



Learning in England ∞ Homeschooling

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Some parents choose to educate their children at home. Perhaps as many as 50,000 children in the UK are now educated by their parents, at home. There is no obligation, currently, to register with the Local Education Authority, nor is there any requirement on the teaching parent to have any qualification in teaching.

If a child is to be removed from a state-funded school in Oxfordshire, to be homeschooled, notice must be given to the head teacher:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/education-and-learning/being-educated-home>

There are many homeschool hubs around the country. Parents will generally follow the National Curriculum, going at their own pace, but not required to address any particular subject or topic, at any particular time. Parents group together so their children can be taught, say once a week, in Science. One parent or a subject specialist tutor may teach a group of children, from other homeschooling families. They may hire a village hall, or rooms in a school, or teach in the home of one family.

Some homeschool hubs also arrange sports training, on a set day in the week, so the children can enjoy team sports together; and undertake trips to libraries, galleries, museums and places of historic or natural interest.

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I was a Mum homeschooling my four young children, in Canada. We lived in a very remote area 30 miles from the nearest schools. I had to be registered and inspected by the local Superintendent and was required to produce lesson plans based on the Curriculum. Can I homeschool my children now I have moved to the UK? Am I subject to the same type of supervision?

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Yes, you can homeschool your children for their whole school career. It is not necessary for you to register with the Local Education Authority. We can help you find support in a local homeschool hub and guide you through the National Curriculum. We can also help you find out about what is going on to support other families with homeschooling in your area, the subject specialist lessons they are able to offer, and the resources they use.



When children get to the age of choosing which GCSEs to do [aged 14, in Year 9] or A levels [aged 16, in Year 11] parents should choose a specification for each subject, and register the child at an Examination Centre, probably a local school. When the child has completed the course, he or she will sit the GCSEs or A Levels at that Centre.

The Examination Centre will deal with all the administration of the GCSEs and A Levels for you. We are aware of schools that are willing to have homeschooled children doing their examinations with them. Contact us, if you would like guidance on homeschooling.

"I love being Home-educated. I see my friends whenever I want. We go on great trips, especially to the seaside when everyone is in school. My education is tailored to my level and interests. I'm learning electronics, forensics, poetry, stop-motion film-making, guitar and photography. I'm also writing a novel. I think it's school kids who are missing out and my Mum is way cleverer than any of my old teachers!"¹

Contact us at Paths to Learning by emailing felicitygunn@hotmail.com

¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_8090000/newsid_8095300/8095398.stm Lydia, 10, Kent, UK