

Guide Four **Choosing how** **to homeschool**

Introduction

Now you're ready to start the exciting bit; teaching your child and supporting their learning. There's a huge amount of freedom in how you go about this, so we're here to provide you with your options, plus hints and tips on how to structure your provision.



Chapter 1:

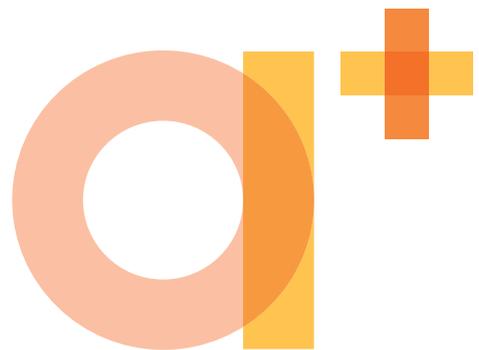
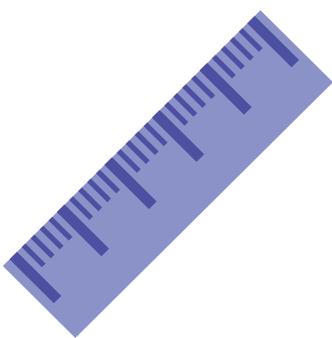
Do I need to follow the National Curriculum?

You don't have to follow the National Curriculum, although there are some advantages; should your child ever return to school, by having followed the National Curriculum they'll have comparable knowledge and skills to their peers. The National Curriculum also provides a well-designed framework of knowledge and skills for life. EdPlace is National Curriculum aligned from KS1-KS4. Whether you choose to stick with the National Curriculum or not, EdPlace are here to help your child in English, maths and science.

If I choose not to follow the curriculum what are my options?

You have lots choices here, the possibilities really are endless and you are only limited by your imagination! You might want to choose a thematic approach. For example you could choose a theme such as "The Wild Woods" then build all activities around this theme. You could read "The Gruffalo". You could look through leaf litter in the garden, counting animals and drawing graphs. You could visit local woods and explore its history. You could use some items you collect on your visit to make a collage.

Of course, all these activities are also possible under the National Curriculum, they are just organised and timetabled in a different way. If you choose not to follow the National Curriculum remember EdPlace can help by providing resources for lessons and assessments to gage progress.



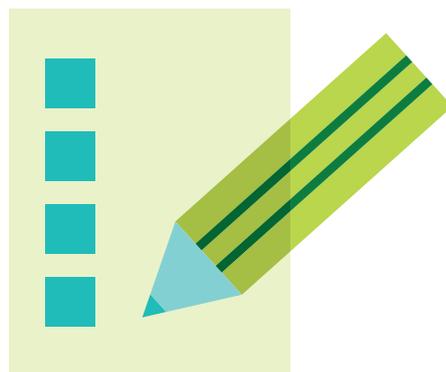
Chapter 2:

How do I ensure I am teaching everything my child will be examined on?

The National Curriculum is a framework for learning, but it doesn't cover everything that exam boards expect children to know at KS4. At this level you'll need to choose an exam board and work from their specifications. There are lots of boards to choose from; AQA, CCEA, Eduqas, Edexcel, OCR, SQA and WJEC.

When choosing your exam board there are a few things to consider; should you wish your child to return to school at some point it would be useful to know which exam boards that school uses. **Schools in Wales use WJEC, schools in Northern Ireland use CCEA, Scottish schools use SQA whilst schools in England can choose exam boards.** You should also consider the methods of assessment, and if you are able to cater for them at home. Finding a location for your child to sit the actual examinations is also a deciding factor.

Using past papers from your chosen examination board's website can be useful to test understanding. When teaching at KS4 it's important to remember that whilst it's important to cover the content which could be assessed in the exam, you can also explore other topics and should not consider yourself limited by the exam board specification. **There's a big world out there to learn from, not just a list of topics provided by an exam board.**



Chapter 3:

How do I decide our “working hours”?

Most schools teach 25 hours of lessons per week. You might decide that you want to teach for more or less than that. The minimum amount required to receive Child Benefit as a homeschooler is 12.5 hours per week, but the amount you teach really depends on what is right for your child and it may take you a few weeks, at the outset, to establish what is best.

You have flexibility here; you can fit your teaching and learning hours around other commitments and work out what suits you. Remember, not all learning hours need to be in the traditional book learning setting; visits to museums or other establishments count. As will cooking in the kitchen, or any other activity where your child is able to learn or put their skills into practice.

When you have decided on your learning hours, it's a good idea to break this time up into lessons. These lessons shouldn't be too long; we all struggle to maintain concentration for a long period! A good rule of thumb is that most learners' maximum period of peak learning is about 30-40 minutes, so a 30-minute lesson might be an advisable place to start. If you feel your child might benefit from longer lessons, feel free to extend them as they develop.

When you have the maximum number of lesson slots you want to teach, invest in a wall chart or use one of the many free online calendars such as Outlook or Google Calendar to map in what you are going to teach and when.



Chapter 4:

How do I devise a scheme of work?

A scheme of work is simply a plan that describes what will be done over a series of lessons.

Lesson plans are more detailed descriptions of the activities that will be carried out in individual lessons. Schemes of work help with long term planning and allow you an overview of the types of activity your child does. **Ideally there should be a variety of activities rather than repetition of similar tasks in order to engage your child and keep their interest.**

Remember, both lesson plans and schemes of work are flexible working documents; not every lesson will go to plan, even for the most experienced teachers. Sometimes children will learn a new topic or skill quickly, and sometimes they might need longer to pick it up. Not to worry, this is perfectly normal and you should not be disheartened!

If you are teaching Key Stage 1, 2 or 3, you will need to refer directly to the National Curriculum; this will give you a general idea of what should ideally be taught in each subject area at each stage. If you are teaching GCSE and beyond, then you will need to choose an exam board that you feel comfortable with.

Exam boards will give you a much more detailed outline of what needs to be learned in a given topic and also what skills a learner has to have demonstrated in order to pass at a certain level. **Most exam boards will send out email updates if you register with them, telling you about changes to the syllabus and informing you of the dates of exams and other assessments, so it is always a good idea to subscribe.**

If you have decided not to use the National Curriculum, you will still need to work out what you want to teach and when. If you want to teach history or English, it is a good idea to create a learning module that keeps the learners focused on a topic; for example, the Russian Revolution 1905–1924 or Shakespeare's comedies. In both examples you can take the student on a journey, exploring change over time or comparing different plays.

Why ed place?

EdPlace is here to be your homeschooling partner! We're fully comprehensive from Year 1 all the way up to GCSE in English, maths and science. Our activities, assessments and revision materials are used and trusted by many homeschooling parents. Progress reports provide visibility to your child's development - we want to see them flourish, that's what we're here for afterall!

We're here to help your child soar to success! Our mission is to create invincible learners by building a foundation on inspiration, knowledge and confidence, all with a sprinkle of EdPlace magic.



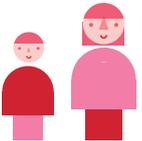
Comprehensive

1000s of English, maths and science activities, assessments and revision materials from Year 1 - GCSE.



Effective

EdPlace students progress 150% in a school year!



SEND accessible

Our accessibility toolbar makes online learning accessible to all students, no matter their learning difference. Change fonts, colours, text sizes and even languages (we have over 150!)



Personalised

Tailored learning journey based on each student's needs.



Student-approved

Badges and personalised rewards help make learning fun and tailored to each individual.

Subscriptions from just £10 a month

Start your 14-day trial for just £1 by visiting [edplace.com](https://www.edplace.com).