

Home Education

Guidance notes for parents



Do children have to go to school?

Under the 1996 Education Act, parents or those with parental responsibility have a duty to ensure that their children of 'compulsory school age' are educated. However, this can be done either by regular attendance at school or 'otherwise'. Obviously for most children, this means that they will attend a school, whether state maintained, Academy, or independent. But parents are free to educate their children themselves and there is a small minority that choose to do this.

What is compulsory school age?

According to the law, children must be educated from the beginning of the school term immediately following their fifth birthday, although most children in Gateshead start school at the beginning of the school year in which they have their fifth birthday.

Compulsory school age ends on the last Friday in June in the school year in which a child reaches 16 years of age. Young people are now required by law to engage in education, employment or training until their 18th birthday.

What is the parent's duty?

Under section 7 of the 1996 Act parents need "to cause (the child) to receive efficient full-time education suitable:

- (a) To his or her age, ability and aptitude and
- (b) To any special educational needs he or she may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise"

What is full time education?

Full time education means regular, supervised work, although the length of time is not specified. As guidance, the minimum number of hours taught time per week recommended by the government for children in school is as follows:

Key Stage	Age Range	Taught Hours
1	4 to 7 years	21
2	7 to 11 years	23 ½
3/4	11 to 15 years	24
4 (Year 11)	15 to 16 years	25

What is 'efficient' education?

This is not defined in the Act. Consequently, it is up to parents to fulfil their duty according to a reasonable interpretation of the term 'efficient'. Certainly, what is provided need not be the same kind of 'lessons' as are provided at school. It will be up to the parent to ensure that the programme of work is helping the child to learn and that the child is developing according to age, ability and aptitude.

How do I go about it?

If your child is not on a school roll it would be helpful, but not mandatory to contact the Local Authority (LA) Education Support Service to let them know that you intend to home educate. See contacts section.

If you are withdrawing your child from a school and he or she is of compulsory school age, simply write to the head teacher of your child's school stating that you intend to home educate your child. The school will then inform the LA and remove your child off the school roll.

What should I do if my child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

If your child has an Education Health Care Plan (statement of SEN), you must ensure that you can make suitable provision for your child's SEN before home education. If your child attends a mainstream school you should ensure that you can meet their needs before withdrawing them and the write to the Head Teacher stating that you intend to home educate.

If your child attends a special school, you need to discuss this with the LA before you withdraw your child. However, so long as you can show that the education you will be providing will meet your child's needs, as well as being suitable for his or her age, ability and aptitude, home education should be agreed.

Once home education has been agreed, the LA no longer has the responsibility to arrange special educational provision for your child. Nevertheless, the LA must continue to maintain the EHCP/statement, which will be amended, to record that you have made your own arrangements for your child's education. The statement will only be discontinued as a result of an annual review.

What happens next?

The first thing that happens is that your child is taken off the roll of his or her school. Please note that once this has been done you may not be able to get your child back into the same school if you change your mind about educating your child at home.

The next thing that will happen is that an Education Support Officer will contact you and make an arrangement to visit you at your home to confirm your decision and explain the next steps. They will not try to dissuade you from your chosen course of action. (If you do not want the ESO to visit you at home you can ask for the meeting to be somewhere else, such as a local library or the civic centre.)

A further visit will then take place to establish that you are providing your child with an efficient full-time education suitable:

- (a) To his or her age, ability and aptitude and
- (b) To any special educational needs he or she may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise"

If you would rather send in a report this is also acceptable.

The LA officer will not tell you how to educate your child. It is your job to plan how your child will be educated and implement the plan. A record of work undertaken, resources used and evidence of work will enable you to demonstrate that you are providing an efficient education. Appendix 1 indicates what may be included in an efficient and suitable education and will be used when considering whether a provision is efficient and suitable.

Further visits will be made on a yearly basis. If you would prefer to submit a report covering areas suggested on the next page then this would be suitable.

If the LA believes that an efficient and suitable education is not being provided then they will try and support the parents to achieve this. If parents continue to provide an inadequate education then the LA will encourage a return to school or a School Attendance order may be issued.

Please refer to the Gateshead's Elective Home Education Strategy for further information.

Contact information

T: Rachel Conway 0191 433 8758 (EHE admin officer)

E: Racheconway@gateshead.gov.uk

vickimcleod@gateshead.gov.uk

stephenheseltine@gateshead.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Curriculum aims and objectives

Curriculum aims and objectives

- Have aims and objectives been achieved
 - The education matches the age, aptitude and ability of the young person
 - The young person follows a broad curriculum that will equip them with the skills needed for later life. (Math and English evident.)
 - The young person is motivated to work with the main education provider in achieving the aims and objectives set out
 - Progression is evident
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Learning Environment

- A variety of appropriate resources are available
 - The child has a suitable space to learn
 - The learning environment is stimulating and appropriate for age of child
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Evidence

- There is evidence of a variety of work covered
 - Work is recorded and organised
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Young Person

- Will the education provided enable the young person to achieve their full potential within modern society
- Does the young person have opportunities to socialise with other young people
- Is the child involved in a range of both physical and social activities outside of home
- The young person is happy with the current provision
- A clear plan for the next year of provision is evident

Appendix 2 - Resources

Below are a list of unverified websites that other parents in Gateshead have suggested are useful:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EducationAtHomeTyneandWear>

<http://edyourself.org>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/NEHEUnder7s/?hc_location=ufi

https://www.facebook.com/groups/NEHEOver7s/?hc_location=ufi

<http://www.mathsmadeeasy.co.uk/>

<http://www.edplace.com/>

<http://uk.ixl.com/>

<http://www.whizz.com/>

<http://www.conquermaths.com/>

<https://www.cgpbbooks.co.uk/>

<http://www.schofieldandsims.co.uk/>

<http://www.satspapers.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/topics/secondary.shtml>

<http://www.amblesideonline.org/>

<http://www.educationquizzes.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/topics/primary.shtml>

<http://www.schoolscience.co.uk/>

<http://www.time4learning.com/>

www.primaryresources.co.uk

<http://www.parentsintouch.co.uk/>

<http://www.educationquizzes.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/topics/secondary.shtml>

www.10ticks.co.uk

<https://www.pinterest.com/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Apps for you to try:

- Dr. Seuss Book Apps
- Endless Alphabet
- Symmetry School
- Duolingo
- MyTimes Tables
- Doodle Maths
- Visual Anatomy Lite
- 10,500+ Cool Facts
- Little Speller
- Video Science
- Google Maps

Educational visits are a great way to learn. In the North East there are a number of exciting places that you can visit including:

- The Discovery Museum
- Great North Museum (Hancock)
- Centre for Life in Newcastle
- National Trust Properties including Gibside, Souter Light House and Wallington Hall
- English Heritage sites including House Steads Roman Fort and Dunstanburgh Castle
- Fulwell Windmill
- Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle
- Saltwell Park
- National Glass Centre
- Winter Gardens in Sunderland
- Newcastle Keep

**Wisdom is not a
product of schooling but
of the lifelong attempt to
acquire it."**

Albert Einstein



Produced by Gateshead Council, educationGateshead, Learning and Children

0628-JH-April2016