

# education otherwise™



No. 192 - February 2010

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

Please mark material 'for publication' and include your name, address, phone number and e-mail (if you have it) as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (your personal details may be withheld from the publication on request).

E-mail contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement, please include an SAE. If no acknowledgement is received, or in the case of queries, please contact the NL Co-ordinator (see inside back cover). *Please also ensure that your EO membership is up-to-date.*

*Please send contributions via the most appropriate section editor listed below:*

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**Deadline for the next Children's Pages 30<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

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**N.B.** *If you change your address, phone number, e-mail or other details, or if your Newsletter does not arrive, please contact the Database Administrator (see inside back cover under Membership)*

## Welcome to the February issue

This month we are asking for help. We are facing a critical time for home educating families. The Government is seeking to restrict home education freedoms by changing the law on home education in England. The proposed new law could also apply later to Wales. The main elements of the proposals concern a new duty to apply for permission to home educate, the requirement to produce a written statement of education, mandatory interviews with children and compulsory visits to the family home as well as fast-track School Attendance Orders.

A review of what is to be deemed "suitable education" is also in the pipeline. At the same time the Government is trying to introduce wide-ranging powers for future Governments to impose even more regulations and restrictions on home education.

EO is committed to challenging the Government on all these measures. But we can't do it without your help. We need you to tell us where your local authority has stepped out of line. Let us know if relations have cooled with your local authority. Is anyone from your authority acting as though the law has already been passed? At the same time the Government is attempting to claim that the measures are all about improving support for home educating families.

We need members help to carry out an audit of current support from local authorities. Please get in touch to say what support is offered by your local authority. If there is nothing available, please let us know this as well so that we can log it. Member feedback will complement the research with local authorities which EO has been conducting since last August.

There are many other ways you can help EO. E.g. you could save printing and postage costs by opting to have your newsletter online. Volunteer as local contact or if you aren't able to make that sort of commitment you could volunteer to check EO's contact details on websites to make sure everyone has the most up to date postal address and phone number. We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter and that the next newsletter will bring some welcome news in the campaign to preserve home education freedoms.



Any Safeguarding Children concerns should be reported to the NSPCC: 0808 800 5000. If you are a child and you need someone to talk to, contact: Child line 0800 1111

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## Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

By Ross Mountney

I had some lovely feedback on my blog and articles recently which is so wonderful to receive. As I continue the articles for the newsletter I don't really know if they're of use to people so it's great to hear that it is. It's interesting to hear too, that we all seem to worry about the same old things for it's the same questions I always get asked.

How much to do, how often, whether to force the Maths and English practice, how much time in front of the computer games is reasonable, should we be doing this, should we be doing that? We all worry about the same dilemmas, so be comforted you are not alone! It may also comfort you to know that I worried just as much as anyone, but it all worked out in the end. And I don't think the worrying really made any difference to that. It didn't change anything except perhaps to make me more ratty than I could have otherwise been! The other comforting thing is that all parents worry about their children's education and it isn't exactly because of home educating. We would be

worrying about school education just as much, because my friends have their kids in school and their worries are just as intense! In fact, the tales they tell me about the goings on in school sound far more worrying than home educating them where you at least have some control over how they are treated! And it isn't any more certain that they will come out, happy, confident and qualified to do what they want to do just because they are in school. Because the conditions in some schools are such that even bright kids are failing to do well simply because they cannot thrive in the environment there. So don't think it's just because of home educating that you worry. You would anyway!

Something that seems to help with the worry is to think both broad and small.

When you think about the broad picture; the whole of your child's life, you remember that it isn't only made up of Maths and English or the odd bad day! It is made up of so many things that contribute to their education. It is made up

of a variety of activities, family, home life, interaction, personality, and loads of other subjects besides Maths and English. It is made up of conversations, discussions, observations, analysis, experiences, going out and about in the world and seeing what it's like. These are the things that contribute so much to making children intelligent rounded people. And if you think about it, with the kinds of things HE parents do with their kids, the way they lead their lives usually with choice and discussion and diversity, I cannot really see the children from these backgrounds and experiences ending up like other teens we so often see bunking off school; switched off, unhappy, disengaged because they simply haven't learnt that to be engaged is worth it. Neither do I think HE children will end up unmotivated and seemingly heading towards their twenties without a job or some kind of direction. When you look at HE it helps to look at the full and broad picture in this way...can you really see your kids, with all the excitement they have about life, ending up like that? Doubt it!

But it also helps to look small too. To keep your vision small sometimes and put the broad vision on hold. To look to each day and each moment and make each day a good one. Now, I don't necessarily mean that your kids' lives have to be rip-roaring and vibrant every single second. That wouldn't work and wouldn't be possible. No; what I mean is a more simple definition of making a good day just by making it an enjoyable day with some enjoyable moments.

A good moment may simply be sharing a story on the settee, or having some Xbox time as a reward for x amount of study! Having a conversation in the car, watching a programme together, daydreaming! Or it could be playing, cooking, going out, swimming, visiting a museum, having a picnic with friends. The children entertaining themselves at their own pursuits while you relax!

But by making each day a balance of activities, by taking care of each day at the time rather than always plugging learning for a future you

are unsure of, you will in the end make a good education and the broader picture will fall into place naturally. Because those children who have been encouraged to be engaged in the world around them in a variety of ways as part of their lives, their conversation, their thinking patterns and their activities, will always get where they want to go even if this means not formalising their knowledge until later on.

That's what seems to have happened in our family and other families I have been with over the years. By taking care of each day, by keeping life at home pleasant and keeping the kids involved with life, and by discovering their educational options with them and sharing the reason for those options, the kids were able to lead happy lives and understand that education was a happy and valuable part of it, more so than mere schooling. And those kids are moving forward in life knowing that education is a good thing that will help them get where they want to go - they can use it however they like, whenever they like. Education is for building successful lives.

Each HE family I've met over the years have HE'ed in their own special way. But the common denominator among all is that they educated towards choice, enjoyable lives, and by making education a good experience. This does not mean that there were never challenges, obstacles to overcome or difficulties to confront, conflict, refusal and compromise. There was - that's a normal part of family life. But they learnt that there will be ways round the difficult bits if they can find them because they can take a variety of routes towards education, happiness and success.

And as we've moved through our HE life alongside other families and our kids have grown up I look around and realise that, despite all the hours we spent worrying, I haven't yet come across any kids who are failing to do just that!

Ross Mountney

Email: [r.mountney@btinternet.com](mailto:r.mountney@btinternet.com) and read more at: <http://rossmountney.wordpress.com>

# Virtual E.O. Newsletter

## SEARCHABLE PDF NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE: HOW YOU CAN HELP EO TO HELP MEMBERS

An increasing number of EO members have asked if they can have the newsletter online instead of through the post.

Every two months EO's printer has to post out thousands of paper copies of the EO newsletter. Three in four members now give an email address on joining EO. We would

like to print and post far fewer paper copies of the newsletter and wherever possible send a pdf version of the newsletter by email.

If you would like to receive your next newsletter by email, please send your name and address or name and membership number to: [pdfnewsletter@educationotherwise.org](mailto:pdfnewsletter@educationotherwise.org) The fewer copies we have to print and post, the more we can reduce our costs, leaving more money to spend on membership support.

## World Book Day Tokens

**WORLD BOOK DAY TOKENS** – *It is World Book Day on Thursday 4 March 2010.*

*Education Otherwise has been sent tokens for EO members and there should be 3 in your newsletter mailing. The book token redemption period is from 1 March to 31 March 2010. You can see the list of participating bookshops, supermarkets and other book retailers at this URL: <http://www.worldbookday.com/pages/content/index.asp?PageID=39>*

*The £1 Token equivalent can be redeemed against any book or audio book worth £2.99 or more (one Book Token per transaction) or exchanged for one of the six specially produced World Book Day £1 Books, while stocks last.*

*Look out for details of events you can attend at bookshops and libraries in your area around the time of World Book Day. There are thousands of events organised every year – many of them open to everyone.*

*If you have more than 3 children and would like extra book tokens, please send a stamped sae to us, marking your envelope "Book Tokens", and we'll post some back to you. The address to send your sae to is:*

*Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW*

*For more information about the World Book Day £1 books, see the Book Reviews Section of this newsletter on Page .*

## URGENT - CONCESSIONS

We are coming up to the time of year when we update EO's Concessions booklet which lists places of interest around the country that offer a discounted or free rate to home educating families who visit.

Do you know of an attraction or somewhere home educators might enjoy visiting which offers a reduced rate to home educators? Is there somewhere locally that isn't in EO's concessions booklet and where you'd like to visit at a reduced price? Please let us know by emailing [concessions@educationotherwise.org](mailto:concessions@educationotherwise.org) as soon as possible so that there is time to contact the company concerned before we have to prepare the 2010 Concessions booklet.

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

EO has already secured special rates from BrainpopUK, Good Morning Children, Conquer Maths and the NEC and now have a new offer for EO members from Mathletics. For more information on these member offers and to obtain the special member code, email Lynda at: [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org) If any of you have a particular resource that you are interested in and you would like EO to try and arrange a discounted rate, please contact us - [discounts@educationotherwise.org](mailto:discounts@educationotherwise.org)

We are currently discussing packages with various different companies and several of them have offered us free trials. We need volunteers to road test some of these packages and then give us feedback on them and also suggest new companies to contact. Please email Lynda if you are interested in taking part.

Educational websites recommended by EO members include:

- Brainpop UK - <http://www.brainpop.co.uk>
- Spark Island - <http://www.sparkisland.com/index.php>
- "@" School - <http://www.atschool.co.uk/default.asp>
- Maths Whizz -

- <http://www.whizz.com/index.html>
- Encyclopaedia Britannica for Schools - <http://www.britannica.co.uk/education/>
- Manga High - [http://www.mangahigh.com/en\\_gb/](http://www.mangahigh.com/en_gb/)
- Education City - <http://www.educationcity.com/>
- Mathletics - <http://www.mathletics.co.uk>
- Good Morning Children - <http://www.GoodMorningChildren.com>
- Conquer Maths - <http://www.conquermaths.com/ea/>
- Children's MoneyWorld - <http://www.childrensmoneyworld.com>



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

## Discount Rate for EO Members with BrainPOP UK

A new, highly engaging website which contains hundreds of animated explanations and interactive quizzes for children aged 7+.

Each captivating short movie features the adventures of Tim and his robot best friend, Moby, as they explain curriculum concepts spanning life, the universe and everything.

Already a tremendous success with Home Educators in the US, BrainPOP UK is easy to integrate, simple to use, highly engaging, and (best of all) extremely popular with kids.

The BrainPOP UK team is dedicated to making BrainPOP UK as fantastic a resource for learning as possible, by drafting an advisory team of the best authors, advisors and teachers to help us get the content right.

**BrainPOP UK** and **Education Otherwise** have teamed up to bring EO members a very special deal. You can opt for a 28% discount on the annual home subscription saving £14 or pay for the full year and get 6 extra months free. For

details of how to obtain your special EO discount you need to contact EO by emailing or phoning Lynda: [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org), Tel: 08445 867541 or write to EO's PO Box address.

## NEW MEMBER OFFER - MATHLETICS



Mathletics is an online Maths learning resource which is next generation learning. This exciting online Maths programme offers 750 learning activities for children ages 5-18. There is also a competitive community for children worldwide to play against each other and learn and refine their maths skills.

The special price to EO members is £10 per child per year. Normal price is £39 per student per year. This price includes access to Rainbow Maths. The Mathletics programme responds and customises itself to your child's needs and strengths. Step by step animated support is available 24 hours a day. There is a system of built-in rewards where students can see their high scores posted online.

Payment is by credit or debit card only. Please contact Lynda for a form or download it from the EO Members Area at this URL:

<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewtopic.php?f=147&t=4005>

which should be completed and returned to Mathletics. They will then phone you and take payment and arrange access to their website. Alternatively you can email Mathletics directly at [customerservice@3plearning.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@3plearning.co.uk)

Their website is [www.mathletics.co.uk](http://www.mathletics.co.uk)

## NEW MEMBER OFFER - GOOD MORNING CHILDREN



Good Morning Children Ltd provide interactive whiteboard resources to help develop creative thinking skills. They are a new, small company of former teachers, who say they're passionate about getting children to think. They are hoping their service will add a valuable dimension to the learning experience at home and would like to offer EO members a free year's membership if they subscribe. There is a trial on the website at <http://www.goodmorningchildren.com> so you can have a look round and try it out before committing yourself to a subscription. If you decide you want to subscribe, EO members can get a substantial extra - subscribe for 1 year and get another 365 days free (i.e. 2 years for the price of 1).

### How to claim the discount:

Simply join for a year, paying £18 via Paypal or by cheque -

[www.goodmorningchildren.com/paid\\_sign\\_up.asp](http://www.goodmorningchildren.com/paid_sign_up.asp)

Contact EO's Administrator - Lynda to obtain the EO reference code by email on

[admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org) or by phoning 08445 867541. You can then email Good Morning Children on [enquiries@goodmorningchildren.com](mailto:enquiries@goodmorningchildren.com) with the EO reference code and your name and address and they will add an extra 365 days to your account.

## Internet Links Recommended by EO Members

Contact: [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org) if you have any favourite sites, so we can pass them onto other families.

<http://www.storylineonline.net/> - This site has online streamed videos with Actors reading

children's books aloud with accompanying activities and lesson ideas.

<http://www.theheadoftheclass.com/> - This site has thousands of free resources for math, reading, writing, spelling, science, history, geography, Spanish, art, music, and more.

<http://robertsabuda.com/popmakesimple.asp> - Instructions for making simple popups.

<http://www.tikatok.com/> - Your child writes and illustrates a story, Tikatok turns the book into a hardcover, soft-cover or eBook for your child to share.

[www.math-exercises-for-kids.com](http://www.math-exercises-for-kids.com) - Online maths exercises plus links to other subjects such as English, History, Geography, Science, Drawing and Teachers Resources.

<http://thehappyscientist.com/> - Signup to the Free Experiment of the week newsletter. Also free science videos.

<http://kids.tate.org.uk/> - Tate Kids - create, films, games.

<http://www.ShowAndKnow.com> - Online resources collected by a home educator.

<http://www.toytheater.com> - Free educational materials in maths, reading, music and art.

## SHOWTIME ALBERT HALL

Home Schooled Pupils Will Benefit from Royal Albert Hall's Behind-The-Scenes Resource.

[www.iqmedia.co.uk/content.php?contentid=1429](http://www.iqmedia.co.uk/content.php?contentid=1429)

[www.royalalberthall.com/](http://www.royalalberthall.com/)

<http://www.educationbusinessuk.net/content/view/full/1509/2/>

The Royal Albert Hall, one of the world's cultural icons, will provide a free resource to support people teaching pupils outside the school system.

The Royal Albert Hall is releasing Showtime, a free e-learning resource that helps place functional skills into context by showing how English, Maths and ICT work behind the scenes at the world-famous entertainment venue. The

Hall's Learning & Participation Department is offering the interactive resource to home educators in the same way that it provides educational resources for schools.

As young learners across the country are getting out their school books after the holiday break, this year's lessons already look more interesting. The Showtime resource, downloadable to any PC, is an interactive multimedia programme that demonstrates how the Royal Albert Hall staff, in a variety of roles, use elements of English, Maths and ICT in every working day. Each Showtime unit introduces a member of the Hall's staff and explains the jobs they do. From learning about the importance of grammar and punctuation in the marketing department, to using Maths equations to solve lighting problems, the visually attractive resources use real people, in real work environments, solving real problems.

The programme has been developed by the Royal Albert Hall's Learning & Participation Department which runs one of the most wide-ranging educational programmes in the UK. Designed in alignment with the National Curriculum Key Stages 3 and 4, Showtime will enable home-schooled pupils to complete exercises at their own pace.

The Royal Albert Hall is a registered charity and receives no public subsidy. Its purpose is to maintain the Grade I listed building and to promote the advancement of the Arts and Sciences. It has an unrivalled history of performances by the world's greatest artists and musicians, with over 350 performances by artists from around the world each year. Through the new teaching resource, participants learn about the Hall's history and activities, absorbing information about one of our great cultural icons through an engaging programme of information and activities.

Alastair Tallon, Head of the Royal Albert Hall's Learning & Participation Department said, "Showtime is available to all learners who are studying at Key Stages 3 and 4 - whether those

students are in formal education or being home-schooled. We have a good track record of opening the Hall's learning and participation programme to all those in home education. With an estimated 50 thousand pupils learning outside the school system, we're keen to offer as many as possible access to this resource. Showtime has been written to inspire learning, wherever you learn, and we're really excited about how pupils up and down the country will engage with our latest initiative."

Showtime can be downloaded for free via the Royal Albert Hall website. The package includes video-clips, tasks, educators' notes and help functions. Using a combination of different technologies Showtime can be executed onto a variety of media including interactive whiteboards, monitor screens and projectors.

Showtime has been funded by the Royal Albert Hall with additional support from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

## Local or New Home Education Groups

There is a new group in the Folkestone area. They'd love to welcome you along so if you live nearby, contact Margaret for more information  
Email: [brn.marg@hotmail.com](mailto:brn.marg@hotmail.com)

EO has opened up some more boards in its Members Forum and we now have a Members Discount board at this URL:  
<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewforum.php?f=147> where you can find details about the discounts available to EO members at various resources and places of interest.

There are also new Regional boards where you can list events and activities in your area and make contact with other families living nearby at

this URL:  
<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewforum.php?f=130>

### **PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GROUP**

If you would like your group to be featured in the newsletter, then send in a bit of information about your group, where you meet, what you do etc, to Lynda at [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org)

If you'd like a listing in the regional diary in the back of the newsletter, then request a permission form from the email below and return it to us:  
[regionaldiary@educationotherwise.org](mailto:regionaldiary@educationotherwise.org)

### **West Norfolk – Road Safety Education & Training**

Sandy Reid, the Road Safety Officer (Education) for Norfolk County Council would like to offer home educators in West Norfolk area resources, both physical and practical. If you live near enough and are interested, then please contact her via email or one of the numbers below. She works in the Casualty Reduction Section, Planning & Transportation. Phone numbers are: 01945 467139 and 07776 467935 E-mail: [sandy.reid@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:sandy.reid@norfolk.gov.uk) and their Road safety website:  
<http://www.norfolk.gov/roadsafety>

Sandy has said that if a small group of children could be got together, she's happy to do some group work with them; or if it's individual children then she can supply manuals and materials and parents can follow the suggested programmes themselves.

Lynsey sent us the following information about home educating visually impaired children.

I have been home educating my 8yr old daughter for 4 years. Harmony is registered blind and has some low vision. Around 5 years ago I set up 'PVIC' a yahoo group for parents of visually impaired children which has been very successful. It is particularly aimed at encouraging parents to take the lead in their child's education and development with regard to their visual impairment and any additional disabilities.

However I would love to have contact with other parents who are home educating their visually impaired children. It takes a lot of time, energy and money to source accessible resources and

make adaptations to existing resources and it would be great to share knowledge, experience and resources with other families home educating a visually impaired child. I do not yet know of a home educated visually impaired child who has taken exams such as GCSE's and it would be very helpful to liaise with other parents to plan for the future. I am also very concerned that the 'Right to Read Campaign' seems to be aimed at making electronic files available to schools rather than parents as well.

I would be glad for any parents who are home educating visually impaired children to contact me, whether they are new to home education or have been educating their child for some time.

Lynsey. Email: [lynseypvic@ntlworld.com](mailto:lynseypvic@ntlworld.com)

## Home Education & Downs Syndrome Group

This group is for families who are home educating a child/children with Downs Syndrome, or considering doing so. The groups purpose, is to link families who are spread out geographically over large distances & who want to network/support each other through discussing & sharing information/issues/experiences or simply just to know that there are other families out there also choosing this route. We are not just an internet group; we meet up at our annual family weekend gathering, in the Welsh hills.

Some of our children have never been to school, some have been to school but are now being educated outside of school, some are flexi-schooled. We welcome diversity & respect each others differing viewpoints. We are also affiliated to the D.S.A. (Downs Syndrome Association)

HE-DS is a private group, members are invited to join. Therefore this group is not listed in the yahoo groups directory. So what you write will only be viewed amongst members, not in the public domain.

To join: please send an email to [anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk) for an invitation.

If you would like your group to be featured in the newsletter please send details to: Lynda Email: [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org) or phone 08445 867541.

# Free Software for Home Education

By Theo Parmakis, <http://tpr.lowtech.org>

The author Theo Parmakis is 16 and has never been to school.

I.C.T. applications are now pervasive enough that the idea that a child might only learn computer skills through a school computer sounds rather ridiculous. Home access is not ubiquitous at the moment, however with the digital inclusion initiative, that is the goal. The BECTA home access scheme aims to give a PC to every family who cannot already afford one.

Despite much venom directed at Graham Badman's home education review, he did make the point that home educators should not be excluded from BECTA's home access scheme, and whether home educators agree with the Badman review or not, they usually either want, or already have got at least one computer.

There are other ways of getting a computer than through the BECTA scheme, for home education families and families attending conventional educational establishments, and computers are increasingly cheap, due mainly to falling hardware prices, so even relatively low income families have or will soon have one.

Home educators are in a potentially extremely advantageous position regarding acquisition of computer knowledge, since they are not limited to following a conventional curriculum and syllabus in I.C.T any more than in any other field.

What people may overlook in their hurry to call for a computer on every desk and kitchen table, however, is that a computer is not a useful tool without the software which runs on it providing the freedom to the user necessary to be

productive and accomplish their tasks in a safe and secure fashion.

As home educators often choose not to use school-like text books, and may turn to less conventional sources of information, which they can learn from and assimilate at their own pace, so should we look into using Free and Open Source Software for learning and teaching with the computer.

Free software is software designed to give the user freedom to obtain and make use of the software in the way that they, the users, wish to, rather than being limited by what the supplier wants users to do, much like home education eschews the traditional school structure in favour of self governed, individually tailored learning.

Free software can be used for any purpose; there's no big companies telling us what to use it for. It can also be studied, meaning that we can gain a fuller understanding of how the computer and our interactions with it work, rather than relying on some abstruse or non-existent explanation by the I.C.T. teacher.

Since you can obtain free software at no cost, so you may also share it with others. There's no nasty restrictions on making copies of it for friends, so you can go ahead and give whoever you want to a copy of the software (as long as you tell them it's free software, and don't try and stop them from doing any of the things you're allowed to do.)

Free software can be modified to work how we want it, which is great when there's some extra feature that we want which is outside the scope of the original package. This is the antithesis of

the conventional school system, where any deviation from norm is seen as a bad thing. If we adapt our education to suit our needs and abilities, then why should we be prevented from doing the same to our tools (for what more ubiquitous aid to learning is there now than the PC?)

If we change something, and we want to share it with others, then Free software allows and encourages us to do that too, there is no rule which says we must get the permission of the software provider or vendor if we want to change anything and there are no veiled threats about reverse engineering.

While there are many cheap PCs with Windows on, it is often an old version of the system which won't run newer sites of programs, and if it gets infected with viruses, then it can cost anywhere between £20 and £150 to get a new copy of the system.

Free software is free as in cost, so you can simply download free software or order a CD with a system which is ready to install. This is legal, since free software was made by people who don't want to make money off you simply because they can, and value your right to use their software above simple profit.

If someone gives you a free copy of Windows, then chances are it's an illegal pirate version. This could get you into trouble with the law, potentially, but even if it doesn't (which it probably won't), then this is ethically wrong. While Peter Mandelson's Digital Economies bill proposes somewhat draconian measures for those caught stealing digital content, opposition to its sledgehammer-to-crack-a-walnut approach is no excuse to steal useless software when there's a legal free alternative.

There are no viruses for free software systems, so we don't need to worry about scanning every day and slowing our computers to a crawl, or worse, not scanning and then losing all our data. This is a constant fear with Windows, and if it's not, it should be.

Nearly any PC made within the last 5 years can run the majority of free software available, and free software operating systems can be installed alongside Windows, meaning that perhaps you don't even need to buy a computer to run it on.

If your family has an old PC, or know someone getting rid of one (you could check your local Freecycle group), then you can almost certainly find some free software to run on it, turning it from an obsolete piece of trash technology into the potential to (further) revolutionise your learning experience.

While it's heavily publicised that you don't have to use Microsoft, and it seems like a strange idea to those brought up with the idea that Windows is the only option, surely it is a less radical move than the rejection of the conventional school system.

To take it from the abstract to a computer near you, the way to get your hands on some free software is by downloading Ubuntu and running.

Ubuntu is an operating system which is very intuitive to use, more so than Windows, in fact. It runs entirely on its own, either from the CD-ROM or from your hard drive. This means you don't need Windows to use it.

Ubuntu comes with Firefox, the rather well known open source browser, so anyone familiar with that will feel quite at home off the bat. It also comes with OpenOffice, a completely compatible replacement for Microsoft Office; after all, what use is a computer which you can't

write documents on? Quite a lot of use, if Microsoft, who have never shipped an office package as standard, is to be believed. Ha!

Ubuntu also comes with graphics software, catering for both casual users, and those who would otherwise have had to scrimp and save for a copy of Photoshop, only to realise that graphic design was after all not their forte; this is courtesy of the wonderful GNU Image Manipulation Program.

The system supplements the already abundant, if somewhat scattered and disparate educational resources of the internet with several well designed tools for learning, such as a translator and an interactive periodic table (with such gems as the ability to filter by the date discovered.) These are not install by default, but can easily be added.

It would be great in a classroom, however if you walk into a British school you will not see it running. Why? Because the government don't want to cause controversy by dropping the tradition of throwing money at American, multinational software companies for programs which don't even work (just think of the NHS national programme.)

BECTA have shown some commitment to free and open source software, though they not mentioned any names, and we may yet see it in some pilot school and perhaps, if Microsoft doesn't buy the deal out, it may be the choice for the home access scheme. Or perhaps not.

Yet, have home educators not already taken the first and largest step to defining their own

learning methods? Why should we wait for someone else to tell us what software to run, when we already have the tools and the inclination to take the choice into our own hands and use software with which, and from which, we can actually learn?

To get Ubuntu as a downloadable CD image, go to <http://ubuntu.com>. You will need a CD burner to turn this into a disc for your computer to run, but you could ask a friend to download it and make a CD for you.

If you want to order a prepackaged version, to be delivered to your door, then go to <https://shipit.ubuntu.com>, and click "Request a CD of Ubuntu Desktop Edition".

Once installed, if you wish to add some educational software to make learning with the system even easier, then follow the instructions here: <http://edubuntu.org/Download>.

Using free software even provided me with the entre to a community of like minded individuals of all ages who also value what free software can give to us and let us accomplish. This served the purpose of instantly and effectively disproving the myth that home educators are a navel gazing and insular community, with no way of making social ties to those outside our circle due to our not attending school.

To see an example of some of the things that all kinds of people have done with free and open source software, see <http://access-space.org>.



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### ADVERTS IN NEWSLETTER

*Education Otherwise does not endorse or recommend services or products advertised in this newsletter. Use of tutors remains the responsibility of the parent.*

Advertisements must be pre-paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding month that the Newsletter is published.

The deadline for April 2010 issue is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please send your advertisements in either text or jpg format to:  
[advertising@educationotherwise.org](mailto:advertising@educationotherwise.org)

For flyers contact the same e-mail for further information.

### HIDDEN VALLEY YURTS

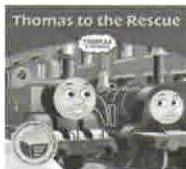
Authentic felt lined Mongolian yurts situated in a tranquil valley in the Wye Valley/Vale of Usk, Wales – a chance to experience a back to nature camping holiday in complete comfort – real beds and wood burning stoves, woods, meadows, stream, campfire, alpacas, Gwent Best Wildlife farm – see EO members forum for more information.

We have reserved first option for Home Educators for midweek breaks 19-23 April, 10-14 May, 7-11 June and 4-9 July

Amanda Copp, Hidden Valley Yurts, Lower Glyn Farm, Llanishen, Monmouthshire NP16 6QU Tel 01600 860723 e-mail:  
[amanda@hiddenvalleyyurts.co.uk](mailto:amanda@hiddenvalleyyurts.co.uk)

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

This year World Book Day is March 4<sup>th</sup> and your 3 World Book Day vouchers should have been included with this edition of the newsletter. If you need any extra vouchers, please send an sae to: Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW marking your envelope with the number of tokens you need and they'll be sent back to you by return of post. You can use these tokens to get £1 off any children's book or use it at selected retailers to buy one of the specially produced World Book Day books. (For those with a visual impairment, the Joseph Clarke School in Waltham Forest will be creating Braille and Large Print editions of all or some of these £1 Books. For further information about this, see [www.joseph-clarke-sc.co.uk](http://www.joseph-clarke-sc.co.uk)) The special £1 Book titles this year are as follows.



### Picture Books -

Thomas & Friends: Thomas to the Rescue

### And then five special two-books-in-one - double the fun!



**Age 5+ Flip Book 1:** Kitten Chaos by Anna Wilson with Magic Ballerina: The Magic Dance by Darcey Bussell.



**Flip Book 2:** The Charlie Small Journals: The Valley of Terrors with Dinosaur Cove: Battle of the Giants by Rex Stone.



**Age 7+ Flip Book:** Grubtown Tales: The Great Pasta Disaster by Philip Ardagh with Ponywiffy and the Important Announcement by Kaye Umansky



**Age 9+ Flip Book:** Jamie Johnson: Born to Play by Dan Freedman with Young Samurai: The Way of Fire by Chris Bradford



**Age 11+ Flip Book:** Walking the Walls by Chris Higgins  
Medusa Project: The Thief by Sophie McKenzie

If you or your children do read any of the £1 World Book Day books, why not send in a book review for the EO Newsletter. All reviews should be sent to [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)

### Website Review

If you are looking for a way to make learning English fun and interesting for children who are not native English speakers or who have SEN there is a new website that you may want to check out. [www.englishfromengland.co.uk](http://www.englishfromengland.co.uk). Aimed primarily at non English speakers learning English, it could also be used for children with SEN or those living here whose first language is not English. The site is easy to use and each on-line interactive unit also has printable worksheets and printable flashcards. There is a subscription charge of £25 and this is per household rather than per child.

## Hexwood

By: Diana Wynne Jones

ISBN: 0 416 18846X

Price: (hardback) £11.99

*'Hexwood is like human memory. It does not need to take events in their correct order.'*

*'Hexwood farm is full of machines that should never be tampered with and when one is, the aftershock is felt throughout the universe.'*

Hexwood is a science fiction novel by Diana Wynne Jones, my favourite author. The seemingly harmless Reigners think nothing of killing people and run a monopoly in earth flint (the only substance that can be used for making portals) and then sit on all the profits. Therefore, when a threat is detected they set out to destroy it. Meanwhile on earth a girl makes an acquaintance with Mordion, a strange man with mystical powers. When the two plots meet it gets really interesting...

A fascinating mix of sci-fi and fantasy, three cheers for Diana! For 10+ as the plots are quite complicated.

Reviewed by John Joe aged 12

## Wright on Time: Book 1, Arizona and Book 2, Utah.

By: Lisa M. Cottrell-Bentley

ISBN Book 1 - 0-9824829-0-6

ISBN Book 2 - 0-9824829-1-4

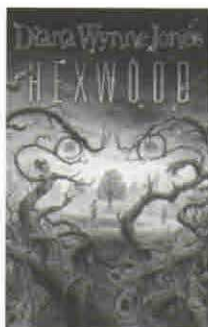
Price: \$12.99 each

Website: [www.wrightontimebooks.com](http://www.wrightontimebooks.com)



It is not often that you come across one book about a home educating family, let alone a whole series but that is what you get with the new Wright on Time series. Created by Lisa M. Cottrell-Bentley who is herself a home educating mother, this series

follows the adventures of the Wright family who



are exploring the United States, one state at a time, in their motor-home. The family consists of the mom Stephanie, who is a freelance computer expert, dad Harrison, who is a freelance author, Nadia aged 11 and Aidan aged 7. The first book sees them

exploring a cave in Arizona, where they discover bats, semi precious stones and a mysterious object. Learning about this object becomes part of the focus of their travels as they continue to explore the United States. The second book finds them in Utah helping on a dinosaur dig. There they help uncover a dinosaur skeleton and learn more about the mysterious object.



Each book is illustrated and includes a map and key facts about each state. There is also a glossary in the back with words pertinent to the story, which is invaluable for younger readers. The author intends to cover all 50 states and when she is

finished the set will be a must for home educating families who are interested in learning about the United States. The website that accompanies the books has a selection of games and colouring pages as well as further information about the author and the books.

Overall Sam and I enjoyed the books, he liked the intrigue of the mystery object and I liked the fact that the family got along well and seemed to enjoy each other's company. There are so many books that revolve around school that is nice to find a series devoted to a home educating family, doing what they do best, learning out in the big wide world and interacting with all different kinds of people. The information about each state or each topic is

covered in a fun and interesting way so that children don't realise they are learning. It would certainly be a fun way for children here in the UK to learn about the 50 states.

The books are available from both Amazon.co.uk and Amazon.com and with the favorable exchange rate it may work out cheaper to purchase them from the .com site even once postage is factored in. The books are also available to purchase from the author herself on her website.

## **thePhoneCo-op** it's your call

The phone number EO uses for its Enquiry line comes from The Phone Co-op. They are the only co-operative non-profit making telecommunications provider in the UK. They are also the first telephone company in the UK to neutralise all of their carbon dioxide output!

EO has an Affinity Scheme where members can use The Phone Co-op on their BT line, save money on their calls AND 6% will go to EO. The Phone Co-op provides very competitive rates and ploughs profits back into the charities that 'own' it via these Affinity Schemes. There are no chief executives or shareholders raking in cash from your calls.

To become a customer costs nothing; there are no set up charges, no monthly fees, no standing charges, no change of phone number. Once you register, you dial a four-digit code before the number. The Phone Co-op will bill you monthly only for the calls you make with the code. Their prices, especially for long distance calls, are well below BT's rates. None of your other BT services (such as 1471, 1571 or Call Minder) are affected. The Phone Co-op can also provide you with an 0845 number direct to your home phone, so friends, family and other EO members can contact you for the costs of a local rate call. Plus internet deals, savings on international calls, other offers, and the chance to invest in and

become a member of the co-operative.

Call Customer Services on 0845 458 9004 and ask for a registration form and to discuss the current Phone Co-op prices or look at their comparison pages.  
<http://www.thephone.coop/residential/tp...>  
[comparison](http://www.thephone.coop/residential/tp...)

Remember to say you want to join the Education Otherwise Affinity Scheme - Ref AF017 <http://www.phone.coop>

## **EDUCATION OTHERWISE MEMBER FORUMS**

The Members forum is busy now with lots of posts on the parents, children and teenagers message boards. It's a friendly, supportive atmosphere where lots of valuable information is shared. New message boards include the For Sale board, the Member Discounts board and the Regional Message boards where members can link up with others in their locality and exchange things of interest to local families from groups to resources and special offers.

Why not give it a try; you can join at this URL -

<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/ucp.php?mode=register>

The new public message boards have just opened, so if you know families who aren't EO members, but want to get support and make contacts with others, then why not tell them about the EO public forum.



**THE LAW IN ENGLAND HAS NOT CHANGED: PLEASE TELL US IF YOUR AUTHORITY IS BEHAVING AS THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE TO THE LAW ON HOME EDUCATION. THE LAW IN WALES MAY BE AFFECTED LATER.**

This is a message from Education Otherwise Government Policy Group. We would like to make it clear that the law on home education has not changed.

We need feedback from as many members as possible:  
How is your LA currently behaving?  
Is your local authority acting as if the law has already changed?

Has your LA misrepresented the law to you?

Has your LA threatened you?

Does your authority expect the Government proposals to go through?

Is your LA telling you there is no point meeting your group until it sees what happens in Parliament?

Please write to Education Otherwise Government Policy Group. We hope publish an anonymised cross-section of replies in the next newsletter as well as compiling a dossier which will be shared with MPs. Individual local authorities or members will not be identified in our final report. Please send replies asap to:  
governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org  
or write to: Education Otherwise, Government Policy Group, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW.

The past year has seen a great deal of debate in parliament and elsewhere about a change to the laws relating to home education. Last summer, the Government accepted the recommendations of the Badman Review of Home Education and said it would change the law in England at the earliest opportunity. At the same time the

Government also launched a consultation about a proposed registration and monitoring scheme for home educated children. This consultation closed in October. In November the Government introduced the proposed change to the law on home education in England via the Children Schools and Families Bill.

The law cannot be changed easily or quickly by means of a brand new Act of Parliament. The Act has first to be introduced to Parliament by a Bill in the Queen's Speech. Then it has to go through the political process in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

A Bill may start in either House, though it is more usual to start in the Commons as happened with the Children Schools and Families Bill.

If the Government were to be successful, then the earliest the new system could be implemented would be April 2011. This has already been stated on the text of the Bill.

However, there are a number of reasons to believe that the Government will NOT be successful in getting the home education clause of the Bill through.

Here are some reasons for optimism:

1. The General Election will mean that the Bill runs out of time, so that the Government will have to sacrifice controversial aspects in order to get other clauses through
2. The Select Committee Inquiry Report came out against the majority of the Government's proposals
3. Home educators have done a fantastic job of raising awareness with their MPs
4. Conservatives Graham Stuart MP and Lord Lucas have taken up our cause in the Commons and the Lords
5. Some Liberal Democrat MPs have also been very supportive

6. Not all Labour MPs are uncritical of the Bill. Petitions have been signed in over 140 Labour constituencies and a number of Labour MPs agreed to present the petitions personally. Labour MPs such as Kate Hoey and Dave Anderson continue to ask awkward questions on our behalf.
7. There are a number of other controversial clauses in the Bill and the Government will have to decide which to push and which to drop
8. The Government is getting the message loud and clear that home education is the most controversial and difficult clause of the Bill.
9. All political activity ceases during the run-up to the General Election. Any Bill not agreed during the wash-up will simply be dropped.
10. The Bill could make a re-appearance in the next parliamentary session in the autumn, but currently there are very few people who expect Labour to win the election and a Conservative Government would not adopt measures from a previous Labour Bill.

**N.B.** If voted in at the General Election, Conservatives will have their own agenda with regard to home education. We do not yet know what the Conservative position would be if the Conservatives were the party of the Government and not the opposition party.

## IMPORTANT - SURVEY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT

### EDUCATION OTHERWISE NEEDS YOUR HELP.

In October Minister Diana Johnson said:

"Before January, we will clarify our advice to local authorities on claiming pupil funding to

make it clear that they may claim funding for children with special educational needs educated at home in receipt of significant services from a local authority, or those attending college. From 2011, funding will be available for other home-educated children who use local authority services, which might be examination centres, brokering work experience or using the county music service."

EO is currently undertaking research to establish which local authority areas are aware of funding for special needs and for college places. We are asking all members to contact us with the name of their authority and with any information about funding. We hope we can shame/encourage others into following suit.

We are also interested in cases where you have asked your local authority and have been refused or where your local authority has specifically told home educators that there is no funding, since this will be invaluable feedback for our lobbying work with the Government.

At the same time we are writing to local authorities to get a complete picture. We will put this information together for MPs and for Ministers and will also publish it in the newsletter.

At the recent Bill Committee hearing, Fiona Nicholson, EO Trustee told the Committee:

"there is no core of support for home educators. There is a postcode lottery. I think that the local authorities make it up as they go along."

"The support is not there. There is no common agreement about what support should be offered. We as an organisation—Education Otherwise—put forward suggestions about what could be done. There is absolutely no funding; home education has no clout with local authorities; and it is not embedded in the Department, so there is a part-time retired head teacher, who is just doing contract work and gets paid a few hundred pounds to make a

visit and write a report. The bribes and carrots are not there—nothing is there. There are a few local authorities, which we have drawn the Department's attention to, that are making valiant efforts to offer something, but they do not have any money to do that and it is extremely patchy or not there.

On a further issue of support, Graham Badman was saying that some home educators welcomed his report. There was more in the Badman review and report about support than there is in the Bill that we have in front of us—there is nothing in the Bill about flexi-schooling, any core offer or entitlement to support. Support is seen as spending eight hours informing home educators that they may be able to access some services. There is not actually anything helpful."

## Survey of Home Educators' Experience of Taking GCSE's

GCSEs and exams is the number one topic for our Helpline.

The current problems are mainly to do with finding an exam centre. Some members report difficulties in knowing where to get started with exams. Many families who are new to home education are surprised that the local authority is generally unable to provide any practical information about how to take exams as a private candidate or to offer assistance with finding an exam centre.

Last September EO had a brief and unsatisfactory meeting with Minister Diana Johnson to discuss some of the difficulties faced by home educators with regard to exams. We set out the current problems and we also highlighted the upcoming problem of controlled assessments for GCSEs and the inflexibility shown by the Government's independent exam regulator.

EO rejected the notion put forward at the meeting that home educators en masse would accept an obligation to be monitored in return for help with GCSEs. We pointed out that EO was not proposing or endorsing any scheme where home educators could be said to be "taking taxpayers' money". We also reminded the Minister that Graham Badman repeatedly said to home educators "you pay your taxes just like anyone else, don't you think you deserve something back" and that the overwhelming response from home educators was that they did not want support with strings.

With regard to controlled assessment, we pointed out that 60% of the marks could only be obtained by completing in excess of 45 hours of supervised project work at an exam centre with an external invigilator. This would be in addition to the time required to be spent at the exam centre for sitting the exams.

### We now need your help.

- Please write and tell us what it has been like for your family taking GCSEs outside the school system.
- Are your children taking GCSEs?
- Have you found the process straightforward?
- Have you spoken to the local FE college or 6th form?
- Are you worried about GCSEs?
- Have you considered other options besides GCSEs such as IGCSEs or Open University and if so, is there any aspect of GCSEs which has contributed to your decision?
- Has your local authority been able to help in any way with GCSEs either by offering information about exam boards or by providing or signposting a local exam centre?
- Do you have any solution to the issue of controlled assessment?
- Is your local group talking to the local authority about any of these issues?

## WHAT ABOUT SUPPORT?

At the beginning of October the Government issued a Press Release as follows:

Diana Johnson announces a new support package for home educating families - 09 October 2009

- More support for home educated children with special educational needs;
- Better access to public exams and further education;
- Improved access to music lessons, school libraries, work experience and sports facilities;
- Better monitoring so that every home educated child stays safe.

Schools Minister Diana Johnson has today announced better access to qualifications and more support for home educated children with special educational needs (SEN), signaling the start of a new relationship between local authorities and families who choose to educate at home.

The commitment comes as Children's Secretary Ed Balls today sent the Government's full response to Graham Badman's Review of Elective Home Education to the Chair of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee. The response sets out a new support package for home educated children, which includes better access to GCSEs, vocational qualifications and further education. The proposed changes to monitoring arrangements will also make sure that the right checks and balances are in place so all children receive a suitable education, in a safe environment.

Key features of the new support package include:

- More flexible access to public examinations and exam centres for home educated children, so their parents no longer have to rely on ad hoc arrangements with schools or colleges that can be a long way from home

- More tailored support for home educated children with special educational needs
- Better support for home educated young people who want to go to college
- Improved access to music lessons, school libraries, work experience, sports and other specialist facilities in schools and colleges
- A commitment from the Government to look at arrangements for flexi-schooling, so that home educated children can have the option to attend school on a part-time basis.

Graham Badman said:

"I am pleased that the Secretary of State has accepted my review in full and will provide the resources needed to support home educators to do their job in the best possible way.

"The package as a whole will give home educated children far greater access to FE colleges, exam centres, school facilities and wider educational opportunities, while ensuring that they are prepared for life in the wider community as adults.

<http://tinyurl.com/ykabo86>

In November Minister Diana Johnson said:

We intend to ensure that our funding arrangements for local authorities support the proposals arising from the recommendations of the Badman "Review of Elective Home Education in <http://tinyurl.com/y9ot24s> England".

Implementation of the recommendations relating to the registration and monitoring of home educated children will be subject to legislation and the results of our public consultation. We estimate, subject to discussion with the Local Government Association, that the overall additional costs for these elements will be £21.65 million in the first year (2011/12) with additional ongoing annual costs of £9.78 million.

This funding would be made available to local authorities under the New Burdens arrangements.

So far as local authority support for the education of home educated pupils is concerned, we plan to strengthen the school census guidance for the January 2010 return to ensure that all local authorities are aware that they can already include in the Alternative Provision Return for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) home educated pupils whom they support financially and who have a statement, or have significant special educational needs that have not been formally recognised through a statement; and pupils whom they fund to attend college for post-14 qualifications including GCSEs and Diplomas. These pupils will then count as a unit for DSG purposes.

We will make further changes to the schools census from January 2011 to allow local authorities to include in their Alternative Provision return home educated pupils accessing the additional services set out in the recommendations, including funding them to take their GCSEs if they opt to enter as private candidates rather than through attending college courses. We currently expect to count these pupils as 0.1 of a unit for DSG purposes but we will reflect further on this figure in the light of consultation and experience.

The cost of these measures relating to DSG will depend on the numbers of home educated children and the services they may seek."

The link for Diana Johnson's speech on November 12th is here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/y9ot24s>

## TRUANCY - YOUR RIGHTS

Since the last newsletter we have updated our webpage on truancy to include a direct quote from the revised 2009 Government Guidance on Children at Risk of Not Receiving Suitable Education. The 2009 Guidance for England puts a less favourable interpretation on the law with

regard to home education than did the previous 2007 Guidance.

However, barrister Ian Dowty has pointed out that the revised guidance now specifically directs local authorities to follow procedures set out in the 2007 Home Education Guidelines.

The web page reads as follows:

2007 Government Guidance on Attendance Sweeps says school attendance sweeps "involve stopping any young person believed to be of school age, whether accompanied by an adult or not. The intention is to establish whether or not the young person is registered at school and, if so, whether he/she is out of school legitimately." "We are aware that some authorities also use attendance sweeps as a way of finding home educated children who are not known to the authority.

Sweeps will generally involve a police officer and an Education Welfare Officer. There are no longer any national sweeps on pre-arranged dates, so in theory you could be stopped at any time.

Since the home educated child is not a registered pupil, the parent cannot be committing any offence to do with registered pupils being absent from school. In addition, the child cannot be committing an offence because ensuring attendance of registered pupils is the legal responsibility of the parent and not of the child.

It is advisable to talk this through as a family because some children may otherwise become distressed if stopped by police. You should tell the truancy sweep personnel that your child is home educated following section 7 of the 1996 Education Act and that therefore you should be allowed to go on your way because you are not the target of the sweep.

Some EO members opt to carry a laminated Education Otherwise "Truancy Card",

particularly if young people are out and about on their own during school hours. Printed information on the card reminds police and EWOs that home education is a legal option. Write to Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW enclosing £1 for each card (cheque, postal order or stamps) plus a stamped self-addressed envelope.

You don't have to give your name and address unless the police officer has further specific concerns which are communicated to you during the encounter. There is a legal difference between refusing to give your name to an EWO and refusing to give your name to a police officer. You should establish whether it is actually the police officer who is asking for your details. Ask the officer to write down his/her name and badge number. You also need the EWO's name and the name of his/her line manager.

During a truancy sweep, the EWO may be carrying a list of home educators who are known to the authority and if you give your name and address, he/she will be able to see immediately whether or not you are on the list or not. Some Education Welfare Officers may not know that home education is legal and some may believe that we have to be "registered" or "approved".

You should make them aware that the Government states very clearly that we don't have to register. In terms of police officers, some areas may use Community Support Police Officers on truancy sweeps, and these officers only receive 3 months basic training.

2009 Statutory Guidance on Children at Risk of Not Receiving Suitable Education says:

"73. When raising awareness with partner agencies it is useful to remind them that parents may lawfully educate their children at home. Where a local authority is satisfied that a parent is providing their child with a suitable full time education, the child is not the target of this duty. However, the local authority does

have the power to issue a school attendance order if it appears that the parent is not providing a suitable education. Education of children at home by their parents is not in itself a cause for concern about the child's welfare." p.22

87. Section 436A of the Education Act 1996 requires local authorities to make arrangements to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children who are not pupils at schools and who are not otherwise receiving suitable education. In order to comply with this duty local authorities need to make arrangements which will as far as possible enable them to determine whether any children who are not pupils at schools, such as those being educated at home, are receiving suitable education. In order to do this local authorities should make inquiries with parents educating children at home about the educational provision being made for them. The procedures to be followed with respect to such investigations are set out in the EHE Guidelines, 2.7-2.11 and 3.4-3.6." p.25

"91. Local authorities should keep a record of children who are known to be educated at home by parents. Parents are not, however, required to inform the local authority if they decide to home educate a child who has not previously attended school." p.26

Your details may be passed to Children Missing Education so that the blank data field for "place of education" can be filled with your home address. Your details might also be passed to the local authority Elective Home Education team.

You are quite likely to get a follow-up letter/phone call from the authority saying that it has come to their attention that you are home educating and asking you to supply information about your educational provision. The authority might want you to fill in a form/ answer questions and/or meet with the authority's home education consultant.

You should read the DCSF Guidelines on Home Education 2007. See: <http://www.education-otherwise.org/Legal/7373-DCSF-Selective%20Home%20Education.pdf>

It is important to respond to any communication from the local authority, which does not mean that you have to agree to specific demands.

Where local authorities are getting it right and treating home educators respectfully and not harassing them for names and addresses, this has involved local home educators being proactive with the council and campaigning for fairer treatment. If possible you should network with other local home educators and see if you can get a small group together to tackle the authority, because it is much easier if you aren't trying to do this on your own.

#### Links:

Guidance on Attendance Sweeps

<http://tinyurl.com/3lhc3o>

Government Home Education Guidelines

<http://tinyurl.com/ydk4mx5>

Government Guidance on Children at Risk of Not Receiving Suitable Education

<http://tinyurl.com/y898v7y>

### WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE CHRISTMAS WITH GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CHANGE THE LAW ON HOME EDUCATION

Following publication of the text of the Children Schools and Families Bill, Education Otherwise circulated a Briefing Paper on December 4th which may be found here

<http://tinyurl.com/EOCSFBillbriefing>

#### This is a summary from the Briefing Paper:

This Bill is not about support for home educated children. The Government does not need to change the law on home education in order to guarantee funding for home education support.

The only guaranteed money to local authorities under "new burdens" arrangements is for inspection and enforcement. Support for home educated children is not to be made a statutory requirement and the inspection criteria for Ofsted with respect to Children's Services refer exclusively to safeguarding, not to support.

It is hard to tell exactly what the Government has in store because one of the primary objectives in the Children, Schools and Families Bill seems to be to provide extensive enabling powers for future regulation of home education outside parliament.

"In its current form it is a skeleton exposing home educators and their children to the unknown because so much will depend on how the regulations are written." Lord Lucas, November 26th 2009

However, a number of things are very clear. There will be a licensing scheme where home educators have to apply annually for permission to home educate. There will be mandatory interviews with all home educated children. Non co-operation with any aspect of the process will mean that the application will fail and permission to home educate will not be granted.

Interviews will be in "the place where education is provided to the child." The place where education is provided is expected to be widely interpreted as the home, but the Government has avoided using the word "home" as this would be emotive and might sway someone in Parliament to speak out against the proposals.

The precedent of changing the law explicitly to compel entry to private homes might also provoke a backlash from the civil liberties movement.

The Government has made plans on the basis that out of an estimated 40,000 home educated children, 8,000 will fail the application process for registration in the first year. Further

details about the Government's plans can be found in 'Costs and Benefits' on p/10 of this briefing paper.

These decisions will be subject to legal challenge. Details of the appeals process are omitted from the current Bill, leaving it wide open for the Government to bring in back door regulations which would not be debated in parliament.

The Government is seeking to prescribe the form and content of home education both by means of school assessments of children and also by a new Government review of what is meant by "suitable education."

"What matters is that the child or young person acquires a mix of skills which will enable them to contribute to society as adults." DCSF, October 2009

The first reading of the Children Schools and Families Bill took place in the House of Commons on November 19th. It was discussed in the Commons and the Lords with Graham Stuart MP and Lord Lucas being particularly critical of the home education proposals. We expected the Second Reading of the Bill in the Commons before Christmas but in fact the Second Reading did not take place until January 11th.

Two main events before Christmas were the mass presentation of petitions to parliament and the report from the Select Committee which was highly critical of the Government's plans.



Around the time of the Select Committee MP Graham Stuart, a member of the Committee, put forward the idea of a mass presentation of parliamentary petitions. At very short notice, Education Otherwise organised a nationwide team of coordinators who arranged to get petitions signed in over three hundred constituencies. Several hundred home educators met with constituency MPs to hand over the petition and to raise awareness of home education.

You can watch four videos of the mass presentation of parliamentary petitions on the EO YouTube Channel starting here <http://tinyurl.com/ydr23g3>

### **THIS IS WHAT MPS SAID ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE LAW WHEN THEY PRESENTED THE PETITIONS**

- interventionist and far too invasive;
- genuine concerns;
- iniquitous recommendations;
- If enacted, the Government's proposals will, for the first time in our history, tear away from parents and give to the state the responsibility for a child's education;
- Ill-judged recommendations;
- I believe that the Government should take notice of the strength of feeling on this issue and the numbers of hon. Members who have presented petitions this evening;
- Totally reject the Governments ham fisted attempt to over regulate this group of parents
- Confers undue powers of inspection-and I hope that the Government will reconsider;
- Disappointed the Government had decided to implement some of the more controversial recommendations of the report in the Children, Schools and Families Bill;

- Disappointed that the government supports the recommendations of the Badman review as I do not believe that there is real evidence to support the need for the recommendations;
- Parliament briefly flickered into life/I personally believe that the report went a lot further than it was meant to, and that it will cause long-term damage to home education;
- The state wrongly intervening in family life;
- General concern;
- Grave concern;
- Over-bureaucratic approach;
- It is vital that the Government does not tie parents in red tape. Parents who want to educate their children should not feel as if big brother is looking over their shoulder all the time;
- The proposals would effectively nationalise home education, requiring all parents who choose to home educate to seek permission every year to do so. I believe that is a disproportionate, ill-conceived and illiberal measure.

satisfied either with the methodology of the Badman Review or with the evidence base.

The Committee Report is critical of the Government's conflation of education with safeguarding. Significantly, the Committee does not find sufficient grounds for changing the law on home education.

The Select Committee does not endorse the Government's proposals for compulsory registration of home educated children; does not agree that that visits to the home are necessary; does not believe it would be appropriate for home education officers to interview children without a parent present; is greatly concerned that home educated children with special needs are not well served by the present system; and strongly recommends that safeguarding concerns should not be addressed by the home education officer but should be passed to the appropriate agencies.

In addition the Committee is not convinced by Government's estimate of the cost of the proposals, particularly with respect to increased contact time with home educators. Nor do members of the Committee believe that the Government has adequately estimated the cost of delivering a comprehensive training programme to local authorities.

## EO PRESS RELEASE ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

### SELECT COMMITTEE DISAGREES WITH PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON HOME EDUCATION

<http://tinyurl.com/EOPR161209>

EO issued a Press Release on the day the Select Committee Report was published. This is what we said:

After due scrutiny, members of the Children Schools and Families Committee were clearly not



Ann Newstead, the Spokesperson for (E.O.) Education Otherwise's Government Policy Group said "My first impression of

the Report was that they are suggesting a very different tack to the Government and object to nearly all of the Government's proposed legislative changes. Whilst we may disagree with some of the alternative suggestions that the Committee has made, I think this is a far sounder basis for discussion and debate."



Fiona Nicholson of EO's Government Policy Group, who gave Oral Evidence to the Select Committee said: "Given the time constraints on the Report, it is a very thoughtful and considered piece of work and when you go through the Report you

don't find many items on the Government's wish list."

Annette Taberner, member of EO's Government Policy Group who travelled from Sheffield to London to watch the Select Committee Oral Evidence Session and who has spoken to several members of the Select Committee said there had clearly been a wide range of opinions from across the political spectrum represented in the Committee and that the Report reflected and incorporated those different viewpoints, while at the same time remaining broadly critical of the Government's key decisions.



Ms Taberner commented; "The Report echoes what we've been saying to MPs about how the whole process of the Badman Inquiry has seriously damaged trust between home educators and Government. I know of home educators who used to think there was some point talking to their local authority but who now don't want anything to do with Government officials."

Ms Nicholson commented: "The Government wanted home education dealt with and out of the way quickly; the Select Committee thinks proper

studies and research need to be done. The Government said that Graham Badman's Statistics were robust; the Select Committee begs to differ.

The Government jumped to the conclusion that compulsory registration was the only way to go; the Select Committee has suggested an alternative.

The Government threw a clause into the new Children's Bill before releasing any feedback from the recent 18 week public consultation; the Select Committee clearly states that this is unacceptable."

### WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE CHRISTMAS WITH GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CHANGE THE LAW ON HOME EDUCATION

On January 5th Education Otherwise sent individual postcards to all MPs highlighting the Second Reading of the Children Schools and Families Bill on January 11th. On the EO postcard we also included several short quotes as follows:

"The proposals would effectively nationalise home education" Paul Burstow MP

"Not one penny will go to help the children; it will all go on auditing them. What have these people done to deserve that?" Lord Lucas

"We highly doubt that the funding levels suggested by the Department to date will be sufficient." Select Committee, December 2009

We will shortly be sending postcards to members of the House of Lords, flagging up the First and Second Reading of the Children Schools and Families Bill in the Lords.

## JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> 2010

The All Party Parliamentary Group on home education met at the House of Commons with Minister Diana Johnson on January 6th. Annette Taberner and Julie Bunker went to the meeting on behalf of Education Otherwise. Notes from home educators can be found here <http://qoo.gl/cu7R>

The meeting was well attended by MPs and researchers from the three main parties and provided an excellent warm-up to the Second Reading of the Children Schools and Families Bill.

On the same day January 6<sup>th</sup>, Education Otherwise published a Position Statement which was circulated at the All Party Parliamentary Group and also sent to MPs and other interested parties.

The Position Statement may be found online here <http://tinyurl.com/eopositionclause26>

### **CLAUSE 26 SCHEDULE 1 OF THE CHILDREN SCHOOLS & FAMILIES BILL**

Education Otherwise believes that Clause 26 Schedule 1 of the Children, Schools and Families Bill is profoundly flawed and must not pass into legislation. In addition to the devastating effect on home educating families, the proposed measures would be incompatible with existing laws and would have unforeseen consequences far beyond the present target group.

"If enacted, the Government's proposals will, for the first time in our history, tear away from parents and give to the state the responsibility for a child's education." Graham Stuart MP

The home education clause:

- was introduced to Parliament with the claim that it took account of the recent public consultation, yet the Government's consultation response remains

unaccountably delayed, which the Select Committee found "unacceptable";

- requires the family to be licensed for education services in the first instance but with the prospect of extending the licensing principle to other aspects of family life;
- gives power to education professionals to impose legal sanctions on families who will not allow private interviews with children;
- gives power to education professionals to impose legal sanctions on families who will not allow access to the family home;
- provides for wide-reaching secondary legislation beyond the scrutiny of Parliament and does not supply satisfactory information about an appeals procedure;
- requires the Education Welfare Service to serve an automatic order compelling the child to attend a named local school if the family is practicing unlicensed education and removes any legal right for the family to challenge this automatic order in court

"Passing Clause 26 into legislation would have an extremely negative impact on the relationship between the home education community and local and national government and be detrimental to the education and welfare of many children and young people who are currently being home educated." Annette Taberner, Education Otherwise Government Policy Group

"Local authorities have not received any funding from Government for their work with home educating families and have been largely unable to provide support or services which would encourage families to establish or maintain contact with the authority.

According to the latest research carried out by Education Otherwise, there is no budget from central Government for support and the typical amount spent on staffing costs for home education in local authorities is below £200 per child.

The much vaunted support for home educators is nowhere to be found in the current Bill before parliament yet we are asked to believe that the

Government will fund education delivered outside the state system which would seem to create a precedent for children educated in the independent sector." Fiona Nicholson, Chair Education Otherwise Government Policy Group

The Select Committee noted the relevant provisions of the Children Act 1989. Section 17(1) places a general duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need.

Section 47(1) requires, where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, the local authority "to make such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare".

According to the Parliamentary Briefing prepared for MPs and lodged in the House of Commons Library, there were 28 recommendations in the Badman Review Report. Key recommendations were identified as:

- More support to home educating families. Select Committee agreed;
- Compulsory registration. Select Committee disagreed;
- Requirement to submit statement of approach and educational plan at time of registration. Select Committee disagreed;
- Right of access to the home. Select Committee disagreed;
- Right to speak to the child alone. Select Committee disagreed;
- Local authority to refuse permission to home educate if there are "safeguarding concerns". Select Committee disagreed.

## Consultation responses the Government chose to ignore:

"It would never be appropriate for LA officers within the role of supporting families with home education to insist on interviewing a child alone. The LA officer is not at all likely to be someone a child knows well or trusts and such power gives the impression that LA officers do not trust parents and believe they can get to some hidden truth by seeing children alone. LA officers need to share any concerns about the child's education with parents and in cases where the LA officer has concerns about the welfare of a child, the usual safeguarding procedures apply." Gloucestershire County Council

"Parents who we have spoken to and who home educate are fully aware of the responsibility they are taking on and often find it a costly option and let down by their local authority. In this context the introduction of registration and monitoring processes held by the local authority can seem inappropriate and intrusive. The provision of information and support for parents instead, would be helpful." Treehouse charity for autism education

Education Otherwise's position is that Clause 26 is beyond redemption and must be withdrawn

In the event that Clause 26 Schedule 1 is not withdrawn, Education Otherwise believes that as a bare minimum Clause 26 would require a set of comprehensive and cohesive changes which:

- Challenge the need for a compulsory register of home educated children;
- Challenge the right of access to the home;
- Challenge the right to interview a child alone outside the parameters of current safeguarding legislation which is applicable to all;
- Demand and clearly outline the rights of a child who chooses not to meet with officials alone and the consequences for the child and family of exercising such a right;

- Demand and clearly outline transparent and accessible complaints and appeals procedures which home educated children, young people and their families might use;
- Challenge the presumption that complex details and procedures should be agreed by the Houses of Parliament and only be specified later, in detail, through the issuing of statutory guidance;
- Challenge the assumption that all contact and interaction should only be on the basis of local authorities interacting with individual families- thereby ignoring the importance of local and national groups and organisations as stakeholders and positive agents within the community;
- Locate and define the role and location of a named lead professional for Elective Home Education within local authorities;
- Identify mechanisms to engage all parties in an examination of the Department's role in identifying and promoting positive, good practice;
- Establish statutory, accessible and accountable locally based mechanisms for raising awareness of home education and liaison with stakeholders with ring-fenced funding;
- Define the capacities, skills sets and accredited training required for work in the area of Elective Home Education in consultation with the home education community and home education support organisations;
- Ensure that knowledge of elective home education, its legitimacy, diversity and practice is included in the Common Core for professionals, from all fields, working with children and young people;
- Ensure that ring fenced public funding administered at local level is available to families, by request, to fund appropriate provision to advance the education and welfare of home educated children and young people;
- Introduce a statutory duty for central and local government to promote

awareness of home education as a legal alternative to all families;

- Recognise the validity of autonomous education and the need for provision to be responsive to the child's evolving abilities and aptitudes, instead of requiring the family to adhere to the annual plan drawn up with the teacher at the local school, as currently proposed by the Government.

## JANUARY 11TH

January 11th was a busy day for home education.

The Second Reading Children Schools and Families Bill took place in the House of Commons. Over 200 MPs voted to withdraw the Bill. 18 MPs spoke in parliament against the controversial home education clause in the Bill. On the same day as the Second Reading, the Government hastily published a revised Impact Assessment for home education proposals in the Bill, following criticism from MPs and from the Local Government Association.

January 11th also saw publication of feedback from the recent consultation on registration.



On the day of the Second Reading, an open letter was published in the Guardian calling for the controversial home education clause to be withdrawn. The signatories included former Children's Laureate Anne Fine, psychologist Oliver James and Richard House, campaigner against Toxic Childhood. A full list of over a thousand signatories was linked from the Guardian letters page.

January 11th also saw publication of feedback from the recent consultation on registration and monitoring of home education, which received over 5,000 responses, mainly from home educators. A few days later the Government released various internal documents which told a different story.

## JANUARY 19TH

On January 19th the Public Bill Committee took evidence from expert witnesses including Fiona Nicholson from Education Otherwise, Chloe Watson from the Home Education Youth Council and Graham Badman. The Government also published a Position Statement towards the end of the first morning of the Bill Committee meeting. The Position Statement was not given to Committee members and stakeholders before the meeting. Later in the week DCSF told EO that the Position Statement had no legal status and was simply intended to help MPs.

### THE LATEST NEWS AS THIS NEWSLETTER WENT TO PRINT

The most up to date information about what Education Otherwise is doing with regard to the Children Schools and Families Bill is at: [www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/jan10.htm](http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/jan10.htm)

This page includes the latest dialogue between Education Otherwise and the Department for Children Schools and Families.

### LORD LUCAS WRITES ABOUT LOBBYING THE LORDS

<http://lordlucas.blogspot.com/>

## Canvassing the Lords – now's the time to get writing.

It seems likely that the second reading of the Children Schools and Families Bill in the Lords will come soon after we return from our winter half term on 22nd February, and that Clause 26 will still be intact.



To interest peers in supporting HE at second reading, aim to canvass us before 9th February - we rise on the 10th.

### Hints on canvassing us:

- keep it short. We have no staff, and too much to do. Make your main points on the first side, even if you say more thereafter;
- understand our limitations. We are most of us more or less ancient, more or less establishment, and conscious that political power rests with the Commons. Liberty plays well - but there are few absolute libertarians here;
- your aim is to find friends, not conquer enemies. You will find plenty;
- do offer to meet in the Lords, if that's easy for you, or if you are part of one of the HE organisations, ask if the peer would like to meet a HE family who lives near their home (peers have no published home addresses by and large, so only organisations are likely to be able to find a good local candidate.

After Second Reading comes Committee, when the whole house (meaning those who take an interest) go through the Bill line by line. What we will need for this stage are suggestions for amendments - different ways of having oversight of HE, different ways of supporting it.

I know that the whole concept of oversight is anathema to some of you, but that's the way we work and our strengths are more in grinding the government down gradually with practical arguments than cutting them down with politics. So do send in your ideas for amendments, as we can put them down straight after Second Reading.

#### **Note from EO:**

Education Otherwise will shortly be sending postcards to members of the House of Lords, flagging up the First and Second Reading of the Children Schools and Families Bill in the Lords as we did with all MPs on January 5th before the Second Reading in the Commons.

### How to Become a Voting Member in Education Otherwise

You can use your vote to choose trustees for Education Otherwise and in this way you can have a say in the direction of EO. It is valuable to have a range of trustees from different backgrounds with a diversity of views about EO's role in supporting home educators and defending the freedom of home educating families. Voting members are also eligible to stand as Trustees.

The next opportunity to vote in new Trustees will be at the Annual General Meeting in 2010. Ordinary members do not automatically have a vote in Education Otherwise unless they fill in the special Signed Up Members Form.

#### **No need to attend meetings to have a vote.**

Please note that once you have become a Voting member, you don't have to attend a meeting in person in order to vote. EO supplies printed proxy forms for all voting meetings where you can nominate someone else to vote on your behalf. This could be another Voting Member known to you personally, or the Chair of the meeting. If you do not know any other Signed Up Members, you can ask a Trustee to be your proxy. Trustees can be emailed via the contact

form on the website or by using the contact details on the inside page of the newsletter.

If you want a vote you need to fill in a Signed up Members form and send ID and proof of address to EO's PO Box. There is an administrative fee of £10 which can be paid by cheque, postal order or online at:  
<http://www.education-otherwise.org/order.htm>

A Signed Up Member form is in this newsletter or can be obtained from the member's forum:  
<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewtopic.php?f=60&t=215>

### Volunteer Vacancies in EO - We need your help.

#### **Concessions Volunteers**

We produce an annual Concessions booklet and following member requests are hoping to expand this to include more places of interest at reduced or free rates, and also reduced prices for equipment and resources that home educators want to purchase, such as computers, musical instruments, software etc. The current Concessions Volunteer has now resigned and we are looking for people who would be interested in forming a team and working together to collect information from members and the internet about whom EO could approach and then sending emails or letters trying to arrange discounts for members. If you are interested in getting involved, then please contact Lynda - [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org) or Tel: 08445 867541. The job can be as small or big as you wish to make it.

#### **Single Parent Family Contact**

Do you have experience of home educating as a single parent? Could you be available to provide information and/or support? Education Otherwise Government Policy Group provides additional legal backup information about welfare rights legislation and the EO Helpline

also takes general calls and email enquiries and could refer individual queries to the Single Parent Contact. In addition the volunteer for this post could get queries from members who see the contact details in the Newsletter.

Volunteers are allocated an EO Flextel phone number and EO email address and personal details are not in the public domain. From the point of view of the volunteer if you have Caller Display you also know when you are getting a "work call". This job can be shared.

Please contact Jo Berry by emailing [enquirysecretary@educationotherwise.org](mailto:enquirysecretary@educationotherwise.org) or tel. 08445 883539 for more information.

## Volunteers for the Helpline

We are looking to recruit new volunteers for the Helpline. If you have ever thought about giving a few hours of your time to help others who are thinking about home educating then please do get in touch. As the option of home education becomes more widely known, more and more parents are turning to EO for information and support. Many get information from the website; but personal support is still in great demand. Many of the calls are families new to the idea of home education who want to ask basic information about it such as whether it's legal, what families do and be put in touch with a local group or local contact. There is support for the Helpline Volunteers and always someone to ask if you don't know the answer to a question, so don't let thinking you don't know enough put you off from volunteering. It can be really rewarding.

We are introducing more flexibility in the hours per helpline shift, so if you only have one or two half-days a week or fortnight, don't let this prevent you from volunteering. If you're interested and would like to find out more or have any questions then please contact:

Jo Berry, Tel: 08445 868821,  
[jberry@education-otherwise.org](mailto:jberry@education-otherwise.org)

## Research Contacts

Would you enjoy investigating and organising research into home education methods and achievements? Education Otherwise is often asked for this information by the media and we need contributors to keep our research bank up to date on the website and in our printed materials. For this post it would also be useful to liaise with EO Government Policy Group and EO Disability Group.

Volunteers are allocated an EO Flextel phone number and EO email address and personal details are not in the public domain. From the point of view of the volunteer if you have Caller Display you also know when you are getting a "work call". This job can be shared.

For more information please contact Fiona Nicholson of EO Government Policy Group and EO Disability Group: [fnicholson@educationotherwise.org](mailto:fnicholson@educationotherwise.org) tel. 08445 868831

## Regional Diary Coordinator

Person needed to co-ordinate the Regional Diary. Would you be interested in maintaining the list of local groups printed in the newsletter each issue? The role is quite small and just involves liaising with other home educators who may write to, phone or call you and receiving updates to the information and adding them to the master list and then sending the list to the newsletter co-coordinator every other month. Contact Lynda for details on 08445 867541 or email [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org)



## Help - Website Updating

Education Otherwise used to have a different PO Box and Telephone number a few years ago and despite our best efforts, these old details are still listed on many websites. We are looking for a volunteer or two who would be interested in a short-term job helping out the charity and has access to a computer. It doesn't matter how much or how little time you have to spare as this is a task that can be shared between a number of volunteers and has no deadlines. We just need someone to google EO's old postal address and old phone number and then email or use the contact form on the sites that come up and ask them to change our details which they have listed incorrectly. We can make an "Education Otherwise" email address available for you to use so that you don't need to use your private one. If you think this is something you'd like to help with, contact Lynda to find out more - [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org) Tel: 08445 867541

## HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF VOLUNTEERING TO BE A LOCAL CONTACT?

Local contacts play a vital role in the work of EO. There are various aspects to the job of local contact and it is not necessary for all aspects of the role to be done by one person. Please get in touch with Carla, the Local Contacts Coordinator for a chat about what the role could mean for you.

Email: [lccoordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lccoordinator@educationotherwise.org) or Tel: 08445 003876

We find that members are reluctant to volunteer, thinking that there must be someone better out there, someone more qualified or more experienced. But please don't underestimate how good a local contact you could be! Some of our local contacts started when they had only been home educating for a short time because there was a vacancy in their area and they felt it was important that there should be a local contact. In other cases

members volunteer when they see that someone is stepping down or when their children get older and they feel they have more time to give to the job. Some members volunteer because they have started to organise local social activities or they become involved with a group which meets or is planning to meet with the local authority. Other local contacts have told us that they feel EO helped them when they first started home educating and they wanted to give something back.

If your area is listed as vacant, please consider whether you might be able to volunteer and then get in touch with Carla for a chat by phone or email.

## REGIONAL LOCAL CONTACT COORDINATOR

Local contacts play a vital role in the work of EO. We want to offer more support to local contacts, with a co-coordinator in each region who will take responsibility for liaising with the Helpline co-ordinator and for passing information to and from the various postholders and Small Groups in EO such as the College Contact, Special Needs Contact, Government Policy Group and the Disability Group.

The regional local contact coordinators will get an opportunity to meet other volunteers at workshops and will be able to swap tips on how to deal with various situations which local contacts might come across in the course of their volunteer work. If you are currently a local contact for EO and you think this sounds interesting please get in touch with [admin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:admin@educationotherwise.org) for a chat.

The current Local Contact Coordinator Carla Macgregor is stepping down at the end of April. On behalf of all local contacts, we would like to thank Carla for all her hard work.

## Volunteer Vacancy: the Local Contact Coordinator

This role requires someone with administrative and people management abilities. The role will be changing as we are planning to appoint a team of Regional Coordinators to support Local Contacts, so the post holder will have the opportunity to work with the new volunteers to develop the roles. The main part of the role is the appointment of new Local Contacts, keeping records and information up-to date, with some time being required for ongoing support of the new Regional Local Contacts.

Ideally the person taking on this role will have been a Local Contact in the past. For more information, contact Carla on 08445 003876 or email: [lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org)

The following areas are either vacant or have Local Contacts who would like to stand down. Do consider volunteering, Local Contacts are an invaluable first point of call for families new to home educating or new to the area. Job shares are possible or areas can be broken down further to suit a volunteer's time and energy:

### England

Cambridgeshire  
Channel Islands  
Cheshire. Crewe and Nantwich  
Cheshire Vale Royal (east)  
Cheshire, Macclesfield  
Cleveland  
Durham  
Essex: South East  
Essex: North  
Essex: West  
South Gloucester  
Gloucester  
Hampshire  
Herefordshire  
Kent South East  
Lancs. Bolton and Blackpool  
Leicester City  
London Enfield.  
London North West  
London West, Richmond and Kingston  
London, Waltham Forest

Manchester South  
Manchester  
Norfolk - Breckland  
Norfolk - West  
Shropshire  
Staffordshire  
Staffordshire South  
Suffolk  
Sussex. West.  
West Midlands Dudley  
West Midlands Sandwell  
Wiltshire  
Yorkshire West, all areas  
Yorkshire East Hull  
Hull

### Scotland

Aberdeenshire  
Perth and Kinross  
Argyll and Bute  
Edinburgh and Lothians  
Inverclyde and the Ayrshire  
Glasgow  
Fife

### Wales

Ceredigion  
Glamorgan  
Flintshire

### Off Shore

Northern Ireland  
Europe



# EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED SIGNED-UP MEMBERS FORM (SUM)

(Guarantor Declaration)

**N.B. Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS**

I (BLOCK CAPITALS) .....

wish to become a member of Education Otherwise Association Limited and confirm that I am over the age of 18. In the event of the Association being wound up I agree to contribute up to £10 in payment of any debts and liabilities it may have incurred.

I understand that the details I give on this form will be entered on to the Company's Register of Members and that under the Companies Act 2006, it is possible for someone to request sight of or a copy of this Register for a "proper purpose". Education Otherwise may then have to disclose my personal data.

I enclose proof of my name and address along with a stamped SAE for return of my documents. If I wish Education Otherwise to return these ID documents by first class recorded delivery, I enclose an sae and loose stamps to the value of £1.50.

Home Address (print in full): .....

**Communications by email** - I consent to Education Otherwise sending or supplying any document or information (including any notice) to me using electronic means. My email address for this purpose is:

Email address: .....

Signature of Member: .....

Date: .....

## Make Sure You Have a Vote at EO General Meetings

At present only Signed Up Members are entitled to vote at EO General Meetings. These include Annual General Meetings (AGMs) where Trustees are elected and Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) which may take place between AGMs.

- Even if you are unable to attend a meeting yourself, you can still have a vote by appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf.
- Unless you have supplied your email address for correspondence and notices, Education Otherwise will continue to post any correspondence related to Signed up Members to the address which is given on this SUM form until the Company is advised in writing by the SUM that their address on the Register of Members should be changed. Such changes of address together with associated documents giving proof of residence should be sent to Education Otherwise, SUMs, PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW.
- Please see Appendix for documents required re proof of name and address.

## Appendix

We need to see at least one document which must confirm your name and also your current address. The document/s will be returned to you in the SAE you enclose with your completed form. You may send any of the following:

birth or marriage certificate; bank/building society statement \*; mail order catalogue statement \*; benefit statement – e.g. Child Allowance, Pension \*; Utility Bill – electricity, gas, water, telephone-including mobile phone contract or bill \*; council tax statement \*; NHS card; or a document from Central/Local Government/Government Agency/Local Authority giving entitlement \*: e.g. from Department for Work and Pensions, Employment Service, Customs & Revenue, Job Centre or Social Security.

\* Documentation should be less than six months old

### Costs and Method of Payment

The administration fee payable runs for a year from receipt of your payment; a reminder notice will be sent by email if you have elected to receive communications this way or by post 3-4 weeks before your renewal date.

You may pay by cheque, by postal order, by using the "Additional Items" form on the Education Otherwise charity website and selecting the SUM Fee box at <http://www.education-otherwise.org/> or by phoning 08445 867541 and paying with your credit or debit card.

We are unable to confirm your membership of the company as a Signed Up Member until we have received your payment, your completed forms and identification documents.

### Cheques or Postal Orders to be made payable to: "Education Otherwise Association Limited"

**Payment Method** (please circle): Cheque / Postal Order / Credit Card / Website Payment / Phone Payment

Annual Company Administration fee for Signed Up Members: £10

### Amount of Payment Enclosed:

Administration Fee Enclosed £ \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit/Debit Card Payment Authorisation (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Issue Number \_\_\_\_\_

Valid From/Issue Date \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Last 3 digits on reverse of your card \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as it appears on the card) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No \_\_\_\_\_

Address on Statement (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with your payment, a self addressed envelope and identity documents to:  
Education Otherwise SUMs, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW.**

Education Otherwise Association Ltd, PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, PE34 3XW [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)

A company limited by guarantee and Registered in England and Wales No: 01917107  
Registered Office: 41, St Mary's Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB9 4HP Charity Registration No: 1055120

To Group Organisers: please remember when giving details of events that the EO newsletter can be read by people who are not EO members. If you would like your group to have a listing or if you have any changes to make to your existing entry you will need to complete and return a permission form. You can obtain a permission form by sending an sae to Education Otherwise Regional Diary, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW, by emailing [regionaldiary@educationotherwise.org](mailto:regionaldiary@educationotherwise.org) or by downloading one from the Official EO Forms board of the members forum on the new EO website.

Each adult whose contact details are listed for your group needs to complete a permission form before we can add their details to your entry, so if someone new wants to be added to your groups listing as contact, they will need to ask us for one of these forms before we can add their name and number or email address to the Regional Diary? Can group organisers please let the RD organiser know of any changes to venues, days and times or contact details for the group. **EO MEMBERS** - Please call the group before attending to make sure it is happening, and if not please let me know. Not all groups listed are EO groups.

#### England

##### **AVON**

**Bath Home Education Group**, Meets fortnightly in term times. Free play. Activities and lunch. 1030-1pm. Plus theatre trips and days out. Maria,

01761 420771 : Email: [yoga.maria@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:yoga.maria@yahoo.co.uk)

##### **BEDFORDSHIRE**

**EOLC**: Pauline, 08445 868894 : [beds-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:beds-lc@educationotherwise.org)

##### **Bedfordshire Christian Home Ed** :

[scottandrachel@ntlworld.com](mailto:scottandrachel@ntlworld.com)

Busy B-HE's. Weekly drop in session offering chats and support and weekly activities, including art & play, cooking, indoor games plus other outdoor events and activities. Tel: Pauline 07791 850545 or Pauline@kc2001.fsnet.co.uk

##### **BERKSHIRE**

**EOLC**: Lynn, 08445 868842 : [berkshire-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:berkshire-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Berkshire Home Educators**, email list for home educators in Berkshire and surrounding areas:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/BerkshireHomeEducators>

**Heroes Education Centre**, group for home-ed young, 4 days/wk, workshops, lessons, activities. Dawn, 01628 783107: [www.homeeducators.co.uk](http://www.homeeducators.co.uk)

##### **BRISTOL**

**EOLC**: Ian, Tel: 08445 003756 : [bristol-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bristol-lc@educationotherwise.org)

##### **Bristol Home Education Learn Place ( HELP)**,

meeting Monday & Friday, Carla: 0117 9354389 : [carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Contacts and Events SW**: A home education website & network for the SW, specifically set up to

support new HEs, or new to the area. New input welcomed. Contact: [andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk)

##### **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**EOLC**: Georgeanna, 08445 003763 : [bucks-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bucks-lc@educationotherwise.org)

##### **MKHEN, Milton Keynes Home Educators Network**

extends a warm welcome to all. Activities, social events and support. Also has an excellent relationship with LA.

[www.mkhen.org.uk](http://www.mkhen.org.uk) : Georgeanne : [sienna-swift7@power.net.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift7@power.net.co.uk) : [www.mkhen.org.uk](http://www.mkhen.org.uk)

##### **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - SOUTH**

**EOLC**: Georgeanna - as above

##### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**EOLC**: Sarah, 08445 003769 : [camb-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:camb-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Peterborough Home Educators**, friendly group meeting twice weekly for activities including art, crafts, science, ice skating, bowling, cooking and lots more, Sarah : [sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com](mailto:sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com) : 07784 169260

##### **CHESHIRE**

**Cheshire-South EOLC**: Sue, 08445 003781 :

[cheshire-lc1@educationotherwise.org](mailto:cheshire-lc1@educationotherwise.org)

**Cheshire-Macclesfield EOLC**: Debbie, 08445

003832 : [macclesfield-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:macclesfield-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Mid Cheshire Home Educators**, bi-monthly meetings and regular outings, Ange :

[che@talktalk.net](mailto:che@talktalk.net):

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mche>

**SCANS-HEAG**. Regular activities, meetings and trips for all ages. Separate teen activities. Carrie, 01782 786720 : [scans.heag@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scans.heag@yahoo.co.uk)

**CLEVELAND EOLC:** Pauline, 08445 868897 :  
cleveland-lc@educationotherwise.org

## CORNWALL

**EOLC:** Natasha, 08445 868849 : cornwall-  
lc@educationotherwise.org

**Contacts & Events SW.** See Bristol for more info.  
Contact [andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk)

**Cornwall Home Educators** meet every Thursday. For a copy of local newsletter contact Michelle. Newsletter also covers other home ed events in Cornwall: [dickson.michelle@sky.com](mailto:dickson.michelle@sky.com): 01326 250298

**Menheniot nr Liskeard**, Small School, Mondays term-times. Activities aimed at 5-11 years, 10.30am-1.30pm followed by time for playing, Tania, 01822 835902

**Penzance**, PZ Home Ed, Monday pm for workshop during term-time, Ruth, 01736 350887

**Pentiddy Woods**, family group get-together in the woods with games and woodland skills activities. Ele, 01579 363775 : [ele@pentiddy.co.uk](mailto:ele@pentiddy.co.uk) or Ruth, 0845 4560247

**CUMBRIA EOLC:** Jayne, 08445 003793 : [cumbria-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:cumbria-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**South Cumbria Home Educators Yahoo Group**, we have a yahoo group to keep in touch and meet up in various places in the area, to find out more please email Jayne : [jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk)

## DERBYSHIRE

**Derby Group, AHEAD :**  
[ahead.derbygroup@yahoo.com](mailto:ahead.derbygroup@yahoo.com)

## DEVON

All Devon details available from :  
[southdevongroup@googlemail.com](mailto:southdevongroup@googlemail.com)

**East Devon & Exeter EOLC :** Kate 08445 003798 :  
[eastdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eastdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Contacts & Events SW.** See Bristol entry for details. Contact: [andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk)  
**Exeter Home Education Community**, Pottery sessions weekly in well equipped studio. Neil, 01363 82314

**Exeter Home Education Community**, every Wednesday morning, social group for all ages plus Science, Spanish, Yoga and various other activities put on by families (come along and share something that worked in your family) Lisa 01392 421614

**Exeter Home Education Community**, every Wednesday afternoon. Drop In, get to talk to other families about home education, have a chat etc. plus singing with Jackie Oates. Lisa 01392 421614

**Exeter Home Education Community, GCSE Group**, there will be teenagers doing 5 or 6 different GCSE's in September, contact Neil 01363 82314

**Exeter Home Education Community, Green**

Woodwork and Permaculture, contact Neil 01363 82314 .

**DEVON-NORTH EOLC:** Jo, 08445 868843 :  
[northdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:northdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**North Devon**, Home Grown Kids, Twice weekly meetings and events. **Swimbridge**, Weds 1.30-4.30pm

**Barnstaple**, Fridays, Funderzone Term time only, Jo, EO Local Contact North Devon : 08445 868843

**DEVON-SOUTH EOLC:** Bridget, 08445 003804 :  
[devons-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:devons-lc@educationotherwise.org)

Buckfastleigh, Wildspace. Nature study and gardening group based at Buckfastleigh Town Hall. Also Devon Home Education Newsletter.

A free monthly email newsletter listing events throughout Devon. Also available by post for a small subscription. Tel: Lucinda 01364 644556 or email: [l.guy@dartington.ac.uk](mailto:l.guy@dartington.ac.uk)

**South Devon Home Education Group** meets: Monday + Friday for swimming; Wednesday, Social and Educational meeting; Thursday for workshops. For all these meetings, Bridget, 08445 003804 : [devons-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:devons-lc@educationotherwise.org) or Lucinda Tel: 01364 644556 Email: [l.guy@dartington.ac.uk](mailto:l.guy@dartington.ac.uk)

**South Devon Home Education Group**, meet at Harberton Parish Hall, near Totnes. Lucinda : [southdevongroup@googlemail.com](mailto:southdevongroup@googlemail.com) Tel: 01364 644556  
**Dartmoor Home Education Group**, New Group to support growing home-ed network on Dartmoor!! We welcome home-ed families, flexi-schoolers, and part-timers. Social and educational meetings on Thursdays in North Bovey/Chagford area. Emma Tel: 1647 440443 Email: [emmabradypicone@gmail.com](mailto:emmabradypicone@gmail.com)

**Dart Valley Home Ed Network**, Out and about visits: Natural History, History and Photography and more. Members only internet group. Hannah & Gordon, 01803 762788 : [lindnich@tesco.net](mailto:lindnich@tesco.net)

## DEVON/DORSET/SOMERSET BORDERS

**Home Education Centre**, 2 days/week. Workshops, sports, activities and support.  
[www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk](http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk) : Karen, 01460 30461 : [karen@homeeducationcentre.org.uk](mailto:karen@homeeducationcentre.org.uk) : or Louise, 01460 61325

## DORSET

**Dorset-North EOLC:** Sharon, 08445 003807 :  
[ndorset-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:ndorset-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Dorset-East (Bournemouth) EOLC:** Vicki, 08445 003726 : [Bournemouth-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:Bournemouth-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Dorset-East (Poole) EOLC:** Carol, 08445 003848 :  
[poole-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:poole-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Contacts & Events SW.** See Cornwall entry for more info. Contact [andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk)

**North Dorset, HEOND (Home Educators of North Dorset)**, Friendly group, meeting weekly in

Sturminster Newton, June, 01258 471949 :

bugchick@mac.com

**Bournemouth, HEED**, weekly Monday meetings, Carol, 01202 677066 : carolstonehe@yahoo.co.uk : www.he-ed.org.uk

## DURHAM

**Roots Day** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Co-operative games, crafts, nature studies. All held outside on smallholding near Durham City Tel: 0771 9530 472

**French**, Mondays 1230. Durham City. Tel: 0771 9530 472

## ESSEX

**EOLC**: Corinne, 08445 003808 : essex-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Chelmsford**, monthly meetings, 3rd Thursday, 2 - 4pm. Sarah, tower@tesco.net: Lena, choccyfudge-go@yahoo.co.uk

**Leigh on Sea**, Thames Kids Club, meetings held Fridays from 11am to 3pm in Leigh on Sea. £3 per family, thameskidsclub@googlemail.com : Roxy, 01702 334521: Raquel, 07958 045885 : Thea, 01702 309869

**Essex Home Educators**, meetings monthly in Chelmsford, Colchester and Tiptree, and weekly in Southend. There are also regular meetings for swimming, bowling and ice skating, etc., and at least two trips out around the county each month. Details of all these in Essex Epicycle Newsletter available by email, Corinne : epicycle@wavy.org

**Clacton Home Education**: social group meets regularly in and around Clacton-on-Sea. Also a teen gathering bi-monthly in Little Clacton.

Tel: Shirley 01255 862182

Email: indigoshirl@gmail.com

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

**Cirencester and Cotswold Meetings**. Will answer queries about home education in general and offer information about local groups and activities. Pam: pjp@ragingbull.com : 01285 721008

**Stroud**, email group keeps families in touch, anyone can arrange an activity or get together. Nick, 01453 840036 : nick.weir@localfood.org.uk

**Forest of Dean**, meet monthly on a Thursday, 12.15 - 16.00, for bridge and dam building, river clearance, fire building, woodland walks, indoor and outdoor games, raft building. Roxy : cdsnhf@googlemail.com

**Glos-based Otherwise Club**. Yearly camp at Biblins, Symonds Yat. Information about local events, meetings, outings. Fiona Brookes - Email: brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk

**Gloucestershire**, Beverley, 01242 524091

## HAMPSHIRE

**Southampton and area, SEEDS**, for children age 3+, home educators in Southampton and area, Lyn: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1

**Havant area, ActiveEO**, meetings most weekdays : www.activeo.org.uk : Julie, 01243 552472

**North Hampshire, NHEO**. Open to all home educators in North Hants & surrounding areas. Regular meetings in Basingstoke, ice skating & other activities. http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHEO/: Jaki, 07731 805323 : jakiparsons@yahoo.co.uk

**Hampshire, FRHEBEEs**, Friendly informative group covering the New Forest, West Hampshire, South Wiltshire area, Karen, 01425 656856 : karence@btinternet.com

**Hampshire West, Fordingbridge and Ringwood Home Educators, FRHEBeeS**-owner@yahooogroups.com

**Hampshire & Surrey Farnham Home Ed Group**, friendly social group, meeting fortnightly on Thursdays. Serving Farnham, Aldershot and surrounding areas. Paul, 01252 316497 : paula.oakley@talk21.com

## HEREFORDSHIRE (+ Monmouthshire)

**Monmouth Home Educators**, meetings on Tuesdays at Rockfield Community Centre for fun and friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports - football, hockey, rounders, cricket. All ages welcome. Check for dates and times. Roxy, 01989 768128 : cdsnhf@googlemail.com

## HERTFORDSHIRE

**EOLC**: Maya, 08445 003816 : herts-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Herts Home Educators Yahoo Group** for events and friendship. To join please email Karen: karenbartlett@btinternet.com

## ISLE OF MAN

**EOLC**: 08445 003949 : isleofman-lc@educationotherwise.org

## ISLE OF WIGHT

**EOLC**: Shara, 08445 003819 : iow-lc@educationotherwise.org

## KENT

**North West, EOLC**: Ann, 08445 868839 : kent-lc@educationotherwise.org

**UK Home Educators**, fortnightly meetings in Chatham, regular park days and monthly activities. Ann: kent-lc@educationotherwise.org: 08445 868839  
**Dragonfly Group**, fortnightly meetings for all ages. We are a fun social group who also meet up midweek

for outings and events. Tel: Andrea 01304 619112 or 07737 806478

**Kent, Sussex & Surrey** (on the border of all 3 counties) F.L.A.G.S, active group meeting weekly during termtime for hall activities, sports and outings. Karen, 01732 864524 : karenlow@uwclub.net : www.flags-education.org

**Kent, Sussex, Surrey**, www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk South East Home Educators & Wealden Education Network. Group who try to meet regularly for trips out. Bowling, swimming, workshops and museums. Meet fortnightly in Tonbridge Wells for adults and children to get together. Lizelle, 01732 883850 : lizelle@lizellefdb.com or Bo, 07853 945206

#### LANCASHIRE

**EOLC:** Kath, 08445 868829 : lancs-lc2@educationotherwise.org

#### LEICESTERSHIRE

**System HE.** A fun and lively group for the under 10s. We meet twice a month and each session has a theme - with art and science activities to help explore the topic.

Tammy, mathamsam@btinternet.com ;

Vikki, martinvikki@aol.com ;

Christine, christine\_wells@yahoo.com

**Leicestershire, HE-AL**, <http://www.he-al.org.uk/index.html>

#### LINCOLNSHIRE

**EOLC:** Janet, 08445 868862 : lincs-lc@educationotherwise.org

North Hykeham Home Education Group, meet every Thursday 10-1130ish primarily for toddlers.

Phone/text 07870 787328 Email: debi-crow@googlemail.com

#### LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH

**EOLC:** Susanna, 08445 003861 : southlincs-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### LONDON

**London, Brandram Roaders**, Meet 11-1pm Thursdays during term time at Brandram Road Community Centre, SE13 5RT (off Lee High Road) Then to nearby park. Ages mostly 0-12 yrs. All welcome. Subs £2 per family. Joolz, 020 8289 5026 :

teachyourown@hotmail.com

**London, Fulham HE.** Fridays from 11am, age 5+ (siblings welcome). Tennis, basketball lessons. Open house, play in park and some field trips. Kellan, 020 7384 3332 or 07796 687029

**East London, Forest Group**, meets on alternating fortnightly Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1-4pm at Quaker Meeting House, Bush Road, Leytonstone,

London E11: Helen, 020 8553 0015 : h\_long@sky.com ; Ola Gasson 020 8520 0648 :

olaglasson@googlemail.com

**UK Home Educators, London/Kent**, meetings in Bromley and Orpington. Outings and group events monthly. Ann: kent-lc@educationotherwise.org : 08445 868839

**London-NW, The Otherwise Club.** A community centre for families choosing to educate their children out of school, Leslie, 020 8969 0893

**Dulwich, Woodland Club**, age 8-teen. Science, Maths, various speakers, social afternoon. Idyllic venue. Gina, 020 8299 1135

**Woodlands Study Group**, 11yr old and over: English, Maths and Science classes every Monday, term time in Dulwich SE22 : deniseriddy@aol.com

**East London, Magpie Home Educators.** Meet every Friday, 1-3pm for social activities. All ages welcome. Corner Forest Lane and Magpie Close, Forest Gate. Annalise, 020 8500 1053 : annalise@tesco.net

**Haringey Home Education Club.** Group meets alternate Weds 12-4pm. See www.hhec.org.uk for details. Gaby, 020 8881 9463 : contact@hhec.org.uk

**Hackney, Adventures with Education.** Hackney group meets weekly in term time, Tuesdays 11am-3pm, Chris Swift 020 7254 4988

#### London Local

**East EOLC:** Stephen, 08445 003821 : londoneast-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Enfield EOLC:** Tina, 08445 868836 : enfield-lc@educationotherwise.org

**North, EOLC:** Tina, Tel: 08445 003823 Email: londonnorth-lc@educationotherwise.org

**North West EOLC:** Tina, 08445 003826 : londonnw-lc@educationotherwise.org

**S.E. EOLC:** Keith & Chrystia, 08445 003827 : londonse-lc@educationotherwise.org

**SW Joint EOLC:** Rehena, 08445 003828 : londonsw-lc@educationotherwise.org

**SW Joint EOLC:** Lei, 08445 003829 : londonsw-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Waltham Forest EOLC:** Jo & Jerry, 08445 003867 : walthamforest-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### N.IRELAND

**EOLC:** Shevaun, 08445 003842 : nireland-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### NORFOLK

**EOLC:** Gita 08445 003836 : norfolk-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Thetford**, swimming and indoor sports/play.

Waterworld Leisure Centre, Thetford, Term-time Thurs 2.30-4.30pm, but weeks can vary so please ring first. Faye, 01953 681785

## NORFOLK-WEST

**West Norfolk Home Educators**, email list for home educators in West Norfolk:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/WestNorfolkHomeEducators>

**Kings Lynn H.E.** Weekly Monday Get-together 1-3pm in Kings Lynn. Kirsten: 01485 540724 or [murraybeers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:murraybeers@yahoo.co.uk)

## NORFOLK-SOUTH

**EOLC:** Anne, 08445 868904 : [norfolksouth-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:norfolksouth-lc@educationotherwise.org)

## NORFOLK-BRECKLAND

**EOLC:** Hannah, Tel: 08445 003998 : [norfolkbreckland-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:norfolkbreckland-lc@educationotherwise.org)

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**EOLC:** Imogen, 08445 003841 : [northants-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:northants-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Northants HE.** Informal Group meets regularly for various activities [www.northantshe.org.uk](http://www.northantshe.org.uk) : [info@northantshe.org.uk](mailto:info@northantshe.org.uk)

**iFLOW** (It's fun learning our way). Co-operative group meeting weekly Thursdays in Brixworth. Fun and engaging activities according to children's interest. [www.iflow.org.uk](http://www.iflow.org.uk) or email: [secretary@iflow.org.uk](mailto:secretary@iflow.org.uk) or Tel: Juno 01604 505977

## NORTHUMBERLAND-North

**EOLC:** Mink, 08445 003843 : [northumberlandnorth-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:northumberlandnorth-lc@educationotherwise.org)

## NOTTINGHAM CITY

**EOLC:** Damian, 08445 003846 : [nottinghamcity-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:nottinghamcity-lc@educationotherwise.org)

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**EOLC:** Jennifer, 08445 003961 : [notts-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:notts-lc@educationotherwise.org)

## OXFORDSHIRE

**EOLC:** Louisa, 08445 868873 : [oxfordshire-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:oxfordshire-lc@educationotherwise.org)

## RUTLAND

**EOLC:** Iain & Jacqueline, 08445 003853 : [rutland-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:rutland-lc@educationotherwise.org)

## SOMERSET

**EOLC:** Vivian, 08445 003858 : [somerset-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:somerset-lc@educationotherwise.org)  
**Contacts & Events SW.** See Bristol entry for more info. Contact [andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk)

**Wells Swimming Group**, meets weekly for swimming at Wells Leisure Centre - term time only. Lesley, 01749 689241 : [mumfordturner@hotmail.com](mailto:mumfordturner@hotmail.com)

**Wiveliscombe/Taunton area group**, monthly meetings on 1st Tuesday of month at Oake Village Hall, & regular outings. Maggie, 01984 624651

**Somerset/Dorset/Devon borders, Home Education Centre**, 2 days/week. Workshops, sports, activities and support. New group starting Yeovil area Fri Mornings. [www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk](http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk) : Karen, 01460 30461 : [karen@homeeducationcentre.org.uk](mailto:karen@homeeducationcentre.org.uk) : or Louise, 01460 61325

Yeovil: [lyn@homeeducationcentre.org.uk](mailto:lyn@homeeducationcentre.org.uk)

**North Somerset Home Education Group**, weekly childrens gym, walks, outings etc. Vicky, 01275 848425 : [victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk)

**Shepton Mallet**, FAB Home Education Group Social Meeting - Fortnightly on Tuesdays from 1.30-3.30pm at Shepton Mallet Scout Hut, Old Wells Road. £2.50 per family to cover refreshments and hire of hall. Mandy 01749 347799

**Bath Home Education Group**, a new group still in it's early stages consisting of children ages 3-7 years and a couple of 2 year olds. Maria, 01761 420771 : [yoga.maria@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:yoga.maria@yahoo.co.uk)

## STAFFORDSHIRE

**EOLC Moorlands** - Anne - 08445 008461

**EOLC Mid** - Astrid - 08445 003963

**EOLC** - Sue - 003781

**SCANS-HEAG**. Regular activities, meetings and trips for all ages. Separate teen activities. Carrie, 01782 786720 : [scans.heag@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scans.heag@yahoo.co.uk)

**Stafford HESEO (Home Educators Supporting Each Other)** Meeting 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 12-3pm, bring lunch. Karen, 01543 422577 : [karen@karisto.co.uk](mailto:karen@karisto.co.uk)

## SUFFOLK

**EOLC:** Sue, 08445 868913 : [suffolk-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:suffolk-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Wetherden**, meetings, 3rd Friday of the month 10.30am till 3pm, Wendy, 01449 614772 :

[wenlyn@talktalk.net](mailto:wenlyn@talktalk.net)  
Dennington, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 1030-130pm. Wide range of activities, all ages welcome. Janet: 01728 638795 or Meraylah 01986 785302.

## SURREY

**EOLC:** Katie, Tel: 08445 003964 : [surrey-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:surrey-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Godalming Group**, meets alternate Mondays. Serves South West Surrey and surrounding area. Ruth: [www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk](http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk)

**Sutton/Epsom HE Group**, all ages welcome, currently mainly under 10s. Liz: [julysea@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julysea@yahoo.co.uk) or Paul: [pauldmsn@hotmail.com](mailto:pauldmsn@hotmail.com) Tel: 07506 781796

**SUSSEX & SURREY & KENT** (on the border of all 3 counties)

**F.L.A.G.S.** active group meeting weekly during term time for hall activities, sports and outings. Karen,

01732 864524 : karenlow@uwclub.net : www.flags-education.org

#### **SUSSEX-EAST**

**EOLC:** Winnie, 08445 003863 : sussexeast-lc@educationotherwise.org

**HEDGE** based in **Hastings**, meet every Friday : www.hedge-education-org: Catherine, 01424 812213

**Forest Row**, regular social gatherings and tutorial groups. Winnie, 01342 826087 : artofchange@msn.com

#### **SUSSEX-WEST**

**Chichester area, ActiveEO**, meetings most weekdays : www.activeo.org.uk : Julie 01243 552472

**Sussex - Home Educating in West Sussex**

**Facebook Group.** A group for home educators and the home educated in West Sussex. Events most weeks all organised on Facebook. Look up Katie Pybus on Facebook or roger.katie@virgin.net or Tel: 01798 875071

#### **TYNE & WEAR (NEWCASTLE):**

**EOLC:** Rosemary, 08445 003866 : tynewear-lc@educationotherwise.org

**WARWICKSHIRE EOLC:** June, 08445 003869 : warks-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **WARWICKSHIRE - COVENTRY**

**EOLC:** Sarah, 08445 003792 : coventry-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Coventry and Warwickshire Home Educators**, monthly meetings held at various locations, plus monthly outings and activities. Full details in HELM (West Midlands)

**Coventry** meetings 4th Tuesday 1pm to 4pm : sarah@nellyb.co.uk **Wolston** meetings 2nd Thursday : lloyd@dash20.fsnet.co.uk

#### **WARWICKSHIRE - RUGBY**

**EOLC:** Fay, 08445 003852 : rugby-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **WEST MIDLANDS**

**Wolverhampton & Walsall EOLC:** Debbie, 08445 003871 : wolverhampton-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Sandwell EOLC:** Andrea, 08445 003856 : sandwell-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Birmingham EOLC:** Stuart, 08445 003967 : Birmingham-lc@educationotherwise.org

**HELM Newsletter**, HE related articles and events throughout the West Midlands and surrounding areas. helmeditor2112@blueyonder.co.uk : Jane, 01562 720046 : Andrew, 07709 468140

#### **WILTSHIRE**

**EOLC:** 08445 868907 : wilts-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Salisbury**, social group meets Monday, fortnightly, 1-4pm. Large hall, skate park, play park, football pitch, basketball. Inside we have games, pool and table-tennis. We have a real mix of ages including teenagers. Very friendly and new faces welcome. Ally, 01722 710525

#### **WORCESTERSHIRE**

**EOLC:** Sue, 08445 868846 : worcs-lc@educationotherwise.org

**North Worcestershire/Kidderminster** meetings, please see Worcs newsletter or contact Gail, 01562 822034 : gail@1921.net

#### **YORKSHIRE EAST**

**EOLC:** Alison, 08445 003874 : yorkshireeast-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Withernsea LC:** Linda, 08445 003873 : withernsea-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **YORKSHIRE NORTH + EAST**

**near Malton**, meets weekly, Mondays, 12-4pm, viv@flamangoes.co.uk : 01904 788374 (York and surrounding area) or tess@chrisgeall.com: 01947 825772 (East N Yorks)

#### **YORKSHIRE NORTH**

**EOLC:** Denise, 08445 868852 : yorkshirenorth-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **YORKSHIRE NORTH+WEST**

**N/W Home Ed Group**, meets **Skipton** monthly and **Bradford Gym Club** - Meets weekly. Regular meetings and outings. Judith, 01756 791356

#### **YORKSHIRE SOUTH**

**Barnsley EOLC:** Amanda, 08445 868854 : barnsley-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Doncaster EOLC:** Nicola, 08445 003806 : doncaster-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Rotherham EOLC:** Jayne, 08445 003851 : rotherham-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Sheffield EOLC:** Fiona, 08445 003857 or Alison, 08445 008458 : sheffield-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **YORKSHIRE WEST**

**Bradford EOLC:** Gillian, 08445 853891 : bradford-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Wakefield EOLC:** Nicole, 08445 868874 : wakefield-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Huddersfield, Book Group**, Monday, monthly, 2-3pm. Marsden Library - age range 6-12 yrs. Jane, 01484 645034

**Huddersfield Home Educators**, Monthly themed meetings with crafts, games etc. Weds Monthly 1030-3 Paddock Scout Hall. Tel: Helen 01484 841041

**Huddersfield**, Art Workshops, Thursday, monthly, 10-11am, ages up to 8yrs. £1.30-3.30pm, ages 8+, Huddersfield Art Gallery. Mandy, 01484 460026: Jane, 01484 645034

**Huddersfield Group** - Lunch and Chat, Thursday, monthly, 11.30 to 1.30pm, Mandy, 01484 460026

#### Wales

#### **ANGLESEY**

**EOLC:** Nick, 08445 003713 : anglesey-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **CONWY**

**EOLC:** Dawn, 08445 003791 : conwy-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **DENBIGHSHIRE**

**Joint EOLC:** Sam, 08445 003794 : denbighshire-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Joint EOLC:** Julie, 08445 868916 : denbighshire-lc1@educationotherwise.org

#### **FLINTSHIRE**

**EOLC:** Sarah, 08445 868851 : flintshire-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **GLAMORGAN**

**Cardiff Home Ed Group**, we meet every Wednesday from 12noon to efa.rosina@yahoo.co.uk

**GWENT EOLC:** Bronwen, 08445 003812 : gwent-lc@educationotherwise.org

#### **GWYNEDD**

**Joint EOLC:** Nick, 08445 003813 : Gwynedd-lc@educationotherwise.org

**Joint EOLC:** Julie, 08445 008547 : Gwynedd-lc2@educationotherwise.org

**Tregarth**, Creative Learning and Support, meet every Wednesday 12 - 5pm. Free weekly newsletter of events via email. Active website at: [www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk](http://www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk) Nick - 01407 811049 : Julie, 01286 678181: [jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com](mailto:jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com)

**North West Wales. CLAS - Creative Learning and Support.** CLAS was born during 2005 and is the name of a group collective of like-minded parents and children living predominantly in North West Wales who believe in the ethos of home learning and education. [www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk](http://www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk)

#### **MONMOUTHSHIRE (+ HEREFORDSHIRE)**

**Monmouth Home Educators**, meetings on Tuesdays at Rockfield Community Centre for fun and friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports - football, hockey, rounders, cricket. Check for dates and times. Roxy: [cdsnfhf@googlegmail.com](mailto:cdsnfhf@googlegmail.com) ; 01989 768128

**PEMBROKESHIRE EOLC:** Yvette, 08445 003847 : [pembrokeshire-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:pembrokeshire-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**POWYS EOLC:** 08445 003849 : [powys-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:powys-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Newtown**, New Leaf Group. Fortnightly meetings for all ages, for activities, socialisation and play : [siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk)

**Powys Yahoogroup**, advertising home-ed activities in Powys for home educating families : [siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **NE WALES/BORDERS,**

**WREXHAM EOLC:** Sam, 08445 003872 : [wrexham-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:wrexham-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Froncsyllte, HENWOS**, fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. Monthly newsletter for NE Wales area activities and events: [kruger37@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kruger37@tiscali.co.uk)

#### Scotland

**Angus, Dundee, Perth & Kinross EOLC:** Marley, 08445 868896: [dundee-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:dundee-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Borders EOLC:** Jane, 08445 003716 : [borders-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:borders-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Highland & Isles EOLC:** Lesley, 08445 003817 : [highlandsislands-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:highlandsislands-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Clacks, Falkirk, N Lanarks & Stirling EOLC:** Janice, 08445 003789 : [stirling-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:stirling-lc@educationotherwise.org)

#### Overseas

**Australasia:** Nicky, Email: [australasia-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:australasia-lc@educationotherwise.org)

**Americas:** Sandy, 08445 853873 : [americas-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:americas-lc@educationotherwise.org)

### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED:**

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER TO KEEP THIS REGIONAL DIARY UPDATED? See the Volunteer needed advert on P/32 of this newsletter. It's an easily manageable job which shouldn't take up too much time.

New volunteers for any of the groups or volunteer roles are most welcome, with expertise or just an interest. For more information email the group or postholder given, write to EO's PO Box address or contact one of the Trustees listed (in italics). If you prefer to volunteer for infrequent or small tasks please contact:  
admin@educationotherwise.org

## Small Groups:

~ **Finance Group** Tel: 08445 003986  
(financegroup@educationotherwise.org)  
*Fiona Nicholson, Alecander Roarke, Lynda Hitchman*

~ **Govt. Policy Group** Tel: 08445 003987  
governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org  
*Fiona Nicholson, Annette Taberner, Ann Newstead, Jo Berry, Kira Patefield-Smith, Julie Bunker* (Midlands regional member)

~ **Disability Group**: Tel: 08445 003984  
disabilityawareness@educationotherwise.org  
*Fiona Nicholson, Julie Bunker, Christine Waterman*

~ **Website and Publications Editorial Committee (WPEC)**: (wpec@educationotherwise.org) Tel: 08445 003991  
*Fiona Nicholson, Lynda Hitchman*

## Complaints:

Email: complaints@educationotherwise.org Write:  
PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW

- *Jo Berry* ~ 08445 884596
- *Pauline Butterworth* ~ 08445 884597
- *Lynda Hitchman* ~ 08445 884598

## EO Public Forum

EO has now opened up a public area of the EO Members Forum so that non-members can join and find out more about home education and get support from others.

Home educators wanting to join just need to complete the Registration form on the website and their account will be activated just for the Public area, they won't be able to see or post in the Members forum.

## EO Yahoogroups:

EO runs a general list and single parent list with Yahoogroups, open to members and non-members. To join the general list go to:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eo>

To join the single parent list, go to:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EO-SingleParent/>

## Media Contacts:

Please contact one of the following people if you would like to volunteer to be interviewed or are contacted by the media and would like help/advice/support on giving an interview:

**Media Spokesperson:** *Ann Newstead*, 08445 867548  
media-spokesperson@educationotherwise.org

**Northern Ireland:** *Marion Kenny*, 08445 884528  
ni@educationotherwise.org

**North East:** *Eva O'Rourke, Wilsden* 08445 884529  
northeast@educationotherwise.org

**Wales (S):** *Celia McDonagh, Cardiff*, 08445 884531  
wales1@educationotherwise.org

**Wales(N):** 08445 884532  
wales2@educationotherwise.org

**South West: Vacant** - Volunteer Needed

**South East:** *Ann Newstead, Kent* 08445 003978  
southeast@educationotherwise.org

**London:** *Winnie Durdant-Hollamby*, 08445 884534  
london2@educationotherwise.org

**Isle of Wight:** *Shara Ouston, Ryde*, 08445 884569  
iow@educationotherwise.org

## EO Member & Childrens Forums:

There is a Members Forum on the EO website, with discussion and support forums to chat and get information about home education, regional boards etc., as well as EO business, and lots of other info (eg past NL articles, minutes of OTMs, etc). There are separate forums for EO Volunteers and Local Contacts and a new forum where EO children can chat - a recent addition is a role-playing board. To join the member's forum, register using the form at this url on EO's site: <http://forum.educationotherwise.org/index.php>

To join the children's forum, both you and your child need to register from the above link and you need to complete the permission form that will be emailed to your child's email address and return it to us at: [childrensforum@educationotherwise.org](mailto:childrensforum@educationotherwise.org) Do email if you have problems joining and we'll try to help.

# Who Does What in EO

**Trustees** - Email: trustees@educationotherwise.org  
Letters to: PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW

Lei Ashe (Surrey) ~ 08445 008467  
lashe@educationotherwise.org

Leslie Barson (London) ~ 08445 868817  
lbarson@educationotherwise.org

Jo Berry, (Cheshire) ~ 08445 868821  
jberry@educationotherwise.org (Enquiries Secretary)

Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) ~ 08445 868826  
pbutterworth@educationotherwise.org (Treasurer)

Sinead Hadavi (Surrey) - 08445 884578  
shadavi@educationotherwise.org

Nicola Haxell (S Yorks) ~ 08445 868824  
nhaxell@educationotherwise.org (NL Coordinator)

Nikki Mayow (Surrey) ~ 08445 884602  
nmayow@educationotherwise.org

Celia McDonagh (Glamorganshire) ~ 08445 883514 ~  
cmcdonagh@educationotherwise.org

Ann Newstead (Kent) ~ 08445 853899 ~  
anewstead@educationotherwise.org

Alexander Roarke (Kent) ~ 08445 868813  
aroarke@educationotherwise.org

Fiona Nicholson (S Yorks) ~ 08445 868831  
fnicholson@educationotherwise.org

Vicki Skinner (Dorset) ~ 08445 883513  
vskinner@educationotherwise.org

Annette Taberner (S Yorks) ~ 08445 003992  
ataberner@educationotherwise.org

Judi Wilson (London) ~ 08445 853897  
jwilson@educationotherwise.org

Colin Wilson (London) ~ 08445 008462  
cwilson@educationotherwise.org

## Memberships

Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, address changes, membership cards, new member admin, other queries or missing newsletters contact: ~ Lynda Hitchman ~ 08445 867541 membership@educationotherwise.org

## Stationery

Leaflets, posters, compliment slips, membership forms, car stickers etc: free (donations toward postage welcome).  
08445 867549 ~ c/o PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk  
PE34 3XW ~ stationery@educationotherwise.org

## Data Protection/Confidentiality/Privacy

~ Joss Nowell ~ 08445 003706  
dataprotectionofficer@educationotherwise.org  
~ Lynda Hitchman ~ 08445 867541  
database@educationotherwise.org

**Useful Contacts** - If you need help in dealing with your LA/EA please ring your Local Contact or any Council Member. If you have a query not covered below please contact your nearest Council Member.

**Anti Bullying Support** ~ Juno Charlett ~ 08445 003692  
anti-bullying@educationotherwise.org

**Autonomous Education Support:** Maya Lucas ~ 08445 003697  
autonomoussupport@educationotherwise.org

**Campaign Team Contact:** Fiona Nicholson ~ 08445 884593  
c/o PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW  
governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org

**College Contact:** Roger Scaife ~ 08445 868918  
~ collegecontact@educationotherwise.org

**Concessions: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** ~ 08445 003698  
concessions@educationotherwise.org

**Designated Person:** Jim Clossick ~ 08445 869091 ~ For EO members to call if they have concerns about a home educated child and are unsure about phoning the NSPCC.

**Enquiries Secretary:** Jo Berry ~ 08445 883539  
enquirysecretary@educationotherwise.org

**GCSE Contacts:** Contact names to follow shortly ~ 08445 003708  
gcsecontact@educationotherwise.org

**LA Liaison Volunteer:** Julie Beviss ~ 08445 003709  
laliaison@educationotherwise.org

**EO Members Forum Admin:** Lynda Hitchman 08445 867541  
forums@educationotherwise.org

**Local Contacts Co-ordinator:** Carla MacGregor ~ 08445 003876  
lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org

**Membership Secretary:** Vicki Skinner ~ 08445 003879  
membershipsecretary@educationotherwise.org

**Newsletter Coordinator:** Nicola Haxell ~ 08445 883532  
nlco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org

**Publications Secretary:** 08445 003886  
pubssecretary@educationotherwise.org

**Research Contact:** Contact details for the new Research Volunteer will be announced shortly. Meanwhile please contact: governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org

**School Anxiety Support:** Jayne Owen ~ 08445 008469  
anxiety-support@educationotherwise.org

**Single Parent Family Contact:** ~ 08445 884527

**Special Needs:** Christine Waterman ~ 08445 003887  
specialneeds@educationotherwise.org

**Structured Support:** Jennifer Simmons ~ 08445 003996  
structured-ed@educationotherwise.org

**Treasurer:** Pauline Butterworth ~ 08445 003889  
treasurer@educationotherwise.org

# education otherwise

Education Otherwise is a membership organisation that provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside school, and for those who wish to uphold the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of their children.

Our principal aims are to:

- encourage learning outside the school system;
- reaffirm that parents have primary responsibility for their children's education and that they have the right to exercise this responsibility by educating them out of school;
- establish the primary right of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feelings about their education;
- promote knowledge, understanding and acceptance of education otherwise than at school in the world at large.

For further information send an A5 sae to:

Education Otherwise, PO Box 325  
Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW

Helpline 0845 478 6345

Information can also be found on the Education Otherwise website:

<http://www.education-otherwise.org>

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