

## Elective Home Education in Manchester - Some Useful Contacts

### 1. The Department for Education (DfE)

You can find information about all aspects of education on the Website at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk). There is specific information and guidance on Elective Home Education for both parents and LAs which was updated in April 2019 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>

### 2. Home Educating Support Groups & Blogs

There are several national groups that support home educators. They provide information, advice and many useful resources. Some also have local support networks.

- Education Otherwise [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)
- The Home Education Advisory Service [www.heas.org.uk](http://www.heas.org.uk)
- [Classroom Free](#)
- [The Underwater Academy of Arts and Sciences](#)

Be aware that it is the responsibility of home educators to judge the quality and suitability of such information, and we carry no responsibility for this.

### 3. MCC Department of Children's Services (Education)

Please visit the MCC Website <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/education> for further information about education and schools in the city.

Named LA officers are allocated to liaise with families who are home educating to assess suitability and to offer advice and information about local services and facilities.

We organise termly networks with contributions from a range of organisations, including Health, where home educating families can share ideas and resources and also meet with LA Officers if they have any questions or concerns.

We do not provide funding. When you decide to home educate you take on responsibility for all the costs, including tuition and exams.

If you have any questions about home education in Manchester, please contact us on:

- Tel: 0161 245 7171
- Email: [QAEducation@manchestert.gov.uk](mailto:QAEducation@manchestert.gov.uk)

### 4. Children with Special Needs (SEND)

Parents' right to educate their child at home applies equally where a child has special educational needs or disabilities and if the child has an EHCP (educational health and care plan).

However if you want to take your child out of a special school you need to contact the council for permission. This will only be granted once we are assured that you are providing education that is suitable and meets the specific needs of your child.

If agreed, your child's EHCP will be updated to reflect any necessary changes including place of education and the LA will invite you to annual reviews.

A summary of support available is in the local offer at [https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500132/special\\_educational\\_needs/6181/manchesters\\_local\\_offer\\_for\\_children\\_and\\_young\\_people\\_with\\_sen\\_and\\_disabilities](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500132/special_educational_needs/6181/manchesters_local_offer_for_children_and_young_people_with_sen_and_disabilities) which brings together information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families

## 5. Health & Wellbeing

### School nursing service

The team works with children, young people and their families so they take an active role in making healthy life choices, including if a children is home schooled or not in education. Contact can be arranged in a variety of settings. This includes a health clinic or at home. The contact for more information is [sarah.jennings@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:sarah.jennings@mft.nhs.uk)

The school nursing service follows on from health visiting services, which are provided for children age 0-5.

### Emotional Health & Wellbeing

<https://www.kooth.com>

**Kooth**, from XenZone, is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use.

[42ndstreet.org.uk](http://42ndstreet.org.uk)

**42nd Street** is a Greater Manchester charity that supports young people aged 11-25 years with their emotional wellbeing and mental health, promoting choice and creativity. We champion young person centred approaches that demonstrate local impact and have national significance.

## 6. Online safety

There are a number of organisations and websites that offer advice and information for parents and for young people about keeping safe online and with Social Media.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/)

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

## 7. Exams

### Exam Boards and Exam Centres

The 3 main exam boards in England are:-

- [AQA](#)
- [Edexcel](#)
- [Oxford Cambridge and RSA \(OCR\)](#)

The exam board websites all have information for private candidates, including courses, fees and how to find exam centres which may accept private/external candidates.

It is important that you identify where your child can sit their examinations in good time. Your local high school or college may be able to help, but please be aware that this is at the discretion of the headteacher or principal and is likely to depend on whether they have other candidates sitting the particular exams you are interested in.

Be aware that you will be charged for examinations and you may also be charged an admin fee by the exam centre.

### **Distance Learning Providers**

There are many organisations which offer online learning, including courses which lead to GCSEs and 'A' Levels. Costs will normally include arranging an appropriate exam centre in addition to resources and tuition. Some distance learning providers such as the National Extension College at <https://www.nec.ac.uk> are approved centres for certain exam boards and will be able to make the entry and arrange for you to complete all the necessary assessments

### **iGCSEs**

Many GCSEs that are taken in schools and colleges include coursework or assessments which have to be marked by teachers or assessors. For this reason many home educating children take iGCSE (i=international) examinations which are of equal standard and are internationally recognised. This type of GCSE is exam based only and does not include any course work or assessments. You can find out more from the exam board websites or providers such as Cambridge International:-

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-upper-secondary/cambridge-igcse/subjects/>

### **Study Aids**

There are many textbooks and workbooks available on the market which complement particular exam boards. These can be purchased through reputable bookshops or online.

You can also download and print off past exam papers with mark schemes from many of the exam board websites. These may be useful for exam practice or to consolidate learning and understanding.

### **Further information**

You may also find the links below helpful for support:

- [HE Exams Wiki](#)
- [HE Exams/GCSE/A/AS levels/OU/others](#)
- [Ed Yourself](#)

## **8. Post 16 Education**

Raising the Participation Age (RPA) came about from government legislation, introduced in 2013 to encourage young people to stay in education and training until the age of 18 yrs.

The options which you and your child can consider are:-

- Continuation of home education
- Study full time at 6<sup>th</sup> Form College or with a Training Provider
- Full time apprenticeship
- Part time education or training if employed, self-employed or volunteering full time (defined as 20 hours or more a week)

Statutory Guidance published by the Department of Education explains the legal position and can be accessed through [www.childlawadvise.org.uk](http://www.childlawadvise.org.uk)

## **9. Enrichment Activities**

There are a wealth of opportunities in Manchester to develop your child's interests and skills, including libraries, parks, art galleries, museums, sports clubs and arts clubs.

For information about services and activities for children and young people visit <https://hsm.manchester.gov.uk>.