

Home Education: a short guide for parents and carers

If you have decided to, or are considering, home educating instead of sending your child to school, then this leaflet will help you to make a successful transition for you and your child. Home educating is a huge commitment that requires dedication, however when done successfully, it can be very rewarding for you and your child.



What is expected of you?

By choosing to home educate, you have committed to meeting the educational needs of your child as well as any social, emotional and special educational needs that they may have. You may want to consider the following:

- Why are you thinking of educating your child at home?
- What does your child think about the idea of being home educated?
- Do you have the time, resources and ability to teach your child properly?
- Are you able to provide your child with literacy, numeracy and IT learning experiences?
- Is your home a suitable environment for teaching and learning?
- What support do you have to help you if, for example, you were ill?
- Can you provide social and cultural experiences as well as physical exercise to help your child develop?
- How long do you intend to home educate your child?



What is the role of Lincolnshire local authority?

We can give you advice and guidance but we also have a duty to ensure all children in Lincolnshire are receiving a suitable education in school or at home and so we will make enquiries about the education you are providing. We will ask if someone can visit you:

- At the start to see if you have plans in place
- In 3 months to see if you are providing a suitable education
- On an annual basis to see if you are still providing a suitable education

You can also send us some information about how you are educating your child instead. If, at any point we find that a suitable education is not in place, we will ask you to return your child to school and may use a legal process to do this.



What is a 'suitable' education?

It is an education that is right for the age of your child and allows them to progress according to their ability and specific needs.

When must I start educating my child?

You must start home educating your child as soon as they are taken off roll of the school (allowing for holidays). Compulsory school age is from the beginning of the school term after your child's 5th birthday and ends on the last Friday in June when the child is 16; this is the same for home education.

What is full time?

This depends on your child but you must be able to quantify and demonstrate the amount of time that your child is being educated and in most cases this will be a significant proportion of your child's day.

Do I get any financial help?

No, you must meet the cost of your child's education including exam fees. The local authority does not provide tutors.

What if my child has special educational needs?

You can still educate your child at home. If your child has an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), this will be reviewed as the place of education has changed.

What help can I get?

You can find out more about home educating by visiting the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) website where you will find our protocol and a handbook for parents. There are lots of other websites to help you and, in some areas, there are local groups. National organisations such as Education Otherwise www.education.otherwise.org and the Home Education Advisory Service www.heas.org.uk can provide you with support and advice.

What if it's not working?

If you change your mind about educating your child at home, then you can complete a mid-year school application which you can find on the LCC website or you can contact schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk

If you feel you have been wrongly advised to home educate and want support returning your child to school, please contact us.

EHE@lincolnshire.gov.uk 01522 782030