

curricula from specialist suppliers, trips, educational workshops etc. Home education groups may offer educational and enrichment activities. Families may meet up to share tutored lessons. Some families may choose to follow the national curriculum but it is not mandatory.

### **Does home education work?**

Yes many EHE children go on to university and some EHE children have qualified as doctors, vets and solicitors for example. Of course just as many go on to have more middle of the road careers. The definition of success for an EHE child is if it 'does what it sets out to do' in the case of a child with SEN that could mean for example achieving basic skills.

### **Are EHE children allowed out in school hours?**

Yes EHE children are educated at all hours of the day and may frequently be seen out and about during school hours. A child being out in the daytime should never be a cause for concern as there are many and varied educational opportunities when out and about.

### **How do EHE children socialise?**

Home educated children socialise with people of all ages including the children who live in the street; shop owners, other home educated children; many families

meet up and share activities for their children as well as accessing local groups of home educators who meet up across Wales. There is also a large number of email and face book groups used by EHE families to share resources, make friends and arrange activities.

### **What is the difference between EHE and EOTAS?**

EHE is the abbreviation for Elective Home Education i.e. the topic of this leaflet. EOTAS is the abbreviation for Education Other Than At School i.e. children who are educated outside school by the Local Authority. EOTAS children remain registered within the school system.

### **Further information**

Welsh Assembly guidance:-  
<http://tinyurl.com/q8e5fs4>  
(no WWW)

Welsh Home educator's guidance  
[http://www.waleshomeeducation.co.uk/  
enquiries@waleshomeeducation.co.uk](http://www.waleshomeeducation.co.uk/enquiries@waleshomeeducation.co.uk)

UK Home Educators  
<http://www.educationotherwise.net/>

# **Home Education The Facts**

Everything you wanted to know about the law, the role of the local authority including further information, Welsh Assembly Guidance and contact details.

## **Is it legal to home educate?**

The short answer is yes, parents are responsible for children's education even when they are in school. In fact it is the *Duty* of parents to ensure that their child is suitably educated.

### **The law**

Parents have a right to educate their children at home providing that they fulfil the requirements of Section 7, CHAPTER 56 of the Education Act, 1996 which states it is the 'Duty of parents to secure education of children of compulsory school age. 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.'

## **Do home educated children have to be registered or monitored?**

No, local authorities (LA's) have a responsibility to identify children that are *missing* education. Children who are being home educated are not missing education. LA's can make informal enquiries to establish that a child who is EHE (electively home educated) is being educated but have no right to see children, their work or enter their homes.

## **How many hours of EHE do families need to do?**

There is no set number of hours in law. EHE children generally receive a better level of education than those educated in Local Authority Schools as a result of having their individual educational needs identified and met, and receiving one to one tuition.

## **Do parents need to ask permission to home educate?**

No, not unless the child is a registered pupil at a special school, in which case the consent of the local authority is required before the child's name can be taken off the school roll. In this case the local authority is not allowed to withhold consent unreasonably. If a child is a pupil in a special unit in a state school then they can be de-registered in the same way as any other child.

## **Removing a pupil from the school admission register**

Parents whose children are registered pupils at a school are required to inform the school in writing. The school must then remove the child from the register by law. Children who have never been to a school are not on a school register and the LA do not need to be informed. Families who move EHE do not need to inform the LA of the move.

## **Do EHE families have to teach the national curriculum?**

No they must provide an education that is 'suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs that they may have'.

## **Can EHE children sit exams?**

Yes EHE children sit exams as external candidates. They do have to pay a fee for exams and in most subjects sit International GCSE's which are considered equal if not better than standard GCSE's. Some families and/or children may not want to sit exams and are still able to progress to college through other avenues.

## **Is a child who is not in school cause for concern?**

No. A child who is out and about is not a social welfare concern *unless* there are other contributing circumstances.

## **Do you need to be a teacher to EHE?**

No, there is no requirement to be a qualified teacher. We are all teachers. Anyone can teach their own children and follow their own timetable, curriculum etc. To be able to provide an education to the age, ability and aptitude of a child is all that is required. Resources can include the library and Internet, as well as educating at home in itself.