of support; which may incur costs.

If you are considering home education because your child is refusing to attend school, we would encourage, in the first instance, exploration of **all other** possibilities, with the school.

If you decide that home education is the best option, it is important that you fulfil your legal duty to ensure that your child does receive an appropriate education.

Q What if my child has Special Educational Needs?

A Pupils with an Education, Health and care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Need who have been registered at a mainstream school can be educated at home, providing arrangements are judged to be suitable, and meet the special needs of the child as outlined in the statement.

A parent of a child who has an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Need, and is a registered pupil at a special school, must obtain the consent of the Children and Families Directorate before removing them from school. The Directorate needs to continue to hold an Annual Review of the Plan or Statement and this includes considering whether the statement is still appropriate. Rights of appeal to the SEN Tribunal still apply.

Q What if I decide to home educate and then change my mind?

A If you change your mind about teaching your child at home, or your child wishes to return to school, then you can seek a place in a school and let the Children and Families Directorate know. Please be aware that a place may not be available at the school of your choice if it is a late or mid-school year application. In Year Transfer Access forms can be down loaded from this link

[Apply for a primary school place mid-year | Primary school admissions | Herefordshire Council](#)

[Apply for a secondary school place mid-year | Secondary school admissions | Herefordshire Council](#)

Q What about GCSE examinations?

A You and your child will need to consider long-term job/career aspirations, before deciding whether they actually need to study GCSEs.

Home educating families have a variety of experiences regarding GCSE examinations.

Making contact with one of the home education support organisations for advice can be most useful. [See page 16 and 17]

- If your child wants to take GCSEs then you will need to find a registered centre to take the exams. A registered centre is usually at a school or college. As a home educator you will have to contact them directly. You should contact individual examination boards [pages 20 - 21] in order to find out the precise way in which they handle private candidates.
- You will have to pay for any exam registration fee and assessment of coursework, by an accredited person. At the time of writing, the registration fee for a GCSE exam is approximately £35-£40 plus and additional administration fee of £25.00 per subject (2019)

- Distance learning/Correspondence courses are also available, although they can be expensive.
- Colleges can now offer a provision for children in home education between the ages of 14 - 16 years of age, this is at the discretion of the colleges and they should be approached individually.
- It is worth noting that once a pupil is 16 years of age they can enrol in a wide range of adult courses, including A/ AS level exams although the majority of courses will start in the September following your child's sixteenth birthday. The Raising Participation Age means that all children will be encouraged to continue in some form of education or training until they are 18. Home Education is a viable choice for Post 16 educational provision as long as the child is working towards qualifications.
- Please note that the Children and Families Directorate **does not** fund college places for students educated at home.
- GCSE exams are not necessarily a pre-requisite to higher levels of formal education but may be a requirement for some sorts of employment.
- If your child wants to go on to higher education, universities do not necessarily expect GCSE level qualifications, A-level grades are more important.
- Universities do not automatically discriminate against home- educated applicants

Q Will my child miss the social aspect of school?

A Some children will miss the daily contact with friends at school. Others will be happy to see their school friends outside school hours, as well as making new friends. Many home educating families have a wide circle of like-minded friends and have contacts with other home educated children of all ages. You will need to consider the social development of your child, which would be enhanced through sharing activities with other children. Joining a variety of clubs and special interest societies etc. can prove very enriching, as can mixing with, and sharing skills, with people of all ages.

Q Can I get advice from the Children and Families Directorate before I make the decision?

A Before making the decision to home educate, you can contact the Directorate's Elective Home Education Officer for friendly informal advice. [See contact details page15.]

The Role of the Children and Families Directorate

Q **What is the Children and Families Directorate's role?**

A The Directorate **will not** attempt to stop parents providing education for their child outside the school system. However, the Directorate will make *informal inquiries* about children who are educated at home to assist them in ascertaining that an efficient, full-time education that is suitable for the age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs that their child may have.

Q **What is an "efficient and suitable" education?**

A An "efficient" and "suitable" education is not defined in the Education Act 1996. A judgement at Worcester Crown Court in 1981 resulted in a statement by the judge that described "efficient" as an education that "achieves that which it sets out to achieve". A "suitable" education is one that "prepares children for life in a modern, civilised society and will enable them to achieve their full potential."

This will require home educators to have some sort of **plan** or **framework** for education.

Q **What does "full-time" mean?**

A There is no legal definition of "full-time". Children in school normally spend between 22 and 25 hours working at school each week. The Department for Education has advised that their interpretation of "full-time" is that anything less than 20 hours per week is not "full-time". However the type of educational activity can be varied.

Q **How will the Directorate decide if I am providing an "efficient" and "suitable" education for my child?**

A We believe the most effective, efficient and easiest way for us to decide this, is by talking with you and your child about your approach to home education.

- We will invite you to meet with our experienced Elective Home Education Officer so you can explain the educational provision you are planning.
- We do not have a rigid view of what is "suitable" and "effective" education and recognise that there are many approaches to educational provision. We will consider a wide range of evidence from home educating parents.
- If you are a new home educator we will not expect you to have necessarily planned, in detail, what and how you are going to provide for your child's education, at the initial visit with the Elective Home Education Officer.

- If you are a new home educator we will not expect you to have necessarily planned, in detail, what and how you are going to provide for your child's education, at the initial visit with the Elective Home Education Officer.
- The way in which you provide information is entirely up to you. It can be in any form, as long as it is sufficient enough to convince a reasonable person of its appropriateness for your child's age, aptitude and ability. Information can be provided in a written form, **sufficiently comprehensive to establish competence and intention, and beyond the mere assertion that education is taking place** (which Lord Donaldson determined would be inadequate).
- If you would like to offer any specific examples of learning e.g. pictures/paintings/models, diaries of work, projects, assessments, samples of work, books, educational visits etc, we would be happy to view them. The Elective Home Education Officer is trained, not only in the law on home education, but also in understanding the varied range of philosophies of home education.

We find that despite initial worries that some new home educators may have about the initial meeting the majority of them have found it helpful and/or re-assuring.

Although the Directorate does not have a right of entry into your home, and you can request a meeting somewhere else if you wish, we consider it more helpful if the consultant visits you in the comfort of your own home. Likewise, the Directorate does not have a legal right to see your child but, again, we find it helpful to meet the child so that we are assured of their well-being. A partnership is a more beneficial arrangement.

Q What if the Directorate's Elective Home Education Officer is not satisfied with the home educational arrangements?

A The vast majority of home education visits result in the Directorate being satisfied with what parents are providing. The Elective Home Education Officer will write a report summarising the discussion and will send a copy of the report to you.

If, however, the Elective Home Education Officer is not satisfied with the provision, they will tell you and explain the reasons why, e.g. no tangible or clear evidence of any form of learning. If you so wish, the Education Officer will make practical suggestions as to how the provision may be improved. You will be contacted approximately 2 months later to discuss what progress has been made.

Q After 2 months. what if the EHE Officer is still not satisfied with the provision?

A If the Elective Home Education Officer continues to have concerns he/she will discuss those concerns and if it is considered that your child is still not receiving a suitable education then you will be advised to register your child at a school. Failure to do so may result in the Directorate applying for a School Attendance Order. This will require you to send your child to a school named in the Order. Not ensuring that your child attends school would then become an offence, under the Education Act 1996. The Directorate will only do this if it is convinced that you are not helping your child to learn according to her/his age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.

Q Will the Elective Home Education Officer give me any practical support?

A The Directorate is not funded from central government to support elective home education. The EHE Officer will not be able to provide you with practical support, resources or educational materials, although in the context of partnership with parents, if you wish, they will offer some suggestions. There is also a wide range of addresses and useful websites included in the back of this booklet [see pages 16 -29].

Q What if I don't want to meet the EHE Officer?

A Our Elective Home Education policy is based on a principle of promoting an active and supportive dialogue with parents. Our intention is to work in partnership with home educating families. Herefordshire Children's Well-Being Directorate has a long-established, positive relationship with home educating families. We offer the opportunity to meet the Elective Home Education Officer in good faith.

If you do not wish to meet the Elective Home Education Officer we will respect your wishes. However, we will ask you to provide alternative evidence of how you are fulfilling your statutory duties. Our experience is it is easiest for parents to provide appropriate evidence is by meeting and talking to the Elective Home Education Officer.

Elective Home Education Procedures in Herefordshire

Once the Children and Families Directorate becomes aware that a parent is home-educating or intends to home educate:

Step 1	The Local Authority will send an initial letter enclosing the Directorate's Guidance and that of the Department for Education on Elective Home Education and explaining what will happen next.
Step 2	The Elective Home Education Officer will write to you offering a date for the EHE Officer to visit for an <i>informal discussion</i> about home education. The initial visit is so that you have an opportunity to explain your personal philosophy on home education and give details of your plans for ensuring your child will receive an appropriate education and to be supported in that decision by the EHE Officer .
Step 3	The day of the visit the EHE Officer will come and to talk with you about how you are intending to provide for your child's education. It is helpful if you have some evidence of the educational programme e.g. resources to be used, a timetable, subjects, projects to be undertaken, examples of your child's work etc. If you are new to home education, we understand that there may be limited evidence. In that case we would ask you to show, by whatever means you can, what you intend to arrange for your child.
Step 4	At the visit the EHE Officer will consider any evidence you have and talk to you about your plans and educational philosophy. If you ask them to, the EHE Officer will make some suggestions to aid you in educating your child at home. The majority of home educators have clear reasons for choosing home education and can easily satisfy the EHE Officer that they have appropriate plans in place. If the EHE Officer is satisfied that you are providing, or have clear plans to provide, an appropriate education for your child, he/she will tell you, and in the final part of the meeting the Officer will offer future meetings which will be at the discretion of the parent, as the Local Authority does not have a duty to monitor home education on a regular basis. However if the EHE Officer considers that you are not providing, or cannot provide an appropriate education, he/she will tell you and arrange a further visit [see page 9].
Step 5	The notes from the meeting will be typed by the EHE Officer as a record of the discussion. A copy will be sent to you. You will be asked to read the report, to ensure its accuracy. If there are any suggested amendments from you, the Officer will amend the report and send a revised copy to you.
Step 6	The EHE Officer will contact to you again at the mutually agreed time, if further regular support has been requested.
Step 7	The EHE Officer will make contact annually with all other families to enquire about the on-going education that is being provided, this may be in the form of a visit or, if preferred by the family, it can be a detailed report.

If, as a result of any visit the Elective Home Education Officer has major educational, health, welfare or social concerns about your child, they may refer them to the appropriate education/social services department, in the interest of the child.

Curriculum teaching methods and resources

Q Who can help me?

A There are a number of independent home education support agencies whose addresses are given at the back of this booklet. [Page 17]

Q Do I have to follow the National Curriculum?

A No, you do not need to follow the National Curriculum. The programme you arrange should meet the needs of your child, depending on their aptitude and ability. Following the National Curriculum may be one of the ways of meeting their needs. The subjects of the National Curriculum form a broad and balanced range of subjects and you can use them as a guide, if you wish. Following the National Curriculum may make it easier for your child if they ever wish to return to school. The content of the National Curriculum can be obtained from the address at the back of this document. [See page 19] The Directorate recommends strongly that you teach your child to read, write and to be numerate so that he/she has the skills to make choices later in life.

Q Do I need to construct a timetable?

A Not necessarily-there is no one form of education as children learn in many different ways, at different times and speeds, and from different people. Your home education programme will not necessarily follow a set or regular timetable, but the Directorate considers it good practice for there to be some structure and routine to the learning and that there is some record kept.

Many new home educators start with a subject timetable to guide them. You do not have to keep records of work, or date them but if you do so it will help you and your child to see what progress he/she is making. As you and your child get used to home education, you will be able to develop the most useful or preferred approaches to learning.

Q What teaching and learning methods should I use?

A It is entirely up to you to decide the most appropriate methods. You should decide what you are hoping to achieve for your child. You will need to take account of their character and personality and their preferred learning style

There are 3 very broad strategies used by home educators.

1. School at home

This is usually subject-based and may follow textbooks, workbooks and traditional programmes of study. There is usually a "timetable" of subjects being learned.

2. Semi-structured learning

There is a structured learning programme but it is more broadly based than a traditional subject based one. Often children choose areas that interest them and study them in depth.

3. Autonomous learning

This approach involves the child following his/her interests entirely with encouragement by parents to access a wide range of resources. It does not mean the child is doing or learning nothing.

Many home educators start with "School at Home" and then become more flexible as their children become more independent learners.

What you teach and how your child learns is up to you. There are many different ways to plan teaching and learning. Whilst the following list is not compulsory, it offers the following suggestions for our consideration:

- Try to make the learning process active, practical, enjoyable and participative, rather than something that is "done" to your child.
- Vary the style and content of the approach so that your child does not become disinterested.
- Plan the learning programme systematically rather than piecemeal or with purely haphazard activities, to occupy time.
- Give appropriate opportunities for independent studies and research, as well as "direct learning".
- Consider ways of assessing what they have learned, from time to time, so that your child can see the progress they are making.
- Take advantage of all the resources available to you e.g. the local environment, library [including the wealth of free resources on the internet], community and education courses, leisure facilities, places of interest etc.
- Give great importance to reading, as being able to read will enable your child to access a wide range of information and knowledge.
- Don't forget both physical and social activities that will help develop your child's skills.

Q How will my child know if they are making progress?

A All children like to know how successful they are. One option is through verbal feedback but marking of work, although not compulsory, helps children to see where they need to improve, without this 'benchmark' children have

difficulty in knowing whether they are making progress. Positive reinforcement of things children do well, will help them to tackle the things that they find more challenging.

Q Is there any funding for equipment, books or visits?

A Some museums etc give free or discounted admissions to home educators. You may find it useful to build up contacts with other parents also educating their children at home. This also allows you to exchange ideas and resources. You can always explore the possibility of group discounts on entry fees for educational visits.

There is an increasing amount of free learning material on the internet. [See pages 22 -24]. Some organisations and companies provide free resources.

Where can I get help?

Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the details below are correct, Herefordshire Children's Wellbeing Directorate has reproduced these in good faith, and does not guarantee their accuracy. The Directorate is not responsible for the content of websites listed below.

For any queries about home education please contact:

Ms Joy Burnet
Elective Home Education Officer
Children and Families Directorate
Plough Lane Offices
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR4 OLE
Tel. 01432 383194

HOME EDUCATION CONTACTS

<p>Christian Home School</p>	<p>www.homeschool.co.uk Christian based site, with a range of interesting resources and links.</p>
<p>Education Otherwise Association Limited PO Box 7420 London N9 95G</p>	<p>Website: www.education-otherwise.net Email: enquiries@education.otherwise.org Helpline: 0870 7300 074 Nationwide charity for home education information and support. Subscription of £20 also entitles members to receive a handbook, UK and overseas contact list and bi-monthly newsletter, access to further resources, special interest and local groups and national gatherings</p>
<p>Freedom in Education</p>	<p>www.freedom-in-education.co.uk Independent website with news, articles, links and information about alternatives in education</p>
<p>Home Education Advisory Service P.O. Box 98 Welwyn Garden City Hertfordshire ALB 6AN</p>	<p>Website: www.heas.org.uk E-mail: admin@heas.org.uk 01707 371854 HEAS produces a range of publications and leaflets on different aspects of home education. Annual subscription [currently £16, 2020] gives access to the Advice-line, quarterly magazine, card for educational discounts, resources for loan and a regional list of other subscribers.</p>
<p>Home Education Organisation</p>	<p>www.home-education.org.uk An impressive website with almost all a home educator needs to know about home education. A range of support and information, from legal matters, to events, to ongoing research and to free resources and software.</p>

Muddle Puddle	www.muddlepuddle.co.uk This is an independent website compiled by a home educator. It is mainly focused on learning for children aged 0-8 years old, home education and parenting support.
Educate yourself	www.edyourself.org Up to date guidance and information relating to home education
At home education	www.ahomeeducation.co.uk Information about home education, ideas for learning
ACE (Advisory Centre for Education)	www.ace-ed.org.uk ACE is an independent national education advice centre offering confidential advice to parents.

Places to visit

National Trust Historic buildings and gardens

Website: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

The Hereford Waterworks Museum Hereford City

Website: <https://www.waterworksmuseum.org.uk/>

Green Spider Climbing Indoor climbing centre in Hereford City

Website: <https://spiderclimbing.com/green-spider/>

Queenswood Country park and arboretum near Leominster

Website: <https://www.queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org/>

Avoncroft Museum of Buildings Bromsgrove

Website: www.avoncroft.org.uk

Techniquet Interactive science museum Cardiff and Bristol

Website: <https://www.techniquet.org/>

Thinktank Interactive science and planetarium Birmingham

Website: <https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank>

Other on-line resources

BBC Education:

BBC Education provides a wide range of useful information and links useful to parents and pupils of home educators

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/education

BBC Learning Zone

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone

Overnight programmes on BBC 2 covering a wide range of subjects.

BBC Revision

Covers a range of KS2, KS3 and GCSE TV programmes and complementary CD ROMs, books and videos.

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/revision

National Curriculum

The complete National Curriculum on line:

[National curriculum in England: framework for key stages 1 to 4 - GOV.UK](#)

National Extension College [NEC]

Michael Young Centre

Purbeck Road

Cambridge

CB2 2HE

Website: www.nec.ac.uk/

Email: info@nec.ac.uk

ICS Distance Learning (ICS)

Website: [ICS Learn | Distance Learning Courses | Online Courses](#)

Prospective Students:

Email our Course Advisors

courseadvisors@icslearn.co.uk

Tel Number: 0808 252 5093

Oxford Home Schooling

Oxford Open Learning 4
Kings Meadow Oxford
OX2 0DP

Website: [Oxford Home Schooling & Education - KS3, GCSEs, A Levels](#)

Open and Distance Learning Quality Council [QDLQC]

Westminster Central Hall,
Storey's Gate
London SW1 9NH

020 7233 3466

This is an independent body that accredits open and distance learning courses.
It produces a free information leaflet that lists all approved organisations and their courses.

Website: www.odlqc.org.uk **Email:** odlqc@dial.pipex.com

Little Arthur School

This small independent school on the Isles of Scilly, offers Home Educators Packs for KS3 English, maths and science and international GCSE courses in a range of subjects with distance learning and exam facilities offered.

<https://homeeducationspecialists.org.uk/>

Kumon mathematics and English

The Kumon maths and English study programmes enable students of all ages and abilities to achieve. Our aim is for each and every child to become an independent, advanced learner, with a positive attitude to study.

www.kumon.co.uk/Hereford/index.htm

Hereford Study Centre
Lynn Johnson
The Kindle Centre
Belmont Ct
Hereford
HR2 7JE

Magikats mathematics and English

MagiKats offers out-of-school tutoring in maths and English, for any child from pre-school to GCSE.

Telephone: 01981 251833

E-mail <https://www.magikats.co.uk/>

The Student Support Centre

www.student-support.co.uk

The Student Support Centre offers personalised learning programmes for pupils aged 4- 17, in English and mathematics.

***Computers for low income families**

Home desk top computers and laptops available at discounted costs

[http:// www.getonlineathome.org](http://www.getonlineathome.org)

ADDRESSES FOR THE UNITARY AWARDING BODIES

AQA Assessment and Qualifications Alliance

0161 953 1180 (For an entrance pack) 0161 953 1170 (for a publications pack)

Website:www.aqa.org.uk

Email:

postmaster@aqa.org.uk

Procedure for entering - apply to the exam board as a private candidate. It is important to understand that centres are under no obligation to accept private candidates at all. AQA will send a pack and a list of centres, which have accepted private candidates in the recent past. The candidate approaches one of these centres. The centre will enter them, and pay the fees and the candidate reimburses them.

EDEXCEL

0870 240 9800

Website: [Pearson qualifications | Edexcel, BTEC, LCCI and EDI | Pearson qualifications](#)

Email: enquiries@edexcel.org.uk

EDEXCEL publishes its booklet "Information for Private Candidates" on its website. A full list of centres, which have indicated that they are willing to accommodate private candidates, is included in the booklet . Again there is no obligation for them to accept private candidates.

Joint Council for GCSEs

Devas Street

Manchester M15 6EX

0161 935 7557

Contact for the addresses of the examining boards

[OCR] Oxford Cambridge and RSA

01223 552552 (for an entrance pack) 01223 551600 (for a publication pack)

Website: www.ocr.org.uk **Email:** helpdesk@ocr.org.uk

Procedures for entering - the candidate needs to find a school/ centre for themselves, who is using OCR for the subjects they wish to take and that will accept them as a private candidate (not all schools do). The school / centre will enter them and pay the fees and the candidate reimburses the school.

WJEC Welsh Joint Examination Board

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

Email

info@wjec.co.uk

**Phone: 029 2026
5000**

CIE Cambridge International Examinations

Cambridge International Examinations (formerly known as ¹University of Cambridge International Examinations¹, CIE) is a provider of international qualifications offering examinations and qualifications in more than 160 countries. It is an [examination board](#) under [Cambridge Assessment](#), ² founded in 1858 as a department of the [University of Cambridge](#) .

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

Phone +44 1223 553554

IGCSEs (International General Certificate in Secondary Education)

The **International General Certificate of Secondary Education** (abbreviated **IGCSE**) is an **internationally recognized qualification** for students, typically in the 14-16 age groups. It is an equivalent to the [GCSE](#) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The IGCSE is predominantly exam-based, meaning they are not actual certified "courses", but rather exams that test knowledge in individual subjects in the same way as [Advanced Placement](#) exams and [SAT Subject Tests](#). For this reason, it is also a viable option for many home-schooling educators.

The examination board [Edexcel](#) offers its own version, the Edexcel IGCSE. Cambridge IGCSE provides a broad and flexible study program and covers subjects in a variety of areas: Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Creative, Technical and Vocational.

The [IGCSE](#) was developed by [University of Cambridge International Examinations](#)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

Disclaimer:

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the details below are correct, The Children's Wellbeing Directorate of Herefordshire Council has reproduced these in good faith, and does not guarantee their accuracy.

The Directorate is not responsible for the content of websites listed below.

Literacy

<http://www.ictgames.co.uk/>

A whole range of lovely interactive games for Primary aged children.

<http://www.starfall.com/>

For early years - American site so watch the accent but the children love it!

<http://www.storiesfromtheweb.org/>

Book reviews, free stories, writing activities and games for Primary aged children.

<http://www.magickeys.com>

Scroll down the page for free online animated stories.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/>

BBC website based on 'letter and sounds'. Includes some great online games and activities - particularly the blending games.

www.northpole.com

CHRISTMAS ONLY!! E-mail Santa with your class and receive a great reply - a very sweet activity for the younger classes (also includes games and other activities).

<http://www.candlelightstories.com/storybooks/grimms-fairy-tales/>

Audio books, stories and games. Many of the stories are 'classics' eg. from the brothers Grimm (read with an American accent)

[BBC - Schools Ages 4-11 - Literacy Sites](#)

<http://www.seussville.com/> Games based on the stories

<http://www.tutpup.com>

A fun spelling game against an opponent (computer) and the clock . Also improves typing speed and accuracy.

[The Usborne Reading Programme](#)

Links for books on the Usborne reading scheme but also helpful for topic work as it has good hyperlinks.

www.edhelper.com

An American subscription site providing a range of literacy and numeracy worksheets, based on themes

<http://readingeggs.co.uk>

Reading Eggs teaches children aged 3 - 13 how to read with fun and motivational online reading lessons and phonics games

[Nessy - Reading, Writing And Spelling Help For Children With Dyslexia](#)

www.filmeducation.org

Uses DVDs/film as stimulus for 'Visual Learners'

Numeracy

www.conquermaths.org

An online maths tutoring system teaches an entire school maths lesson in as little as 5 minutes using animated lessons

<http://www.ictgames.co.uk/>

A whole range of lovely interactive games for Primary aged children.

[BBC - KS2 Bitesize - Maths](#)

Numeracy homepage from the BBC including interactive games, programmes and worksheets.

www.funbrain.com

Fun maths games that can be set to different levels of difficulty. Each 'level' is a different game to the one preceding it.

<http://www.pbskids.org>

Maths games for older children although they will probably be unaware that it is 'work'!

<http://tutpup.com/>

Great maths games that can be set at different levels - playing against an opponent (computer) or the clock - very addictive!

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/>

Games and explanations of different concepts with child friendly illustrations.

<http://www.mathsphere.co.uk/fun/>

Maths games for older children.

www.emaths.co.uk

A website that contains a range of test papers together with answers

[Nessy Numbers - For Children Who Struggle With Maths](#)

Nessy Numbers teaches multiplication and telling the time.

General sites for several curriculum areas

www.topmarks.co.uk

Link to a huge variety of maths games and resources, divided by range and subject.

<http://www.neok12.com/>

Educational videos, lessons and games, very good site.

[http:// www.coxhoe.durham.sch.uk/](http://www.coxhoe.durham.sch.uk/)

Go to 'curriculum' and choose the subject you are interested in - there are links to many other sites with plenty of interactive resources.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/>

Age appropriate, subject specific activities, games, worksheets and experiments. Also have revision activities.

[http:// www.crickweb.co.uk/](http://www.crickweb.co.uk/)

Fun and useful interactive activities for most subjects as well as games for the children.

[http:// www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/](http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/)

A very odd combination of random Science, History, Art and Literacy activities but interactive and fun!

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk>

Contains ideas, worksheets and some PowerPoint presentations based on all curriculum areas.

[http:// www.senteacher.org/Print /](http://www.senteacher.org/Print/)

A limited range of resources for children with SEN but particularly useful are the 'feelings bubble' and 'certificate maker'.

<http://www.historyonthenet.com>

Wide ranging history resources, many of which we can support with Communicate in Print if required

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/>

Characters, stories, songs and games for young children base on Cbeebies shows.

<http://harrypotter.warnerbros.com/>

Lots of fun for older students - visit Diagon Ally and Ollivander's wand shop.

<http://www.nickjr.com/>

Interactive art activities and games incl. 'Dora the explorer'

<http://www.cargames1.com/>

Lots of different car and motorbike racing games - excellent for use in choosing time.

<http://www.roalddahl.com/>

Games and activities based on the books

www.countryreports.org

260 countries profiled, with historical, geographical and political information, maps, opportunities to join online discussions about hot issues.

www.edheads.org

Primary level interactive site with free online activities about machines. It's fun, entertaining, educational and child-friendly.

www.educationwebsites.co.uk

Links to a huge number of education websites, with a specific section for home education.

www.eriding.net/amoore

Unusual but fascinating, free, personal resource website, set up by Andrew Moore in support of the "open source movement". Deals primarily with the study of English Literature at GCSE and A level, with some drama, history, ICT and scripture studies.

www.gcse.com GCSE revision guides

Resource provided by Jenny Kedward Primary Resources

www.happychild.org.uk

Range of activities including section on accelerated learning techniques, detailed guide to children's books and entertainment e.g. Pokemon and Harry Potter plus features on issues concerning "less fortunate" children.

www.homeedmagazine.com

Although American based [different laws] this site has some interesting resources and links.

www.learndirect.co.uk

Hundreds of online correspondence courses with advice on many others, particularly useful for Post 16 learners

www.specialistcrafts.co.uk

Massive range of art and craft material, at reasonable prices. Free catalogue to home educators

www.tryscience.com

Experiments, science in the news, activities and links to major science centres in the UK and around the world.

www.scholastic.co.uk

A range of educational magazines, providing information, ideas and advice.

[Clicker @home](#)

Clicker is the literacy support tool that is used in schools and homes throughout the world

www.educationcity.org

www.primaryresources.co.uk.

<https://www.edplace.com>

<https://www.toucanbox.com/>

<https://uk.ixl.com/>.

<https://www.littlepassports.com/uk/>.

<http://timestutorials.co.uk/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

A guide to Publishers, ages /key stages and National Curriculum

A guide to some Publishers of texts books that might help with your child's learning experience

- **CGP**
- **WH Smith (own books)**
- **Letts**
- **Schofield and Sim**
- **Bond**

Some parents like to know what books to look for. Here is a short guide
REMEMBER your child might not be at their age level and might need a book lower or higher than their actual age.

AGES AND KEY STAGES

KEY STAGE	YEAR	AGE
Reception	Reception	4 - 5
Key Stage 1	Year 1	5 - 6
Key Stage 1	Year 2	6 - 7
Key Stage 2	Year 3	7 - 8
Key Stage 2	Year 4	8 - 9
Key Stage 2	Year 5	9 - 10
Key Stage 2	Year 6	10 - 11
Key Stage 3	Year 7	11 - 12
Key Stage 3	Year 8	12 - 13
Key Stage 3	Year 9	13 - 14
Key Stage 4	Year 10	14 - 15
Key Stage 4	Year 11	15 - 16
Post 16		

SUBJECTS

CORE English, mathematics, science

FOUNDATION Geography, history, Art, ICT, food technology, modern foreign languages, PE, RE, drama, music

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

For information about what is covered by each Key Stage in schools

[National Curriculum - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum)

Private Tutors

Some parents may wish to engage the services of a private tutor once or twice a week to support their child's learning particularly in mathematics and English. There are many reputable Tutor companies which can be found via an internet search.

Typical costs are around £20.00/£30.00 per one hour session. Examples are;

Tutor Hunt

Tutor Hunt are a national company that have tutors throughout Herefordshire

<https://www.tutorhunt.com/>

Telephone: 0203 151 0012

General Enquiries: support@tutorhunt.com

Fleet Tutors

Fleet Tutors, a CRB registered tutoring company, has thirty years' experience helping students achieve their potential. We *have* a good supply of well-qualified and enthusiastic tutors across Herefordshire.

<https://www.fleet-tutors.co.uk/>

Telephone: (01252) 371 731

E-mail: clientsupport@fleet-tutors.co.uk