

HOME EDUCATION: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

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Ambitious to Achieve Excellence Together

I am thinking about home educating my child. What do I need to know?

Home education is a key aspect of parental choice, and is an equally valid choice along with the option to send a child to school.

Any parent can choose to home educate. Parents are not required to have any qualifications or training in order to deliver home education.

Parents choose home education for many different reasons. For some it might be a short-term option for a specific reason – for others it is a choice that continues throughout a child's compulsory education age.

If you wish to discuss home education contact Lynne Riddoch, Education Officer (Lynne.Riddoch@moray.gov.uk / 07887557614)

National organisations can provide further information about home education:

- Scottish Home Education Forum (www.scothomeed.co.uk)
- Home Education Scotland (www.homeeducationscotland.org.uk)
- Schoolhouse (www.schoolhouse.org.uk)

Scottish Government guidance on home education is available on

- www.gov.scot/publications/home-education-guidance

How must I educate my child?

You must provide an efficient education that is suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of the child. Within this framework, you have considerable flexibility. Some parents choose to follow a school-type curriculum. Some prefer a very informal child-led approach.

Many choose a combination of formal and less formal provision. You can choose the approach that best suits your child.

Suggested characteristics of an efficient and suitable education:

- Consistent involvement of parents or other significant carers
- Presence of a philosophy or ethos (not necessarily a recognised philosophy), with parents showing commitment, enthusiasm, and recognition of the child's needs, attitudes and aspirations
- Opportunities to support the child's literacy and numeracy skills
- Opportunities to support the child's development in other subjects
- The opportunity for the child to be stimulated by their learning experiences through involvement in a broad spectrum of activities appropriate to the child's stage of development
- Access to appropriate resources and materials
- The opportunity for an appropriate level of physical activity
- The opportunity to get outdoors and interact with other children and adults

I have decided I want to home educate my child. What do I do now?

You must seek The Education Authority's consent before withdrawing your child from school. You can do this by:

- Writing to us (at The Moray Council, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX) to inform us of your decision to home educate your child and to request consent to withdraw your child from school.
- Including initial proposals as to how you intend to provide an efficient and suitable education for your child. (At this stage, we realise that your proposals may not be detailed. However, you should provide some indication of your educational objectives and proposed resources.)

It is best if you apply for consent to withdraw in advance of the date that you wish your child to stop attending school. Many families choose to write to us at the end of a school term so that the process can be progressed over the holidays.

What happens next?

- We will acknowledge receipt of your letter and provide you with Moray's Home Education Policy and an example of school-based curriculum guidance. You will be given a named contact from the education authority who is familiar with home education.
- We will check, where applicable, that both parents are in agreement about the decision to home educate and whether there is anything in your child's record to cause concern. For instance, if your child is on the child protection register, we may not be able to grant consent immediately. If this is the case, we will keep you informed of the reason for the delay.
- If you have provided outline proposals of your educational provision and there are no specific concerns, we should be able to grant consent promptly. You should receive written consent within 6 weeks from our receipt of your letter.
- Sometimes, we may need to ask you for more information about your proposals. If so, we will contact you as soon as possible.
- Once you have received our written consent to withdraw your child from school you can start your provision of home education.

As part of the process, we like to meet families – either at your home or elsewhere. This gives you the opportunity to discuss, informally, any issues that you might have about home education. Such a meeting is entirely optional, and if you would prefer your contact with us to be by phone, letter or email, please let us know.

You do not need to obtain our consent in order to start home education if:

- Your child has never attended a local authority school
- Your child has not attended a local authority school in The Moray Council's area
- Your child is being withdrawn from an independent school
- Your child has finished primary education in one school but has not started secondary education in another
- The school that your child has been attending has closed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT

LYNNE RIDDOCH
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OR

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www.moray.gov.uk

For alternative formats, languages or further information, please ask an
English speaking friend or relative to:

Phone: 01343 563319
Email: equalopportunities@moray.gov.uk

This leaflet is one of a series of leaflets produced for parents and carers.