

HOME EDUCATION: An Information Sheet

This is only an information sheet to use as a starting point. It is based on general guidance from local authorities.

If you are choosing home education for your child, please check your own local council's guidance. You can also contact them or your child's school for further guidance and support.

What is Home Education?

Home education (also called EHE – elective home education) is when families choose to educate their children at home or through everyday life, instead of in school.

For many families, learning happens through:

- Daily life
- Family knowledge
- Cultural traditions
- Practical skills

Every family does this in their own way - there is no single 'right way'.

Why Education Matters

All children should have the chance to:

- Learn new skills
- Build confidence
- Prepare for adult life
- Keep their future options open

This can happen in many ways, not just in a classroom.

What Councils Usually Expect

If you are home educating, the council may check that your child is:

- Learning in a way that suits their **age and ability**
- Making **progress over time**
- Learning **regularly** (not just sometimes)

What Do They Look For

1. A Simple Plan:

- What your child is learning
- How they are learning
- A rough weekly routine

2. Regular Learning

- Reading, talking, and storytelling
- Maths through everyday life
- Practical and hands-on work
- Time with family and community

3. Showing What You're Doing

- Photos of activities
- Drawings or writing
- A short update from you
- Notes of what your child has been learning

4. Keeping in Touch

The council may contact you now and again to offer support or advice. It is their duty to follow-up and is usually friendly and informal.

Cultural Learning Counts

For Gypsy and Traveller families, learning often includes:

- Family traditions and knowledge
- Practical work and life skills
- Respect, independence, and responsibility
- Learning through travel and lived experience

This is an **important and valued part of education**. A good home education can include both:

- Cultural learning
- Basic skills such as reading, writing, and maths

Simple Ways to Support Learning at Home

English • Talking and storytelling • Reading together • Writing names, lists, or messages	Maths • Counting money • Measuring when cooking • Working out prices and time
Practical & Cultural Skills • Learning a trade or family work • Cooking meals • Caring for the home or site • Looking after younger children • Repairing, building, or making things • Planning work or travel	Community & Identity • Family history and stories • Cultural traditions and values • Learning from elders • Communication and social skills

Example Weekly Routine

- **Monday:** Reading, writing, helping at home
- **Tuesday:** Practical work or outdoor tasks
- **Wednesday:** Maths through daily life (money, shopping, time)

- **Thursday:** Cultural learning (traditions, family skills, stories)
- **Friday:** Physical activity, visits, or community time

Learning can be flexible and happen across the week in natural ways, not just set lessons.

Cultural Colouring & Activity Books for Gypsy and Traveller Children (amazon.co.uk)

- [All The Fun of The Fair Home School](#) – KS1 & KS2 Maths and Spelling 120-page home school learning workbook for ages 7-11 years
- [Out in The Sticks Colouring Book](#) - colouring and activity book
- [Are We There Yet?](#) – Workbook with maths, literacy, design and colouring activities
- [Roaming Through the Woods](#) - Literacy book featuring activities for phonics, spelling, handwriting, pencil control, colouring etc.

Online Learning Resources

- [IXL \(Maths\)](#) – free practice lessons for Maths for entry levels 1-3, and L1 & L2 (GCSE)
- [IXL \(English\)](#) – free practice lessons for English for entry levels 1-3, and L1 & L2 (GCSE)
- [Khan Academy](#) – free lessons in various subjects, including Maths, Science, and Humanities
- [BBC Bitesize](#) – free educational resources and activities for children aged 5 to 16
- [Twinkl](#) – free and paid teaching resources and worksheets
- [Oak National Academy](#) - teaching resources
- [Ed Place](#) – revision support and resources

Local libraries – free membership for books, DVDs, and activities

Remember

- Keep simple records (photos, notes, examples of work)
- Try to include some reading, writing, and maths
- Let children learn through real life
- Build learning around your family life and culture

What matters most is:

- Regular learning
- Developing skills for life
- Care and effort
- Being able to show what your child is learning

Note: LGT Bright Futures is a mentoring & skills development programme for young Gypsies and Travellers aged 15-25. We focus on support and guidance to access training or work opportunities through 1-1 mentoring and group workshops. We are not an alternative provision or a training centre, and do not provide schooling or academic teaching / tutoring.