

Guide Three

Rules and regulations

Introduction

There are so many questions you may have when starting down the homeschooling road. So let EdPlace try and answer some of those questions for you.

The education act of 1996 makes it your responsibility as a parent to make sure your child is receiving a “suitable and efficient education.” From the age of five years onwards. You should take into account any special educational needs or abilities they have. The act also states a parent may “discharge this duty by sending their child to school or otherwise.” Otherwise can mean so many things, so let us help you explore all the options that “otherwise” could hold in store.



Chapter 1:

Who do I legally need to tell if I'm withdrawing my child from school?

England and Wales



There are two possible starting points to home-schooling;

1. Your child has never enrolled in a school i.e. they're a pre-schooler
2. Your child is currently enrolled in a school.

If your child has never attended a school, it's simple, you don't need to inform anyone, you just carry on with their education.

If your child has attended school, you will need to deregister them. It sounds potentially complicated but it's not. You just write a letter to the head teacher of your child's school informing them that as of a specific date, your child will no longer be attending said school. Ask the head to remove your child's name from the register. This letter could be sent by recorded delivery, hand delivered or emailed. Often the head will invite you to a meeting to discuss your choice but you're under no obligation to attend nor do you need the headteacher's permission to deregister your child in most cases.

The only time a head teacher's permission is required is if your child attends a special educational needs school however by law their consent should not be "unreasonably withheld".

When a head teacher deregisters a child, it is their obligation to inform the local authority.

The local authority will get in touch with you and most local authorities have an elective home-school officer. Whilst this person is able to support you, you're under no obligation to meet with them.

The following websites can provide some additional information.

<https://educationotherwise.org/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>

Scotland and Northern Ireland



The rules in Scotland and Northern Ireland are a little different from those in England and Wales. You need permission to withdraw your child from school, but this may not be “unreasonably withheld”.

For more information for Scotland see the following websites.

www.gov.scot/publications/home-education-guidance/pages/0/
www.schoolhouse.org.uk/

For more information for Northern Ireland

www.hedni.org/
www.education-ni.gov.uk/

Chapter 2:

What if my child has SEND needs?

If your child is attending a special education school the head teacher's permission is required to remove them from the school's register. However, by law their consent should not be "unreasonably withheld". The purpose of this restriction is to protect more vulnerable children and try to ensure their needs are met.

You may request a statement of special educational needs from the local authority. It's not a legally enforceable document for home educators but it may help you better understand your child's needs. It may also be beneficial if you wish your child to return to school at any point as the statement documents your child's needs for a future school. The time from request of a statement to it being carried out is on average six months.

As it is your right to request a statement it is also the local authorities right to request a statement; you cannot legally stop this, but you can appeal against the content of the statement when it is written. Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA) can help with these issues.

If your child was receiving speech and language therapy, occupational therapy or physiotherapy, the LA may or may not still provide it. If they remove any provision you can ask for therapy to be arranged via your GP.

If you need further advice, we have a dedicated SEND hub, which is written by qualified SENCOs and provides advice and guidance on everything from SEND diagnosis' to recommended books for learners with SPLDs.

You may also find the following websites helpful;

www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/special-educational-needs/help/sen-professionals
www.he-special.org.uk
www.ipsea.org.uk/
www.maxwellgillott.com/
www.sossen.org.uk/

Chapter 3:

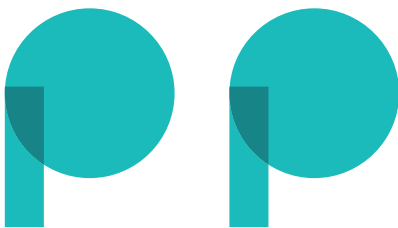
What evidence needs to be provided and how regularly?

The local authority has an obligation to keep track of those children who are home educated. They may contact you at some point to enquire about your home education. This enquiry should be very broad, not asking you to provide schemes of work or a curriculum, or even ask to meet with you or your child. They don't have a responsibility in law to do this unless they think that you are not providing a "suitable and sufficient" education.

Government Guidelines on Home Education in England state: 'The responsibility for a child's education rests with his or her parents. An "efficient" and "suitable" education is not defined in the Education Act 1996 but "efficient" has been broadly described in case law as an education that 'achieves that which it sets out to achieve'.

The Welsh Guidelines ask for 'an indication that parents have thought through their reasons for home educating and what they hope to achieve'. So it's worth describing what you are setting out to achieve; if you achieve your aims you will be judged to be efficient. This is what is meant by an 'educational philosophy', which sets out your beliefs and values and states what you want for your child as they grow up.

So, who monitors you over time? The answer is nobody; Ofsted won't inspect you. You could buy a curriculum or design your own. You can explore different ways of your child continuing to socialise with others. In fact, there's a huge amount of freedom in what you decide to do which is both liberating and challenging. We have a huge range of English, maths and science resources created to support you and your child.



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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.



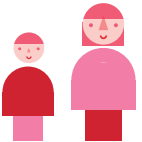
Comprehensive

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

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