

education otherwise™



Newsletter - April

No. 193 - April 2010

DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUES ARE: April 20th for May bulletin and May 20th for June bulletin

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:

LETTERS & ARTICLES

Sue White ~ 08445 883528 ~ PO Box 335, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW ~
articles@educationotherwise.org

REGIONAL DIARY

regionaldiary@educationotherwise.org

CHILDREN'S PAGES CO-ORDINATOR

Children's Pages Co-ordinator ~ 08445 868917 ~
c/o PO Box 325, Kings Lynn PE34 3XW
~ eochildrenspages@educationotherwise.org

ADVERTISEMENTS & FLYERS

(e-mail/envelope marked "EO Advertising" please)
~ 08445 884523 ~ PO Box 325, Kings Lynn,
Norfolk, PE34 3XW ~
advertising@educationotherwise.org

BOOK & SOFTWARE REVIEWS

Tammy Dolling ~ bookreviews@educationotherwise.org
~ 6 Oliver Close, Syston. LE7 2NR

Deadline for the next Children's Pages: 30th April 2010 for June bulletin

Please send all material to the Children's Pages Co-ordinator who will forward it to the relevant Children's Editor. This is to ensure that if there is a last minute change, submissions from other children will not be lost.

Disclaimer

The opinions in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors, nor of Education Otherwise as a whole. This Newsletter is edited by volunteers and its primary purpose is to provide support and communication between members. All contributions (including advertisements) have been accepted in good faith and have not been in any way endorsed by Education Otherwise, which cannot be held responsible for the consequences of responding to any of them.

Editorial Policy

Education Otherwise is legally responsible for the material printed in the Newsletter, and sometimes it is necessary to edit letters and articles to ensure that there is no possibility of legal action against Education Otherwise. We try to consult with authors when this is necessary but we reserve the right not to print anything we consider puts Education Otherwise at risk.

Copyright

Any item published in the Newsletter may be reprinted in other home education magazines in the UK or abroad or on the Internet. If you do not want your contribution reproduced without your consent, please state clearly that you wish to retain copyright. If you send material to another source, please acknowledge this clearly.

IMPORTANT - EO's data is registered under the Data Protection Act. The contact details throughout this newsletter are for the sole and personal use of members. They are not to be used to prepare circular letters/emails or compose mailing lists for advertising, research, marketing, resources or any other purpose. Anyone found misusing this data will have their EO membership terminated.

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 April Issue

Welcome to the April newsletter. Spring is in the air and Lord Lucas tells us dramatically that the Children Schools and Families Bill lies helpless in its cradle waiting to be dismembered. We should be celebrating - albeit cautiously - but we find it hard to believe that the threat has truly been averted.

However, by the next monthly bulletin we aim to bring definite news about the Government's failed legislation.

And then we can take up our lives again and plan for summer get-togethers and camps and continue last year's tradition of not-back-to-school picnics.

I'm told that there are the usual spring daffodils and lambs. Indeed I saw a fine motley flock of lambs black, brown and piebald in Derbyshire over the weekend, but my mind was elsewhere, mentally composing emails, dotting i's and crossing the last t's.

I am reminded of the quote from poet Anne Bradstreet: "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

Frankly, we could have managed with a shorter taste of adversity. This last year has been gruelling. We would like it to be over. And even then we probably won't believe it for a while. In this newsletter you will find information about the new more frequent online monthly bulletin to replace the traditional bimonthly paper newsletter format.

We're doing all we can to ensure we have up to date email addresses for all members but please, if you're unsure if we have your correct address, just send us an email so we are certain we have the right details on the database. And if you don't use email, rest assured that you can still telephone or write to EO to ensure you are sent printed paper copies of the bulletin.

This change has been a long time coming and we are looking forward to a more frequent exchange of views where members can quickly and easily give feedback on a range of topics.



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

CONTENTS

Diary of a Home Education Nobody	p/2
2010 Contact List Updates	p/4
Home education and Beyond	P/5
Our Three Experiences of GCSEs	P/7
Mathletics - Not Just for Schools	P/9
Camps - Hes Fes, Studland Bay, Peak	P/10
Beach Volleyball	P/11
HeTof 2010 & French Pen-pal	P/12
Urgent Concessions	P/13
Member Discounts	P/13
Freebies & Offers	P/15
<u>Advertisements</u>	P/16
Book Reviews	P/17
Teen Pages	P/18
<u>Government Policy Group</u>	
What is Happening to HE Law?	P/19
Exams & Government Funding	P/20
Member Feedback Needed	P/21
Government & HE Funding	P/22
College Funding for 14 - 16s	P/25
LAs and Exam Centres	P/27
Private Schools and Exams for HE	P/30
Controlled Assessment & GCSEs	P/32
Finding an Exam Centre	P/33
IGCSEs	P/34
<u>EO Disability Group</u>	
Special Needs & Social Services	P/34
<u>EO Business</u>	
Newsletter Format Change	P/37
EO Members Forum	P/38
Don't Miss Out on Member Updates	P/39
How to Become a Voting Member	P/41
Volunteer Vacancies	P/41
Local Contact Round Up	P/44
Signed Up Member (SUM) Form	P/45
<u>Grand Spring Sale - Books & Items</u>	P/47
Regional diary	P/49
Small Groups	P/56



Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

By Ross Mountney

I don't know whether any of you watched the programmes about twins but they were fascinating. And the findings were so relevant to the development of all our children whether twins or not. Particularly pertinent to us as home educators was the research done into the nature/nurture argument; whether it is our genes or our environment that has the biggest influence on way we turn out.

Twins, particularly identical twins, give researchers the ideal opportunity to study the nature/nurture concept as twins share identical genes and many of them share the same environments. So why, the researches asked, would one achieve easily and one not?

Researchers are increasingly surprised to find that despite what was most commonly felt in the past genetic influences were not always the greatest, and the environment had a far bigger

influence on development and learning than was at first thought. But the most surprising aspect of their study of all is that it isn't the genes or the environment in isolation that are important.

What's important is the interaction between your genetic makeup and your environment, in other words who you are and how you respond to your circumstances, and this is what has the biggest impact of all on the way we all turn out.

If ever there was proof for the argument that schools cannot possibly suit all children then surely this is it! If ever there was a case for the need to provide an alternative to the school environment for those children who needed it then this knowledge backs it up.

This research showed that the impact of environment can change lives. And I believe that it is the environment in schools, more than the

workload or background or genetic makeup alone, which impacts on so many children: damaging their learning potential, their happiness and well being, their self esteem and their future.

Providing the right environment for our children is essential. It makes the difference between them achieving or not. But the right environment doesn't only mean the right environment for learning, that's where schools get it so wrong.

It means the whole environment; it means providing an environment where the child feels comfortable and safe, supported and encouraged. Get that right and the learning bit will follow.

A comfortable happy child learns well. A threatened, overwhelmed, humiliated, ashamed, bullied, frightened, confused child (as many of them are in school) will not. Neither will a child who is overawed by crowds, by noise, by disruption, by not having work explained or their questions answered, by the feeling of not being liked. Or one who is intimidated by their peers or those who are in charge of their learning.

For those children who are failing in school it is far more likely to be because of these environmental influences than because they are having difficulty with the work. In fact, in many instances, the general feeling you get from being within a mass of children in school, particularly older children, is a seldom a nice safe comfortable one. Despite the quality of care in some schools, in most schools particularly second schools, it is the exact opposite.

As home educators we have the opportunity to try and provide the best possible environment for our children to learn in. But what would be

the best kind of environment to enhance our children's learning potential?

Firstly they have to be happy. What's happiness got to do with it? Well - if they're not happy they won't learn well. I don't mean ecstatically happy with every demand or whim attended to. I just mean comfortable and safe, with a feeling of wellbeing, with people they trust. That's enough to make anyone basically happy.

It doesn't mean that they never have to put themselves out. Struggling to overcome challenges is part of what makes us feel fulfilled, it is part of being happy too.

Secondly, the people in their environment are of vital importance. Children need to be with people they can trust. They need people who they respect. Who are doing their best for them - which will include saying 'no' sometimes. Children need people who inspire and stimulate them.

They need others of all ages to interact with and learn from, both socially and educationally. And these others need to feel safe too. Once fear comes into it people start acting in ways that can be damaging to relationships.

Children need to feel loved by the people they are with; liked will do - but I've met teachers who don't even like children. Some certainly give the impression they don't!

Thirdly, they need a climate which suits their particular learning needs. Some kids need quiet. Some need hubbub, or music, or even the telly on. Some need solitude working best on their own, others need company, a buzz of stimulation, others to bounce ideas off.

These needs change with the work that's being done, the child's development and age. Some

children can sit still at a table or desk. Some have to fidget, handle things, walk about, lie on the floor. Some can concentrate for hours on one thing. Others need lots of changes, short quick intense bursts of activity. Some children like structure and to know exactly what they're going to be doing and when. Others are more spontaneous and impulsive and can learn loads by incidental learning. Some learn by study, others need active participation and physical activities. Some learn best in the morning, some need to work at a much later time.

The point is that each child is different. Each child needs a different environment, one which suits them as an individual, in order for their potential to be reached. And in so many cases it will not be the type of environment that is often found in schools. Realistically schools could not possibly cater for all of those required environments. But the beauty of home educating is that we can.

If you watch the way your child learns you will notice when he learns easily, is stimulated, engaged, and happy. And when he isn't! Be prepared to be flexible and rethink your first and often conventional ideas. Be brave enough to stray away from set ideas like quiet, stillness and sitting at a desk which we normally associate with education, because those ways might not be the ones which work best for your kids - kids can learn just as much being noisy even if it appears un-studious. Teenagers learn much better later in the day.

If you can be flexible and open-minded you will begin to discover the kind of environment in which your child learns best and you'll be able to use it to make the most of your child's learning potential. Remembering always (or as much as is

humanly possible) to make the environment a happy one!

Ross Mountney.

Author of 'Learning Without School. Home Education' available through the EO website and other booksellers.

Email: r.mountney@btinternet.com Visit my pages at <http://rossmountney.wordpress.com>

IMPORTANT: 2010 Contact List

Will your entry be correct?

To ensure your details are correct, please send changes to me by 15 April 2010. The contact list will be prepared in April and sent out at the beginning of June with the Concessions booklet. Members addresses will continue to be restricted to town/village, and county. Phone number and email address will be printed if given to us. If you have opted to withhold these, we will not be able to list you in the contact booklet. If you have any changes to make, then please let me know asap.

Contact me if you're unsure what choice you made on your renewal or new member form, or want to ensure you are listed. If you don't want your details in the contact list and want to make sure you ticked the exclusion box on your membership form, please check with me and I can confirm this. Thanks.

Lynda, Tel: 08445 867541

Email: admin@educationotherwise.org

Address: PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW

Home Education & Beyond

Back in October 2003 I wrote an article about my eldest son John, dyslexic, home educated and about to set off to University to study for an Mphys in Theoretical Physics - he's married now and working towards a PhD. This story is Bob's, my youngest son.

Bob is dyslexic too. Dyslexia is of course a spectrum and can range from the mild to the extreme. Bob's is extreme. I knew about dyslexia before Bob went to school, John is almost 5 years older and I had learnt the hard way. For some silly reason I had hoped that Bob wasn't effected, he could count to 11 and even recognise - at least briefly - some letters before he went to school, I hadn't pressed we'd just brought these things into pre-school play, but coming to think about it John could do these things too at that stage.

I remember Bob's first school Christmas Concert just before his 5th birthday. There was his class singing away and doing all the actions, and Bob somewhere on the edge unable to join in, utterly baffled - he liked singing and had/has a very developed sense of rhythm. My heart sank - I knew.

After his first year and a term he still couldn't read or write his own name. By this time I had already taken John out of school and the Head teacher let me flexi-school Bob, he spent four mornings at home, and school the rest of the time - this gave me 1 to 1 time with John who was still traumatised by his failure within the system. I worked intensively with Bob and after introducing the alphabet using Bob as the pen and tracing enormous letters in sand and then paint, then enormous paint brushes and eventually reducing to normal sized letters we progressed to the Beat Dyslexia books. We did

get somewhere but it was extremely difficult and far too often tearful.

By the time Bob was 7 an unrelated family crisis had arisen and we were about to move to the far ends of the British Isles, Bob had also had enough of school and wanted to join in the fun things we were doing on a permanent basis instead of just after school, (we'd made a sawdust kiln and were firing our homemade pots and sculpture), our middle son had come out of school just before this, (that's another story I'll save that for later), and so I withdrew Bob too.

Despite continuing brief intense sessions of extreme hard work trying to instil the basics of reading and writing (not our favourite part of the day, usually we followed a more autonomous approach) it was still all so much double Dutch to him and so at the age of 9 we went to see Ian Jordan who at that time had a practise near Aberdeen. It was a fun trip and we even stayed in a B and B, quite an extravagant adventure, we were surviving on my husband's ill health retirement pension at the time - which was considerably less than we'd have got on income support. Ian Jordan sold us a special magnifying dome and prescribed tinted glasses - they did help but nowhere near enough.

We really did try everything, one of my friends was the special needs teacher at the local school and at the time the information flow was from me to her, not the other way round, I was something of an expert by now, but to no avail.

When Bob was 13 I came across Behavioural Optometry (vision therapy) and we spent 2 weeks in Aberdeen doing an intensive course. It cost £2000 then (beggd and borrowed, I forsook stolen) plus the fact that we had to

debunk and set up home in a caravan park for two weeks, I had to take the other two, John was approaching his A2 exams. We all caught a rather unpleasant virus, which didn't help, Bob soldiered on through it, but I'm sure it reduced the efficacy of the treatment. It did help but wasn't the miracle cure we had looked for, though actually with hindsight I think it was an essential building block.

At the beginning of treatment Bob had a visual field of 2% of the average i.e. he couldn't see a whole word at a time, (or rather his brain couldn't process the information), but by the end it had expanded to 66% of the average.

Bob was always quite arty and before vision therapy he drew immaculate drawings of 16th Century Samurai Warriors, he would start in the middle with the intricate lamella cuirass and slowly work his way outwards, after vision therapy he couldn't do that anymore. On the plus side he became an ace at computer games and instead of being the one who struggled he was the best (very good for the faltering ego) among his friends and older brother's. By this stage in the proceedings he could work out what any word said, but couldn't read fluently enough to get any meaning even from a short passage.

His 15th birthday came and went and I was on the despair bandwagon again and I came across Dr Pauc - we went to see him meeting him in a hotel room near Heathrow Airport. Another fun trip out, we got the night coach from Edinburgh spent the day in London (had great fun at the British Museum) and then the night coach back. Dr Pauc was very helpful, gave us advise on diet (I think that may have been a big problem, Bob was always a poor eater and as a child skeletally thin, we used to joke that he lived on fresh air- he didn't eat rubbish, just very little, we also

ate a lot of mackerel at this time (good food, for free from the sea at the front of the house) but Bob detests the stuff and wouldn't.

Anyway Dr Pauc suggested cooked breakfast of the egg and bacon variety, up the fatty acids and to take Effalex, Omega 3, 6, and 9. I had come across this before but just couldn't afford it and not realising its potency hadn't given it a fair trial. However, with John off to university and only two sons to educate I had started working two nights a week and it was now a possibility. Dr Pauc also gave us a home tuition vision therapy CD and after all this Bob could now at the age of 15 going on 16 read usefully. I don't think he will ever read for fun though he loves books and has often asked for books, including novels, for birthday and Christmas presents, but I read them to him, he also belongs to a talking book library. He reads well enough to read photography magazines, sections of factual books as and when he needs to and camera and software manuals, however, he reads slowly and with effort.

And so to the final part of our story. Where to go from here? As I mentioned Bob has always been quite arty, but not extremely talented and without any qualifications Art College didn't seem viable. I hadn't gone down that route with Bob, just getting him to read was hard enough, he would have needed readers and writers for any exams and the effort would have been horrendous, despite the cost and effort arranging such things. If I had thought it a positive move for him I would have moved heaven and earth but I really didn't see him managing anything positive, just something to add to his sense of uselessness.

Anyway at the very end of 2005 I wrote an article which the magazine editor sent a

photographer to illustrate and this was the beginning of an idea. In 2006 Bob bought his first camera, a digital SLR and enrolled in, 'The Art of Photography' course with the Open College of the Arts, his tutor was very good, pulling no punches but also very encouraging and Bob learnt a lot. He continued his study privately afterwards reading widely and developing his own style. He started selling the odd photograph in 2008 finishing with a craft fayre in Galashiels where few stallholders made much profit but Bob did well selling framed landscapes, (he makes his own frames). In 2009 during the tourist season he held 2 exhibitions of his work and made over £3000 in the 9 days, we also did complimentary tea coffee and home baking with donations to charity and made well over £300 for charity.

He's now registered as a small business and hopes to rent his venue regularly next year and if all goes well he will have the beginnings of an income, so far any profits have been ploughed back into the business. Obviously he has had to rely on his parents for his living expenses (but he's used to living on little) and he needs me to

help with running the business (and the home baking) but of all my jobs I like being Bob's photography assistant way the best.

Dyslexia isn't always easily dealt with, there is no cure. If the level is mild even average, then with the right help it shouldn't stop anyone doing whatever he/she wants. At Bob's severe level it isn't easy and finding a way round can be very difficult, and telling sufferers or their parents that it is curable can be very damaging. Even my eldest son, the one doing the PhD, when recently visiting the Dr's as a visitor to the practice, got me to fill in the form stating his usual GP practice and his girlfriend (now wife) to fill in the (still being a student) free prescription form.

Oh, - and though still slim Bob (not of course his real name) is now 6ft and well muscled (comes from carrying camping gear and heavy photographic equipment up Scottish mountains).

Email: catherine.mmdavies77@btinternet.com

Our Three Experiences of GCSE's

The family spent three years in New Zealand experiencing home education. On our UK return our boys elected to continue home education with New Zealand study guides. The boys have two academic years between each of them.

Our eldest son, a dyslexic, didn't wish to undertake unnecessary exams so opted to pursue only those needed to reach his goal of an outdoor education activity instructor. The college course required 4 GCSE's including maths and English. We purchased the AQA GCSE

courses from Oxford Open Learning. Biology was his third exam plus he wanted to do PE - not something we could do at home. We applied to the local school to flexi-school and they turned us down, stating all exams or nothing.

Our son studied English and biology the first year and two the second year. We continued to look for flexi-schooling and heard of a flexi-schooled student at a Sports College School 10 mile away and on a public bus route. He applied in May, was granted an interview, asked some

subject questions and accepted as a private candidate the following September to attend year 10 and year 11 classes simultaneously - about 5 lessons/week. He also attended their Duke of Edinburgh Award to complete his bronze and silver expeditions, travelling there by public transport. He had a few hic-ups where they forgot to tell him about school closure days or whole year sessions but all in all they were very accommodating and didn't question his choice to home educate.

We found a further education college 14 miles away doing AQA exams and prepared to take private candidates for a reasonable fee. They were very helpful and set everything up via e-mail and post. His Educational Psychologists report on his dyslexia allowed him 25% extra time in all his exams.

My son only had a motivational problem with the English (mature) course as he couldn't see how studying Shakespeare and cultural poems to be in his best interest. Oxford Open Learning assessed his assignments and authenticated his course work. His practical interview was at a regional hotel. Everything worked out, he passed all four exams, was accepted on his chosen college course gaining a merit, returning for a second course, and worked the summer as a junior activity instructor at an activity centre. He has now returned to New Zealand for a two year Adventure Tourism course to gain his New Zealand qualifications.

Our middle son decided he might go back to school for his GCSE's (he had a New Zealand Gifted and Talented assessment). We applied to the local school again but they said the year group was full and as he had not attended a feeder school they couldn't take him. We then thought we would be returning to New Zealand

the following year and he could return to school there (year behind UK due to his birth date) so he continued with New Zealand study guides. The return fell through and he was left with almost no GCSE options due to coursework implications. He did AQA no coursework maths GCSE from his New Zealand books, and passed this exam at the same centre as his brother.

He decided he wanted an Art & Design Diploma so applied to this same college even though he didn't have the required GCSE's - they didn't mind as they had their own entrance tests and took many home educated students. They set him up an extended test to take before his formal interviews and asked him to bring in all his art and design work. He gained a place on a level two course and is also taking a fast-track GCSE English evening course at the same time. He has the same thoughts about AQA English as his brother. These qualifications will be the prerequisites for his course back in New Zealand which in turn will lead to a university place.

The Education Otherwise magazine made us aware of no coursework GCSE's through Cambridge International Exams (IGCSE's), which also interested us as the GCSE's are recognised all over the world and can be completed anywhere. They could be started here and the qualification would be recognised in the UK and New Zealand/Australia. These IGCSE's also include agriculture and environmental management.

Our youngest son is interested in the countryside and agriculture, so after some research our son decided to buy 5 Cambridge IGCSE's from Little Arthur Independent School on the Isles of Scilly - English, maths, geography, environmental management and agriculture, started this September. All these GCSE's are proving interesting and easy to

follow and the right amount of work for the two year time scale - the English in particular is extremely interesting with only two exam papers and nothing like AQA.

He is going to split taking these exams to English this May, maths, geography and environmental management next May/June and agriculture the following October. Only agriculture needs to be taken at Little Arthur so

we're going to combine that with a family holiday. Finding a local CIE exam centre willing to take private candidates has not been possible so we have had to resort to the 3a Exam Centre in Bristol - although the fee for each IGCSE exam here is high, they do cater for a multitude of exams both in May/June and Oct/Nov & Jan. The process so far has been fast and efficient. Barbara Elson, E-mail banenichma@hotmail.com

Mathletics - Not Just for Schools

After spotting the HE offer of a reduced price subscription to Mathletics for Education Otherwise subscribers, (see EO member discounts forum) I decided to give it a go. I wasn't overly optimistic, as Elliott (13) and I have been battling with a written maths course for the past year and have recently given it up as too boring. What a waste of nearly £500 that was!

Elliott used to love maths but the home study course had knocked all the enthusiasm right out of him, so I was surprised when he got all excited about Mathletics. It turns out he'd used it in primary school and loved it. Using the EO discount I got a subscription for £10 (usual price £39 per student per year) and set about getting to grips with the site. It's not clear at first glance what it's all about as the on-site information is limited, and it might seem overwhelming to home edders as there is a league table of top students and classes on the home page. However, I have found it to be a great home education resource and Elliott is enjoying maths more. Subscribing was easy, and I found the staff incredibly helpful. I subscribed late on a Friday afternoon, and the

woman I spoke to actually called me back to give me the log-in details so we could begin using the site straight away. They usually come via e-mail, but as it was the end of the day she rang me rather than waiting to e-mail me on the Monday. I was very impressed by this excellent customer service.

We are now using Mathletics as our only maths resource. I get the reassurance that he is covering the curriculum should he want to take a GCSE in future, and he gets to have fun and play live challenges against kids from all over the world. There are no lessons as such, but there are short modules exploring different aspects of a topic, then a test at the end to assess understanding of the topic as a whole.

The parent and child have separate log-in details. The Parent's Centre is clear and easy to navigate. You can set curriculum work from a list by ticking modules you wish your child to tackle. You can select up to four modules at a time, and the child has to complete any work you set before accessing the Live Mathletics to have a play. This is a great motivator, and Elliott has been completing tasks without me nagging.

Parents can review their child's results, and you can reset modules if they haven't understood. I was astounded when Elliott did an algebra test and didn't moan about it.

The child earns points from curriculum work and from competing live with other children, and the points lead to certificates which can be printed. The questions are arranged in levels corresponding to age group, but the child can choose the level they want to play against other people. Mathletics caters for children ages 5-18, so there's plenty for all abilities. Parents can customise to their child's needs by selecting work that is easier or harder than the age-related curriculum work, so there is a lot of flexibility. You can also assign tasks in any order, so you're not bound to a rigid system of, say, covering all the probability tasks before moving on to graphs.

Parents can access weekly reports which include participation summary, telling you how often and how long your child has signed in for, the assignments completed and scores and their Live Mathletics scores showing the percentage of questions right at different levels and the points earned. There is also a Check Up area with a bar graph showing test results in the various topics and a facility showing the child's relative strengths and weaknesses, giving a clear idea of areas which may need further study. You can print this out for easy reference, too.

Mathletics is now used by more than 500,000 children worldwide, and it's easy to see why. It's challenging, stimulating, great fun for kids and allows parents to feel reassured that their child is covering all the areas they want them to learn about. It's the best £10 I've spent in quite a while.

Clare Hill, 2010 www.mathletics.co.uk

HES FES 2010

The Home Educators' Summer Festival.

The World's Biggest Gathering of Home Educators. Now in it's 13th year! Lovely site in Kent. Workshops, Home Education Conference, Live Music, Activities and Much More....

Saturday 10th to Saturday 17th July, 2010

Website: <http://www.hesfes.co.uk>

Email: info@hesfes.co.uk

Tel/Txt: 07833 794062

ELEVENTH STUDLAND BAY CAMP, DORSET

Friday 16th to Friday 23th July 2010

Chrystia & Keith warmly welcome all Home Educating families. ***

- A wild and beautiful area - pine forest, lowland heath
- 4 miles to sea, dunes & bird sanctuary
- Dorset steam Railway nearby - to beach at Swanage.
- Free outings to Corfe Castle
- Cycleways and paths thru woods to sea;
- Camping in large field backed by pine woods, stream;
- Access to facilities at adjoining Burnbake campsite.
- We bring canoes, cargonet, ropeswings, craft materials
- Marquee, fire barrel.
- Bring bikes, drums, instruments.
- Morning ~ acapella / gospel / taize singing

Cost for whole camp £110 a family (Concessions and daily rate available). Teenagers welcome, with families only.

Information & booking: Chrystia & Keith, 75
Kent House Rd, Sydenham, London SE26 5LJ
Tel: 020 8776 8597

3rd Broadoak Friends and Family Camp, Dorset

*** Extra- Continue the fun at a family camp near Bridport Friday 23rd - Sat 31st July,

Home-educators join land co-op families in a beautiful field ringed with hills. Dew pond, plenty of wood for building & open fires, compost loos, wood-fired shower trips to sea, morning meeting and singing, gardening, crafts. Come from Studland camp, or direct from home. This West Dorset camp was great fun last year, and is in addition to the August bank holiday Friends & Family Camp.

Cost is £7 per family per night by donation
Information & Booking: as above.

PEAK CAMP 21st BIRTHDAY

Thursday 3rd June - Sunday 13th June 2010
Barracks Farm, Beresford Dale, nr Hartington
(grid ref. 123 586).

Two large fields for tents and touring caravans, with shower blocks, toilets and wash basins.
Fees per night: Adults: £2.50; Children: £1.00;
Cars: £2.00; Caravans: £8.50. Under 5 free

No need to book - make your stay as long or short as they wish. Fees payable direct to the farm. However it would be useful if I had an indication of the number of families coming that I could pass on to the farm. No pre-organised activities. In the past however, walks, cycle rides, rock climbing, circle dancing and shared

meals have all been popular. Cycle hire centres and cycle tracks nearby as well as riverside walks. Offers of shared activities and workshops are always welcome. There is plenty of time to share experiences of home educating with other families and for families and children to socialise freely.

Hartington is approached by the A515 either from the North, via Buxton, or from the South, via Ashbourne. From the A515 take the B5054, signed to Hartington. Follow the road through and out of the village. Just under two miles out of the village, and shortly after entering Staffordshire, turn left, following signs for Beresford Dale. Keep following Beresford Dale signs until you near the end of the road. Barracks Farm is on the left.

We do not have exclusive use of the site. Other campsite users (Duke of Edinburgh parties and members of the public) should be treated with complete respect. Normal campsite rules apply. For more details contact Hazel Fabris, 17 Crossleys, Fleckney, Leicestershire, LE8 8BY. Tel: (0116) 2403741

Beach Volleyball

Event Management Experience - Free this summer!

Ever wanted to be on centre court at a major national sporting event? Join the crew on the Volleyball England Beach Tour (VEBT) this summer, and find out what goes on behind the scenes!

I am a home educator with 2 young daughters. Throughout the summer my husband and I are involved in running the VEBT, which has 6 national level events around the country. For some of these events we have created the

opportunity for our event crew to share some of our experience with you. Along with an event t-shirt and lunch each day, your experience will include:

Pre-event training:

A facilitated discussion of event planning and management

Training in event roles

An opportunity to get on the court for some beach volleyball with a professional coach.

During the event you will get to:

Meet the athletes

Assist in managing the results and draw

Be a court manager, event runner, ball retriever, sand leveler, steward, or scoreboard operator

This experience is generally best for 14 years to adult. If you're a bit younger and really interested, bring an adult who can work with you for the event. This experience is free.

For more information about the VEBT visit:

www.volleyballengland.org/Beach/VEBT/

Contact Lenore Gerschwitz, VEBT Management Team Volunteer Coordinator

Chair@londonbeachvolleyball.org

HeTof 2010

HeTof 2010 — 28, 29 and 30 May!

The Dutch Home Education Festival "HeTof 2009" was a huge success. We've got lots of great photographs on our website: <http://www.hetof.nl/>.

There will be another HeTof this year and preparations are now at full tilt. Once again we will have speakers and workshops. There will also be plenty of opportunity to get to know new people and renew old contacts.

We have already attracted a few new speakers to the HeTof for this year. But that doesn't

mean there isn't room for more ideas and suggestions. So, if you want to give a talk, organise a workshop, or tackle a specific subject, let us know!

Back by popular demand is our 'entertainment evening'. If you want to sing, dance, recite poetry, perform a short play — you name it — just let us know and we'll add you to Friday night's programme. Saturday evening is an 'evening of varied entertainment', where you can join as you please! Last year the programme was varied and full. There were many interesting talks and workshops. But this meant that some people didn't have enough time just to chat and get to know other home educators.

This year we'll be doing it differently. We will still have plenty of interesting talks, workshops and demonstrations but with more time in between. That is why the HeTof will now be three days instead of two: 28, 29 and 30 May. Please have a look at our websites.

On the Dutch website <http://www.hetof.nl/> you can see last year's pictures.

On the English website <http://www.hetof.com/>, you can read this year's information.

You can also find us on Hyves at www.hetof.hyves.nl/ and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000877625878>.

We hope to see you at HeTof 2010. Best regards, Sonja, Marjo en Zjoske Organisers

French Pen-pal

French Pen-pal

Hi! I'm a French home-educating mom, living in Paris, France. My eldest, Alex, is 5 (school

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

EO has already secured special rates from BrainpopUK, Good Morning Children, Conquer Maths, Mathletics and the NEC and now have a brand new offer for EO members from **Grasshopper Toys**. For more information on these member offers and to obtain the special member codes, email or phone Lynda on 08445 867541 or admin@educationotherwise.org. If 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

Educational websites recommended by EO members include:

- Brainpop UK - <http://www.brainpop.co.uk>
- Maths Whizz - www.whizz.com/index.html
- Manga High - 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/eo/>
- Children's MoneyWorld - <http://www.childrensmoneyworld.com>

begins at 3, or even 2 here). He would like to find a British pen-pal of around 5 y.o. to exchange letters. He doesn't write yet, but could send drawings and pictures and I could write for him and read for him (he's learning a bit of English and I can translate). He likes to learn lots of things and to play with his friends, crafts, books, spending time with his little brother (3 months old), computer games etc. Ideally he would like to have a pen-pal near London, as we intend to visit London in the next couple of years, and thus they could meet. Please contact us by email first, at ludostef@yahoo.fr

Stéphanie, et ses petits gars : Alexandre (04/04/05) et Rodolphe (16/12/09)

Nouveau blog : <http://samuserensemble.canalblog.com>

Journaliste pour le magazine Grandir Autrement <http://www.grandirautrement.com>

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 as soon as possible so that there is time to contact the company concerned before we have to prepare the 2010 Concessions booklet.

**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, 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 Their website is 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 Contact EO's Administrator - Lynda to obtain the EO reference code by email on admin@educationotherwise.org or by phoning 08445 867541. You can then email Good Morning Children on enquiries@goodmorningchildren.com with the EO reference code and your name and address and they will add an extra 365 days to your account.



NEW OFFER FOR EO MEMBERS – EDUCATIONAL TOY SHOP

GRASSHOPPER TOYS

www.grasshoppertoys.co.uk Sells well designed and beautifully crafted toys offering creativity, learning and fun for curious minds. Their mission is to source the best toys, both in design and quality and to deliver them to you with excellent service. They are offering EO members a 15% discount and the details are being finalized as we go to press. To find out about the discount and how to claim it, check the Member Discount board in the EO forum - or email discounts@educationotherwise.org

Freebies and Offers Recommended by EO Members

Contact: admin@educationotherwise.org if you have any freebies or bargains, so we can pass them onto other families.

Free vegetable seeds - fill in the form on the webpage to get free seeds - a packet each of mixed salad, courgettes, French beans, basil and carrots as well as a booklet telling you how to grow them.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/digin/apply_for_seeds/



Free Educational materials and games -

<http://www.what2learn.com>

What2Learn provides free access to hundreds

of quality, interactive learning games and exam drills for children in KS3 and KS4. Most subject areas covered. The nature of the games, combined with the in-built reward systems will rapidly develop knowledge. An additional freebie within what2learn is a free learning game generator, making it quick and easy for anybody to make colorful, interactive learning games.

Download Children's Stories -

"Story Time with Brian Cant". He was in Playschool, Play Away and did the voices for different children's programmes. His voice really takes you back to your childhood.... 😊
He reads seven stories here:

<http://www.gltc.co.uk/fcp/content/FunBrian/funlist> (How the Rhinoceros got his Skin, How the Camel got his Hump, The Tortoise and the Hare, Cinderella, Three Little Pigs, Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, The Emperor's New Clothes.)



Maps of England, Scotland and Wales and other resources. Includes map outlines, map reading made easy, an electioneering map and map symbol flashcards. All provided free by Ordnance Survey

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/education/teachingresources/index.html>

The Adventures of Woosh DVD from Safety Matters - Get a Free DVD about road safety, complete the form at this website.

www.safetymatters.renault.co.uk/order.php



Advertisements

Meadowsweet Family Farm & Nature Centre, Ireland

We have been welcoming families here to Meadowsweet Farm since 2002. There is peace and tranquility and an opportunity to share in exploration of nature, feeling our interconnectedness with all of life. We run the farm on vegetarian and biodynamic principles.

Holidays - We offer holidays in our 3 bedroomed thatched cottage, with the opportunity for families to join in morning home-schooling activities and farm chores. We keep goats for milk, and sheep for wool which we spin. We also have a donkey, cat, Kune-Kune pigs, ducks and bees. We grow vegetables and herbs in polytunnels outside and grapes in a large conservatory. There is a small old apple orchard, a larger orchard more recently planted. We sell blackcurrants and tayberries in the summer. We have a meditation room overlooking the orchards. Cost per week €400. Sleeps 9. Two families could share - same cost. Family nature retreat in June. Children's week-long summer nature, art and music camp in July.

Farm Open Day - Sunday August 8th, 2pm - 5:30pm. Everyone welcome. No entrance fee. Fruit and vegetable stall - food produced using chemical free and biodynamic principles. Pick your own blackcurrants, €5 a punnet, punnets provided. Tea and home made cakes - no extra charge. Children must be well supervised as we have two large ponds on our land. Pony rides for children at small cost and nature walks with Birdwatch Ireland member. Parents must accompany their children on these walks.

For further information about all events, contact Debra Tel: 00353 (0) 61 9248968

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 1st of the preceding month that the News Bulletin is published.

The deadline for May 2010 bulletin is 20th April

Please send your advertisements in either text or jpg format to:
advertising@educationotherwise.org

Email webmistress@educationotherwise.org to find out about advertising on EO's website.

Little Arthur Independent School

Visit our new website at:

www.homeeducationspecialists.org.uk

for IGCSE Distance learning courses in Maths, English, Environmental Management, Geography, History, Biology, Physics, Agriculture, Accounting and Business Studies From £160.

Also, Key Stage 3 (11-14) courses in Maths, English, Science and History £110

A complete service for the home educator at affordable prices. We are a University of Cambridge International Exam Centre and all our courses are ODLQC accredited

Little Arthur Independent, St.Martins, Isles of Scilly, Cornwall TR25 0QL Tel: 01720 422457

Happy Spring! Hope you all had a great World Book Day and enjoyed spending your World Book Day vouchers. This month we have two great reviews-a big thank you to our contributors. If you would like to submit a book review for the next issue please email it to bookreviews@educationotherwise.org by May 1st



Dot.Robot Atomic Swarm

By: Jason Bradbury
ISBN: 978-0-141-32396-1

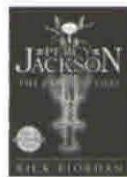
Price £6.99

Website: www.doyouknowanysecrets.com

Jackson Farley is a 13 year old computer genius who has just been accepted to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Boston thanks to the work of his best friend Brooke and her father, J.P. English, a robotics designer. Following the explosion of the nuclear reactor at MIT Jackson and his friends try to uncover who caused the explosion and why. The search brings them head to head with dotcom billionaire Devlin Lear who is not all he seems. The book is full of action, adventure and gadgets!!!

This is the second book in the series, the first was Dot.Robot and a third is in the works. I thought it was a really good book, I think it will appeal to gadget lovers, especially 9-12 year old boys.

Reviewed by Sam aged 9



The Demigod Files

By Rick Riordan
ISBN: 978 - 0 - 141 - 32950 - 5
Price: £4.99 (Puffin Books)
Website: www.percyjackson.co.uk

I can't give you a general storyline, because this book is what it says. I can't give you a general

storyline, because this book is what it says. It is a collection of three stories; seven interviews (with the characters in the stories) Who's who in Greek mythology, a word search and crossword and other bits and pieces.

Percy (the main character) is a demigod (half god, half boy) and therefore is top of the hit list for nasties. Ever wondered why you haven't seen any monsters around the place? Here's the answer: the mist. It prevents mortals from seeing things as they are (e.g. monsters). For instance a Minotaur might look like a punk with a spiky hairdo!

I thought this book was a little hard to understand at first because I haven't read any other books in the series but very fun and comic, especially if you like fantasy; but you might want to read the other Percy Jackson books first! (the first one is 'Percy Jackson and the lightning thief'). Best for ages 7-150
Reviewed by John Joe aged 13

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...comparison>

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.

Teen Pages To Readers of the Teen Pages

Please note that in future the default newsletter will be sent out monthly rather than every two months and will be online rather than printed on paper and sent through the post.

We will not be sending the teen pages to all members. We're changing to an OPT-IN system.

If you would like to receive the teen pages as pdf via email in future, please send an email to teenpages@educationotherwise.org marked "TEEN PAGES REQUEST"

If you are unable to access the internet to receive the teen pages via email, please get in touch with our Administrator Lynda, to arrange for printouts of the teen pages to be sent to you. Write to PO Box BOX 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW or Tel: 08445 867541

Please pass this information to friends who enjoy reading the teen pages!

This notice will also be posted in the EO members forum and the children's forum.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE LAW ON HOME EDUCATION IN ENGLAND

The future of home education in England will be decided in a few days of political haggling known as "the wash-up" between front bench spokespeople from Labour, Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats. The "wash-up" could take place any time from April 7th and may be over by the time you are reading this newsletter.

The reason for the "wash-up" is because the Government will run out of time before the necessary parliamentary stages are completed.

At the time of writing we expect a General Election to be called for May 6th. The Children Schools and Families Bill received its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Monday March 8th with many peers speaking against the home education clauses in the Bill. A date has not been scheduled for Committee in the Lords, which is a further indication that the Government expects to run out of time.

You can read the transcript in Hansard here
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100308-0011.htm#>
<http://tinyurl.com/ybrarh6>

Or you can watch the archive recording here
<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Player.aspx?meetingId=6043>
<http://tinyurl.com/yfmg2ml>

Cabinet Office guidance on the "wash-up" states that "there will invariably be sacrifices to be made. Some Bills might be lost completely,

others might be progressed quickly but in a much-shortened form. A lot will depend on where the Bills are in the legislative process and whether or not they are controversial."

There is broad consensus that the home education area of the Bill is impossible.. Conservatives and Liberal Democrats at every stage have said that the home education area of the Bill should be left out.

Now that the Bill has reached the House of Lords, Baroness Verma, the Conservative spokesperson for Children, Schools and Families has recently put down amendments proposing to leave out the home education parts of the Bill. Baroness Walmsley, the spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats, has also spoken out clearly against the home education proposals in the Bill.

We therefore anticipate that the home education clauses of the Bill will not survive the wash-up and hence the law on home education will not be changed in the lifetime of this parliament.

It is not clear what will happen after the General Election. The most likely outcome is a hung parliament without the Conservatives having a clear majority. This could conceivably precipitate another election within two years.

Meanwhile, the Conservatives have stated that they want to split up the Department for Children Schools and Families. The Liberal Democrats who are likely to hold the balance of power in a hung parliament have always stated that they favour a compulsory requirement for families to notify the authorities that they are home educating. Both Conservatives and Liberal Democrat front bench spokespeople are strongly against home educators having to apply for permission to home educate. The economic case against compulsory registration and monitoring is not without relevance here, since councils will have to trim spending by at least 10%.

In short, we are cautiously optimistic that the Government's plans will be defeated and that the same plans will NOT re-emerge. However, this is not to say that the laws and regulations on home education will remain as they are today.

The Logistics of Taking Exams/Current State of Play with Government Funding

In the last newsletter we asked for your experiences of trying to get support for exams from the local authority, particularly with access to exam centres. This broadened into a general request for feedback on taking exams as a private candidate.

We also asked whether anyone had been successful in obtaining funding for a college place for 14-16 year old. The Government has said that funding is already available for local authorities who are paying special needs support or for college places for under 16s. We give several authoritative reference for this later in the article.

The Government has also said that local authorities will shortly be able to draw down funding to pay for home educators' costs associated with taking GCSEs as private candidates. Again, we give parliamentary references in this article.

The Government has also implied-erroneously-that this funding is dependent on the success of the Children Schools and Families Bill. This is completely untrue. If you have a story about trying to get funding for college, please get in touch by emailing us at Governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org or by post to Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW

In particular, we can use cases where funding was refused with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Home Education who are interested in research in this area. We will of course anonymise all submissions.

We have already indicated to the APPG that many home educators have not tried to get funding for a college place since we all know it is not available, so there will be relatively few stories of people who have tried and failed, hence our particular focus on trying to locate those cases. The Select Committee was also extremely critical and sceptical of the Government only now saying that funding had historically been available.

We are also very interested to hear from you if your LA has assisted with any arrangements for access to exam centres or has refused or been unable to assist. Email us at: governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org or write to: Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW

Our main point is that the Government has done nothing to promote awareness of funding to local authorities, that the Government guidance has been either non-existent or contradictory, and that it is unfair to blame local authorities for not claiming funding.

Our subsidiary point is that a limited amount of support has been made available in a few local authorities, but that this depends on the ingenuity and persistence of the local people involved. Nevertheless, in the short term until this mirage of Alternative Provision funding actually appears, these limited solutions could be replicated elsewhere.

Member Feedback Needed Please

Are exams necessary and if so how many GCSEs?

This newsletter focuses on exam centre access because we are aware this is a subject of great concern to members. However we are not implying that the only exams are GCSEs or IGCSEs or indeed that it is necessary for all home educated young people to take some form of exams by the age of sixteen. In future bulletins we will be looking at alternatives and asking members to share experiences.

Future themes: Special Educational Needs; flexischool; general feedback about individual local authorities

In future monthly bulletins, we will be covering local authority funding/support for special educational needs. We will also be taking an overview of local authorities and we need as many members as possible to get in touch and tell us about their experiences with the authority, good, bad or non-existent. We will publish a cross-section in the newsletter. Personal details of families and local authorities will be edited before publication because this is intended as an overview of the current situation not an expose of individual authorities.

What the Government has Said About Funding

On October 9th, Secretary of State Ed Balls responded to Graham Badman in a 16 page document outlining the Government's proposals. Ed Balls said that local authorities could already

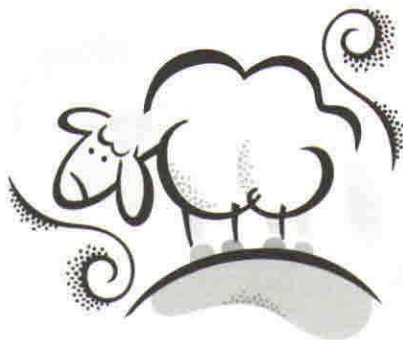
claim funding for 14-16s attending college, saying: "we believe that young people should be able to attend college without paying fees, but believe that the authority can already draw down funding for this through the Dedicated Schools Grant."

In the same document the Secretary of State also said: "we accept that Las will also need funding to assist young people...to fund them to take their GCSEs if they opt to enter as private candidates rather than through attending college courses. We intend to include a separate column in the Alternative Provision Return to record all registered home educated pupils accessing these services, but for whom support is not significant. We would count each such pupil as 0.1 for DSG funding purposes, and will review towards the end of the next spending review whether this is an appropriate level. We plan to make this change for the January 2011 schools census."

Reference for 9th October DCSF response to
Badman Report

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/_download/?id=6667

<http://tinyurl.com/yjjhg5e>



**EO Asks if Government Guidance
Contradicts Assurances from the
Minister about Home Education
Funding?**

On November 12th in the House of Commons
Minister Diana Johnson said:

"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."

However, DCSF Guidance Notes for Alternative Provision dated January 28th 2010 went on to state that:

"Pupils taught at home only includes those pupils who are receiving LA funding (i.e. this excludes those educated at home by parental choice)"

There is a helpful table on page 17 of the guidance which sets out the criteria for inclusion in the census return.

"Pupil whose parents have elected to educate at home (EHE)(**).

Include:? No
Category: Not applicable."

Ann Newstead, Trustee of Education Otherwise and Media Spokesperson commented:

"It's hard to see what is really going on here. Perhaps you need to be an expert. But from local authorities I've talked to, either the Government will allow the authority to draw down funding for home education support or it won't. Saying that home education is "not applicable" seems pretty clear to us."

Fiona Nicholson, Trustee of Education Otherwise said:

"The Department will only consider refunding home educated children who are already funded by the local authority, yet the guidance notes specifically instruct local authorities not to include home educated children in any funding applications."

Annette Taberner, Trustee of Education Otherwise said:

"We hope that MPs will be able to get clarification from the Minister shortly"

References:

Diana Johnson House of Commons 12/11/09 - <http://www.parliament.thestationeryoffice.co.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091112/text/91112w0082.htm> or <http://tinyurl.com/y9ot24s>

DCSF Guidance Notes for Alternative Provision 28/01/2010 - <http://tinyurl.com/yfsflqr> or <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=14536>

URL for Education Otherwise Press Release to send to local authorities, Mps, councillors etc <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/pr280110.pdf>

Government Ministers Contradictions on Funding

**Johnson: can't pay if no register,
Morgan: won't pay anyway**

On February 4th in Committee, Graham Stuart, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Home Education commented to Minister Diana Johnson:

MP Graham Stuart:

"A few weeks ago, when looking on the DCSF website, we found the programme that allows children to have a home computer and it said specifically, "but not if you are home-educated". No access to IT then. The website said that on the very day the Minister told us how the Government wanted to change things."

Ms Johnson:

"That point presents an interesting issue. The reason why the home access scheme is not being made available to families who home educate is because we do not know who those families are. We have no accurate register to look to. Some families have put themselves forward and notified their local authority, but there is no accurate record. That is the problem, and the nub of the issue. We do not have an accurate record of families who are home educating."

MP Graham Stuart:

"Time and again we get the circular argument that we need registration before we can provide support. We have 20,000 home-educated children who are known to be registered with their local authority. Has that led to any provision for them? It has not."

The Minister said on 12 November that in January local authorities would be urged to register home-educated children known to them, for whom they were providing support, so that funding could be provided. However, DCSF guidance notes for alternative provision, dated 28 January 2010 - a few days ago - state:

"Pupils taught at home only includes those pupils who are receiving LA funding (i.e. this excludes those educated at home by parental choice)".

We have complete doublespeak. The Minister tells us that local authorities can register, but then, in the guidance given in January - precisely when the Minister said - there are explicit instructions that authorities cannot register someone who is home educated.

"Authorities can only fund those whom they are funding, but they cannot add anyone who comes to them for funding. Perhaps the Minister can spell out why that is not an extraordinary set of contradictions."

Hansard reference here:

<http://tinyurl.com/yzwvyae>

Morgan tells Lords home educated families "opt out of funding"

On February 9th, Lord Lucas, Vice Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Home Education, asked why home educated children were not eligible for the Home Access Scheme. This was one of the recommendations of the Badman Review.

Baroness Morgan replied:

"When a learner is withdrawn from, or is not enrolled in school, the family opts out of receiving the statutory funding towards that learner's education."

Government claims erroneously that Children Schools and Families Bill is necessary for funding support to home educating families

As stated elsewhere in this newsletter, we fully anticipate that the home education clauses of the Children Schools and Families Bill will not pass into legislation.

We have seen claims from the Government and from Graham Badman that the Children Schools and Families Bill legislation is necessary in order for home education to be funded. For example, Minister Diana Johnson has said that until there is compulsory registration of home educated children, nobody will know the numbers for funding.

However, this argument is clearly erroneous on two counts. Firstly, the proposed legislation in the Children Schools and Families Bill does not include any reference to support for home educators and the financial support is in no way dependent on the Bill becoming law.

Secondly, it is patently not necessary for every child to be registered and listed for support before one single child can be helped. Once the Children Schools and Families Bill is defeated, home educators will be challenging the Department for Children Schools and Families to deliver the promised funding, not least because tens of millions of pounds will have been saved on the unsuccessful registration and monitoring scheme.

LA funds for one college but not another

- In my LA we have discovered that the LA does have funds for 14-16 college places at x College, which is too far for us. Our local college will only accept funding for 10 students at a time and the local authority refuses to put forward home educated young people. From September we will have to pay full fees, exam fees and transport costs ourselves.

Feedback from member regarding college courses £1000+ not funded by LA

- **FUNDING** Six Home Ed teenagers in *** did a 2 year part time NVQ level 1 college course from 2007 -2009. One of the girls was dyslexic, and one of the boys severely dyslexic. All of the school kids on the course were fully funded. One of the home ed parents asked for funding but was told there was no funding available for home ed kids. The course cost us £1200 per child. There wasn't even any learner support available for the dyslexic kids, there was a support worker in the classroom but she was only there for the school kids. So the dyslexic home ed boy's mum had to sit in the class with him the whole time to help him with his work. (All of the home ed kids passed the course; half the school kids were thrown off the course for disruptive behaviour.)

LA refused funding for 15 year old to attend college

- 3 years ago I requested that x LA fund a place for my eldest daughter, 15 at the time, to go to college one year early. This was what my daughter wanted and the college had said they were happy to have her on an Art & Design BTec as long as the LA approved and funded it.
- x LA refused, despite many email discussions, saying that home educating parents were viewed in the same way as parents sending their children to private schools and that there was no funding available. Many parents in x have tried and had the same response.
- I am not 'known' to the LA but would like my youngest daughter to have the option of attending college if she wishes so I'd like to be armed with evidence that they should be funding a place for her in case I have to fight for it.

Monitoring won't improve home educators' ability to pay for exams

- If the government want to improve home ed qualifications DURING the statutory school years, they need only to provide funding. No amount of monitoring will improve my income, nor will it improve the quality of the education I provide. A health visitor can sit and watch me breast feeding all day but it won't improve the quality of the milk, in fact I might find it rather off putting, especially if she kept telling me I should really be feeding formula milk because it's easier to monitor.

Letter from LA refusing college funding

xxxx, Case Administrator for EHE, has just forwarded to me your email of today, regarding possible funding for places at xxxx College. As you will be aware when parents choose to home educate, they take on total responsibility for their child's education, up to the school-leaving date in Year 11.

As home educators you would be unable to obtain funding from the local authority, nor from the Learning and Skills Council, for a course for a pupil of compulsory school age. The funding for such education is in the schools. However, any young person who is over the school-leaving age can apply for a place at a college of further education.

There may be educational trusts that you could apply to for financial assistance, but I am afraid that I do not have a list of these. I'm sorry that I cannot help you on this occasion.

Member who can't afford for children to get qualifications

My second son has an NVQ level one which cost me £1200, he is now in his final statutory school year and I can't afford for him to get any more qualifications. He returns to college full time in September and plans to go to university. He will end his statutory school years with NO GCSEs. I can't afford for my daughter to get any qualifications during her 'school' years, so again she will be waiting until she is old enough to be funded at college.

Feedback from EO member comparing and contrasting AQA GCSE with CIE IGCSEs

We purchased the AQA GCSE courses from Oxford Open Learning. Biology was his third exam plus he wanted to do PE - not something we could do at home. We applied to the local school to flexi-school and they turned us down, stating all exams or nothing.

We continued to look for flexi-schooling and heard of a flexi-schooled student at a Sports College School 10 miles away. He applied in May, was granted an interview, asked some subject questions and accepted as a private candidate the following September to attend year 10 and year 11 classes simultaneously - about five lessons/week.

We found a further education college 14 miles away doing AQA exams and prepared to take private candidates for a reasonable fee. They were very helpful and set everything up via e-mail and post. His Educational Psychologists report on his dyslexia allowed him 25% extra time in all his exams.

The Education Otherwise magazine made us aware of no coursework GCSE's through Cambridge International Exams (IGCSE's), which also interested us as the GCSE's are recognised all over the world and can be completed anywhere. After some research our son decided to buy 5 Cambridge IGCSE's from Little Arthur Independent School on the Isles of Scilly - English, maths, geography, environmental management and agriculture, started this September. All these GCSE's are proving interesting and easy to follow and the right amount of work for the two year time scale -

the English in particular is extremely interesting with only two exam papers and nothing like AQA.

Only agriculture needs to be taken at Little Arthur so we're going to combine that with a family holiday. Finding a local CIE exam centre willing to take private candidates has not been possible so we have had to resort to the 3a Exam Centre in Bristol - although the fee for each IGCSE exam here is high, they do cater for a multitude of exams both in May/June and Oct/Nov & Jan. The process so far has been fast and efficient.

Member uses NEC correspondence courses, GCSE and IGCSE

My 2 eldest children have chosen to take GCSEs. They have done a mixture of NEC courses, college after-school classes and self-study using text books and specifications. All were ordinary GCSEs so far but my daughter will be taking iGCSE English this summer as it is coursework free.

We only used NEC because of having coursework authenticated, the tutor support has been very mixed. All exams, except the college course, are taken in a local high school. It was the first school that I contacted and they said yes. They charge me whatever the exam board charges them, £4:60 for a science module exam (40 mins), £12 for a 1hr maths paper, £24 for a 2hr psychology paper. I've just been invoiced £34.50 for the English iGCSE which is 2 papers.

I'm not known to LA so haven't asked for info or support with GCSEs.

Introduction:

A minority of local authorities offer home educated young people access to a local exam centre, usually in a Pupil Referral Unit but sometimes in a local school. In one authority, home educators have met with the local college and secured access to exams and the authority has agreed to pay exam fees where students are registered as home educated.

In cases where the local authority extends support for exam centre access, this generally consists of providing the opportunity for home educated young people to sit Maths and English GCSEs.

We would like to hear of any local authorities where it is possible to sit other exams, whether this is IGCSEs or perhaps GCSEs in subjects beyond Maths and English. Please email: governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org or write to: Exam Access c/o Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW

Access to Educational Psychologists, science labs and exam centre in Pupil Referral Unit

xxx LA has given families who need it (e.g. for exam access, or SEN child) easy access to the educational psychologist service. Home educators now have access to science labs and anticipate having access to an exam centre in the Pupil Referral Unit. Home educators invited the LA to an open meeting with home educating families and also GCSE tuition groups organised by parents. The LA agreed to arrange CRB checks for the parents who were not officially "known" to the LA and these contact details

were treated in confidence and not passed to anyone else at the council.

GCSE Classes in Maths and English + exam centre access

xxx LA runs GCSE classes in Maths and English for home educated young people and assists with exam centre access

GCSEs in Maths and English via the Pupil Referral Unit

Any young person registered with the Children and Young Peoples Service of xxxx council can access GCSE examinations in English and Maths at the Pupil Referral Unit.

There are three GCSE courses

- AQA A 3702 English Language
- AQA 3712 English Literature
- AQA 4301 Mathematics Foundation Linear 1 and Linear 2

All prospective candidates are responsible for their own exam fees and any other costs i.e. course work marking.

Local FE college access to exams for under 16s, help with controlled assessments. LA will pay fees for registered home educators.

xxx college has agreed a series of exam options to be made available to home educated children. The local home education group researched the number of young people wishing to take exams the following Summer. Issues raised with the college include:

- access to exams for under 16s;
- cost of exam board fees;
- cost of invigilation; additional needs/access arrangements costs;
- additional needs assessments;

- non-standard entry (i.e. entry to Level 3 or a Level equivalent courses without GCSEs);
- authentication of coursework;
- assessment for Science practicals;
- the new system of controlled assessments;
- IGCSEs are an increasingly likely option because of problems with GCSE controlled assessments for private candidates.

The Local Authority will pay exam fees for registered home educators.

Via the local authority, home educators can take Maths and English GCSE at local school

xxxx LA now offers exam centre access in a local school for Maths and English GCSE.

Support includes ongoing meetings with school exam officer and subject teachers plus authentication of coursework in addition to providing invigilation sessions for groupwork and speech and language element of English GCSE.

The LA and home educators are hoping to work with same school next year to offer supervision for controlled assessment in the new style GCSEs.

Model of Good Practice offered on Government Exam Regulator website:

Sports College helps home educating family with exam centre access

http://testsandexams.qcda.gov.uk/cs_22096.asp
x

Summary

Dianne Wray, exams officer at William Parker Sports College in Hastings, East Sussex, took a

hands-on approach to facilitate private candidates sitting GCSE exams at her centre.

Problem

Last year I was approached by a parent who home tutors her two children. They wished to take English, English Literature and Maths GCSE exams and she had been referred to our centre by the awarding body as one that accepts external candidates.

Private candidates face possible disadvantages by sitting their exams in unfamiliar centres and can be unsure what information they need or who to contact. There is also the issue of potential disruption to the centre's schedule and processes by allowing external candidates to sit exams.

Solution

Our centre feels that it is important to ensure that external candidates are not disadvantaged in any way. In this instance, a hands-on approach was taken to ensure the candidates would be able to sit their exams with little stress, as well as minimal disruption to the centre's regular exams administration.

I made an initial appointment for the parent and her children to visit so that we could establish whether or not our centre was the right place for them. We discussed all relevant exam details - awarding bodies, tier of entry, external candidate coursework, results day and exam fees. I also took the candidates on a tour of the site to show them the exams venues.

I provided a pack of information for them containing external candidate coursework forms, entry statements and identification information, along with an invoice for entry fees and administration charges. Subsequently the students were also issued with an individual

exam timetable with all the relevant information they needed to guide them through their actual exam days.

Benefits

Private candidates will naturally feel uneasy about being in an unfamiliar environment. When they feel well prepared, they will be more relaxed and ready to sit the exam, which also helps invigilation staff on the day.

Correct briefing of private candidates prior to sitting exams can minimise the risk of issues on the day, such as candidates turning up late and causing disruptions and it also helps to relieve their anxiety.

Also, meeting face to face with home educators to discuss all their requirements assists the exams officer to determine whether or not their centre is suitable for the candidates to sit their exams.

Name: Dianne Wray

Tel: 01424 439 888

Email: dianne.wray@williamparker.e-sussex.sch.uk

The candidates' parent later wrote to the centre's Head teacher to express her gratitude for Dianne's assistance:

"...she has always been ready and happy to answer any questions I may have had. Everything has been made clear and easy to understand - this has helped put the children at ease too."

Other options for exam centres include private schools. As we reported last Summer, some independent schools are happy to help home educated young people

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/testimonialsforISC.pdf>

From the session on "public benefit, thinking more creatively" at the 2009 ISC conference

- "I am a parent of two children on the autistic spectrum. My children were educated both in state and independent education for many years and had been unable to either cope or learn in what they felt were extremely stressful environments. I was told by an educational psychologist that they would be unable to complete GCSEs but we are now able to use a school which seems to be totally centred on catering for each individual child. To date, given the environment, approach and friendliness of the staff, my son against the odds, has managed to gain two A*'s, and two B's for his modules which is incredible for a child previously written off. I can only be extremely grateful and full of praise for the school and its staff and thank them for giving my children along with many other home educated children a better chance in the future."
- "My daughter used the school for geography last year and maths this year. I found the school to be very helpful and amenable. The whole experience was as stress free for my daughter as possible. It was wonderful to find a school locally where she could sit the exams."
- "The school provide a brilliant exam centre service for home educated children at a minimal cost to parents."

Thanks to their generosity and community-spirit our children have so far been able to sit two exams via the school's system. I haven't had any direct dealing with the School as this has all been done through [the parent co-ordinator] but it all seems to be well-organised, the facilities provided for the exam are very good (we used a church hall - it was private, quiet and there was a separate room provided for candidates that need extra time). We are very grateful for their support."

- "My daughter has been using the school this year for Maths GCSE and they have been very helpful. My daughter tends to get stressed in new places but she feels at ease (or as at ease as you can be when sitting an exam) there. Finding exam venues isn't easy and I am thankful to them for making the effort. Previous attempts to secure an exam place at other private schools met with no luck, even when they are doing the same syllabus."
- "Without this facility we would have been very stuck as main stream school was out of the question for my child, home education was the only way we could fulfil his Individual Education Plan. Everything has been very straight forward and stress free due to the generosity of [the parent co-ordinator's] time and effort and the friendly can-do attitude of the school. The candidates were noticeably relaxed before the exam, I am not sure if that was due to the venue they use (a local church building) but whatever the reason it is a bonus."

- "My daughter has taken two exams at the school. At both times they were very welcoming, well organised and understanding. It's good to find somewhere that understands that this isn't a problem. It makes a massive difference to families like ours."

Education Otherwise believes that there are currently up to 500 young people a year taking exams as external candidates in independent schools and in private tuition centres. Evidence suggests that there could be twice as many home educated young people who are currently disadvantaged by not being able to find anywhere to take exams.

Families come to home education and are horrified at how difficult and expensive it is to sort out exams, how they are expected to cold call from a list of phone numbers and cope with being knocked back. They are also appalled at how little help is given by local authorities, while at the same time they may be harried by the authorities to provide proof of education.

It comes as a shock to many people when they discover that the maintained sector is under no obligation to help with exam centre access for home educated private candidates. The government's attitude has been "you made your bed, now you lie on it." When families approach state schools, they are turned back. When they approach the local authority for help with finding a school to sit exams they are generally told that the LA has no power to make schools accept them.

Exceptionally, in a very few authorities the Pupil Referral Unit facilities are made available to home educated private candidates to sit basic GCSEs; otherwise the family has to find a

private tuition centre (predominantly in London and the South of England) or start phoning round private schools. It is fair to say that many of our members find this process extremely intimidating and overwhelming. It can also be very expensive.

We know of cases where families travel hundreds of miles to a centre if they find someone who can help them out. They sleep in tents or Youth Hostels or scour the internet for cheap hotel deals if they are not able to stay with friends. If the household is headed by a single parent, the entire family including much younger children will probably have to travel with the exam candidate.

Where the candidate has special educational needs, for instance where the candidate is on the autistic spectrum, the uncertainty and the unfamiliar surroundings cause huge stress which affects the rest of the family and can have a negative impact on exam performance. In a very few cases, as can be seen in the testimonials above, families are fortunate to find a local school prepared to help them.

Questionnaire Sent Out by ISC to Schools on the AQA List - Autumn 2008

A questionnaire was sent out by ISC in the Autumn using list of schools accepting private candidates supplied by AQA exam board. There were around 80 schools and just over half replied. 1 in 7 reported they hadn't had a private candidate and specified that this was because they hadn't received any applications, not because they had turned people away.

We looked more closely at the 1 in 7 schools who hadn't received any applications. We asked if

they would be interested in accepting private candidates. 5 out of the 6 schools did not feel they wanted to change the situation and accept private candidates. We wondered what we could learn from the schools who had a positive working partnership with private candidates so that we could share this with other schools who were perhaps reluctant or apprehensive. We also wanted to find out from home educating families how much of a difference the help from the school had made to their lives.

Most schools took fewer than 5 candidates but 3 schools out of 40 reported that they had more than 10 private candidates. Three quarters of schools said numbers of private candidates had remained steady or had increased at their school.

After we had analysed the feedback from the questionnaires, Education Otherwise undertook field trips to two schools which had been identified as schools taking more than 10 private candidates for exams. One of the schools accepts home educators on an ad hoc individual basis;

the other deals with a single home educating parent/tutor who sorts out all the paperwork for the tuition group and liaises with the school. The schools visited were Mayville, Portsmouth and Sidcot, near Bristol.

In terms of exam boards, since the schools were taken from the AQA list, all schools on the list were registered as centres for AQA which is also the most common exam board for home educated private candidates. Almost all schools who responded were also registered as centres with Edexcel and OCR. Half were registered as a centre for WJEC. Only 1 in 10 were registered as a centre for CIE.

It will be an increasing problem for home educated private candidates to sit GCSEs because of the issue of controlled assessments. Exams with an internal assessment component will be virtually impossible for external candidates, which is why many home educators are looking to IGCSEs. Half the schools who responded to the ISC questionnaire already offer IGCSEs. Education Otherwise and the Home Education Advisory Service have met with the government's exam regulators who have told home educators to "build on the relationship we have with the exam centres" in order to surmount the problem of controlled assessments in GCSEs. More information about our difficulties can be found here: <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/qca.htm>

Schools which had been surveyed by the ISC were already offering assistance for Access Arrangements and SEN but the candidates need to know in sufficient time and need to be able to sort out any necessary paperwork. In two thirds of situations home educated private candidates were invigilated alongside school pupils. In one third the home educated candidate was invigilated separately, either because of sitting a different exam or because of SEN requirements. A few candidates received assistance from the school with practical aspects of the exam such as laboratory work or oral exams. In a single case reported to the ISC via the questionnaire, a school was able to help with continuous assessment or project work requiring marking.

As Jane says in her recent article for the ISC bulletin: "An extremely helpful move would be the creation of a list of schools that were willing to be included - perhaps with the name of a contact - as happy to accommodate private

candidates. If schools on this list provided details of the awarding bodies with which they are registered, parents could then select appropriate specifications at an early stage for their home-educated child.

The fees that external candidates are charged vary widely. It would be ideal if there were an agreed common system of charges among schools so that parents could budget for the costs. The fees might be broken down into components for papers, practicals and assessments since not all of these elements will necessarily be involved in each home-educated candidate's exam."

Education Otherwise June 2009

Problem of Controlled Assessment for GCSE - Why Home Educators are increasingly turning to IGCSEs.

In future bulletins, we will also be tackling the problem of controlled assessment for GCSEs. This topic was first raised with the national exam regulators by EO in Autumn 2007 and was followed by a meeting in Spring 2008 and it has already come up a number of times in response to our request for feedback on GCSEs, where members told us "we do IGCSEs because there isn't any coursework".

The main information about the implications of controlled assessments for private candidates can be found here:

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/qca.htm>

Controlled assessments have also been described as "supervised extended essay writing" or "projects set by exam boards under controlled conditions."

More information can be found here:

<http://www.qcda.gov.uk/libraryAssets/media/QCA->

[09_4147_Changes_to_GCSE_Information_for_teachers.pdf](http://www.qcda.gov.uk/libraryAssets/media/QCA-09_4147_Changes_to_GCSE_Information_for_teachers.pdf)

<http://www.qcda.gov.uk/15977.aspx>

<http://web.aqa.org.uk/support/assessment.php>

One of the main awarding bodies (exam boards) for home educators taking GCSEs as private candidates is AQA which has published its own 12 page leaflet on controlled assessments and guide for exams officers:

<http://store.aqa.org.uk/support/pdf/AQA-CONTROLLED-ASSESSMENT-LEAFLET.PDF>

<http://store.aqa.org.uk/admin/library/AQA-CONTROLLED-ASSESSMENT-EO-GUIDE.PDF>

If you have problems opening this URL, you can find the link to the leaflets from the main AQA page here:

<http://web.aqa.org.uk/support/assessment.php>

The AQA page also links to "what teachers need to know" and "what students need to know."

The AQA leaflets set out the percentage of controlled assessment in each subject which can be up to 60% of the final mark. The leaflets also explain about the security levels for task taking, i.e. how much supervision/invigilation is required.

Government recommendations for controlled assessments and home education are inadequate

The Department for Children Schools and Families commends this page for offering up to date information about the implications of controlled assessments for private candidates.

We find the page to be woefully inadequate and we continue to challenge the Government on the issue of controlled assessment.

<http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/2421.aspx>

Finding a Centre

If you are a private candidate you should make sure that you have found a centre at which you can complete your controlled assessment before beginning to study for a particular GCSE. The type of controlled assessment you will need to sit and the length and number of sessions you will need to attend will vary according to the subject you are studying and the awarding body providing the qualification.

Here are some suggestions that may help you find a centre:

1. A good place to get more information about how to find an exam centre (usually a school or college) that will accept private candidates is the website of the awarding body that offers the qualification(s) that you want to study for. Some of these websites provide lists of suggested exam centres for private candidates to approach (although there is no guarantee that these centres will accept you).
2. A school/college is more likely to accept a private candidate if he/she is known to the staff, and so your previous school or college (if in the UK) is a good place to start, especially if it is not long since you left.
3. There are also commercial centres that accept private candidates. Many of these are private tutorial colleges.

IGCSEs

If home educated young people want to do all-exam courses, because they prefer not to do coursework or because of difficulties/expense associated with getting coursework authenticated they can choose IGCSEs over GCSEs. International GCSEs do not follow the English National Curriculum and are therefore not taken at present in state schools in England, though they are widespread in the independent schools sector. This has implications for home educators when it comes to finding an exam centre which will accept private candidates.

From EO's College Contact

Member wanted to sit Edexcel exams IGCSE so as not to have issue of GCSE coursework. Negative responses from Edexcel's own list of exam centres. Tried local centres. Couldn't find local centre which would accept private candidates. One centre said yes but requested a thousand pounds for three exams and was over hundred miles away. Additional difficulty was that the candidate had additional support needs and required extra time. This generates more paperwork and complications for the centre.

LA's special needs department not interested in taking this on. Nobody else at LA wanted to take this on. Couldn't identify any sources of charitable funding. Edexcel couldn't help. Edexcel centres couldn't help.

Through personal contact, friend of a friend was able to locate college not too far away where candidate could sit exams. Setback when exams officer said only private school candidates could

sit IGCSEs not individual candidates. College suggested switch to GCSEs. Parent contacted old school (private) who agreed young person could sit exams there. Charged only for exam fees and extra invigilation, around £450.

EO's Disability Group Roundup

Message from Christine Waterman, EO Special Needs Contact

Home education, special needs, statements, social services

There is a lot of anxiety around social services involvement at the moment, but it is really not a problem for most people

You don't have to provide what is in the statement - just meet your child's SEN. It is quite clear in the DCSF guidelines and Special Educational Needs Code of Practice that we do not have to provide what is in the statement. You can educate exactly as you want, as long as you are able to show that you are meeting the child's special needs. They do have to review the statement, but you can just send in a report.

You may be contacted by an Education Welfare Officer, or in some areas - an education social worker who does the same job. This is around school attendance and they will talk to you to check that you are serious and don't need to know about whether places are available in schools. They usually are a bit more informed about Home Ed law than SEN officers, but are

not teachers.

Sometimes the SEN officer believes that it can't be possible that a family is allowed to take a child with SEN out of school, and that there must be system to stop it happening. It does sometimes, but not that often, happen that people are referred just because someone thinks they shouldn't be able to home educate. When it does, mostly it is easily sorted out in one meeting with social workers -some already know about HE being an acceptable form of education and wouldn't investigate at all unless there were additional reasons. Others are quickly reassured by meeting the family. Only a tiny number go further.

EO Disability Group cited in Hansard

Reassurance/backtracking from DCSF on SEN Guidance Letter to local authorities

In February the Government issued a guidance letter on special needs and home education which was published on the teachernet website and flagged up to Directors of Children's Services. The Government did not inform Education Otherwise of the existence of this guidance letter; we only became aware of it when it was mentioned in passing by a journalist.

Once Education Otherwise raised the alarm, a number of home educators also expressed concern about the letter. The concerns were shared by the National Autistic Society and also by IPSEA, the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice.

Education Otherwise Disability Group flagged up this issue to Members of Parliament in the House of Commons and the House of Lords

where we were aware of a particular interest in home education and special needs.

EO Disability Group also wrote to the Department for Children Schools and Families to express our disquiet over the fact that the guidance letter appeared to be making new policy and to be anticipating changes to the law which had not yet been passed by Parliament.

On March 18th the Government issued the following clarification which was also published on teachernet website:

"the suggestion in paragraph 12 that an LA should seek a school attendance order only applies in cases where an LA considers it is unable to assess suitability because it has been denied access to a child and is unable to see the child, and there are no other means of establishing suitability. There is a range of ways in which an authority can make an assessment of suitability which do not involve being able to see the child or having access to the home.

We apologise for any concern that paragraph 12 has caused the parents of home-educated children."

The reference for the new guidance letter can be found here:

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/home-educatedchildren/>

At the same time in the House of Lords, Baroness Morgan answered Lord Lucas as follows:

"The letter will not be withdrawn. Its purpose was to set out local authorities' existing duties for children with special educational needs (SEN) who are educated at home, taking account of the Lamb inquiry report into parental confidence in the SEN system. Following correspondence received from the Education Otherwise Disability Group the

department will be sending out a clarification of paragraph 12 of the letter to local authorities.

A copy will be placed in the House Library and on the department's website."

The Hansard reference can be found here:
<http://tinyurl.com/yjabrwn>

Contacts for Education Otherwise Disability Group:

disabilityawareness@educationotherwise.org

Christine Waterman - Special Needs Contact,
Tel: 08445 003887. Email:
specialneeds@educationotherwise.org

Education Otherwise Special Spring Sale

See our merchandise order form on Page 47 and 48 of this newsletter. There will be a wide selection of prizes for members who send in contact details for the new monthly newsheets. Names to be drawn from a hat, See the next article about change in newsletter format and how to make sure you get your next monthly bulletin.



Do we have your Email Address?

We will be sending out a test email to all members who have lodged their email addresses with us on 12th April 2010. Please check to see if you receive this email - the 'From' address will be admin@educationotherwise.org

If you don't receive this test email, then you will be missing out on future updates. It could be for one of the reasons below, and we've listed solutions on Page 40 to try and help resolve any non-receipt issues.

No Email Address?

If you don't have an email address, we can send you copies of the monthly news updates by post. To organise this you need to write to Education Otherwise, Newsletter, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW or phone our administrator on 08445 867541.

NEWSLETTER CHANGE FROM PAPER TO ONLINE FORMAT

In response to members' requests we are increasing the frequency of the newsletter to a monthly bulletin. We are also changing the format from paper newsletter printed and sent through the post to online. This gives us more flexibility to bring the latest news and announcements and also enables us to make the bulletin far more interactive, helping EO to be more responsive to members. For

example, when we include website addresses, readers can just click on the link. Similarly when we include contact details or addresses for online surveys, it is only one-click to respond. In addition, every quarter we plan to publish an online illustrated magazine with new features and articles as well as familiar items such as book reviews and Diary of a Home Educating Nobody.

For members who are unable to open the online monthly bulletin or quarterly newsletter, EO will continue to post out a limited print edition on request. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the bulletin through the post please get in touch with EO, PO Box 324, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW or telephone 08445 867541.

Around 85% of EO members have given EO an email address for correspondence. We will need to confirm that we have an up-to-date working email address for your family. Included with this newsletter mailing is a separate letter with the same message as we have printed here in the newsletter.

On Monday April 12th a test email will also be sent to the email address we have on record for you from Education Otherwise database administrator. In this way we can verify whether we hold up to date contact details. Please check your inbox and spam or junk mail folder to see if you have received an email from EO. If you haven't, then please contact us so that we can add your correct email address to the membership database.

The first month you will notice the change is when you receive a monthly bulletin via email in May instead of waiting for the paper newsletter in June. We will also be sending a test email on Monday April 12th so that we can make sure you are able to receive email from us. This will be sent to the address which we hold on our database.

How to make sure you don't miss future newsletter bulletins from EO

If you don't receive our test email on 12 April, then we may not have your email address listed correctly, or you may have an overactive spam filter, please check your spam folder and approve EO's email if you find it there. (See article later in this newsletter for information about how to whitelist email from us so you don't miss any mailings).

If you didn't give us your email address previously or have changed your email address since you last filled in a renewal or new member form it's likely that we don't have a correct email address listed for you, so please send an email to admin@educationotherwise.org with the subject line "MEMBER EMAIL ADDRESS" and include your name and postcode in the body of the email. It would be helpful but not essential if you can include your membership number,

which may be found on the paper label on the wrapper for this newsletter.

If you are not 100% sure whether you still use the email address you originally supplied to EO, then please send an email from your current address today to admin@educationotherwise.org

We have also explained elsewhere in the newsletter how to ensure that future emails from EO don't go to your junk or spam folder. This is a surprisingly common problem and can only be definitively prevented by adding EO to your list of "safe senders" or the "contacts" in your address book.

Education Otherwise Members Forum

<http://forum.education-otherwise.org>
Education Otherwise Members Forum has around 1500 members. Since it opened in October 2008 to coincide with the launch of the new EO website it has received almost 60,000 posts with over 3,500 topics.

Forum areas include:

- General support forum
- Introductions
- Structured Home Education
- GCSE/IGCSE exams/ courses
- Autonomous education
- Disability and Special Needs
- Media Forum
- Discounts and freebies
- Events
- Links and resources
- Suggestions
- Items for Sale
- Regional Forum

Some Current discussion topics include:

- European laws on home education;
- Special needs and social services;
- Help! LEA coming!;
- Home education and part time employment;

- Recently deregistered/when can I expect LA contact;
- Summer camps;
- Home education in Eastenders;
- Back to school;
- Doulas;
- Parisian family seeking penpals;
- Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Survey of views on Badman Report;
- National Trust;
- Invitation to Italy, working farm;
- Stress (letter from LA about School Attendance Order);
- Why the Government will lose;
- What to do if you get threatening letter from LA;
- LA inspector wants to see previous school reports;
- Child Benefit post 16;
- Tests for going to college;
- Taking the leap of faith into child-led learning;
- Harassed by neighbour for home educating;
- Family has blinkered view of home education.

You can find more information about the forum here, which is linked from the main page of the EO website: <http://www.education-otherwise.org/members.htm>

The forums are provided by Education Otherwise for the benefit of home educators and are primarily for informal support and social contact. They offer a virtual meeting point for those home educating or considering home education. Some areas are open to everyone, with other sections - including a children and teens section - reserved exclusively for members of Education Otherwise.

To join the forum you can click through from the EO website or go to this link:

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

What to do if you are already a member of the forum but have forgotten your username or password.

If you are already a member of the forum, but you have forgotten your password, go to the login page <http://forum.education-otherwise.org/ucp.php?mode=login> and click on "I forgot my password". The forum software will send an email to the email address which you registered on the forum.

If you are a member of the forum but you have forgotten your username, email forums@educationotherwise.org with your name and EO membership number or postcode and explain that you need your forum username.

If you have forgotten both your username AND your password, email forums@educationotherwise.org as per lost username and then go to the forum and click on "I forgot my password." As explained above, the forum software will send an email to the email address which you registered on the forum.

It is possible to save your password by checking the "remember me" box when you log on to the forum, but this has to be done on each computer or laptop wherever you access the forum and is not recommended for shared PCs.

Getting email alerts for new posts to the forum

It is possible to check the box at the foot of each forum in order to receive email updates when a new topic is posted or where there is a reply. Please note that if you do not visit the forum after an email alert has been sent, there will be no more email alerts until you have actually visited the forum.

If you haven't heard from the forum for a while, please click here to check for new posts

http://forum.education-otherwise.org/search.php?search_id=newposts

Don't Miss Out on Updates for EO Members

Make sure you receive all the EO Member Newsheets – add us to your safe senders list.

Have you added admin@educationotherwise.org to your email contacts in the program you use for email, so the newsheet doesn't go unseen to your spam folder? If you need help doing this then read the whitelist instructions in the members forum at this url: <http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewtopic.php?f=31&t=413>

Alternatively, you can email admin@educationotherwise.org asking for the Email Whitelist Instructions, or phone on 08445 867541.

Do we have your Email Address?

We will be sending out a test email to all members who have lodged their email addresses with us on 12th April 2010. Please check to see if you receive this email - the 'From' address will be admin@educationotherwise.org

If you don't receive this test email, then you will be missing out on future updates. It could be for one of the reasons below, and we've listed solutions to try and help.

1. **Problem:** We don't have your email address.
Solution: If you didn't add your email address on your last membership form then we won't have it listed on the database. To add your details, either email admin@educationotherwise.org or Tel: 08445 867541.

2. **Problem:** We have an old email address for you which needs to be updated.
Solution: You may have changed your email address or typed the address incorrectly on your renewal/new member form. Contact admin as in 1 to give us your correct email address.

3. **Problem:** The email has been sent to your spam folder.
Solution: See Solution 1 for information on adding EO to your safe senders list so you don't miss out on email updates from us.

When we email members on April 12th we will also announce details of a new prize draw for members who confirm up-to-date contact details. Please watch out for April 12th email from EO

No Email Address?

If you don't have an email address, we can send you copies of the monthly news updates by post. To organise this you need to write to Education Otherwise, Newsletter, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW or phone our administrator on 08445 867541.

EO Email Whitelist Instructions in EO Member Forum

<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewtopic.php?f=31&t=413>

Since your ISP probably uses some type of spam filter to make sure that you don't miss any EO newsletters, you may need to add us to your trusted list of senders, contacts or address book, which is also known as whitelisting. If you do not see an email from EO Admin in your inbox on 10th April, due to the overzealous filtering by ISPs the EO email may have mistakenly been sent to your spam folder. Please open your spam folder look for it there, open it and mark it as "not spam"...

Click the link to your ISP or email client to make sure you are able to receive emails from us, they will be sent From - admin@educationotherwise.org Detailed instructions are posted in the EO Member forum for the following types of email client:

ISPs - AOL, AOL Webmail, Yahoo, Hotmail Live, Windows Live & MSN, Gmail, Earthlink

Email Clients: Outlook 2003 (or higher), Mozilla Thunderbird, [Blackberrys](#).

Spam Filters: Norton AntiSpam, McAfee Spamkiller, Barracuda Networks, Trend Micro PC-Cillin, Cloudmark SpamNet, CA Anti Spam, Mailblocks, MailShield, MailWasher, Oddpost, SpamAssassin, SpamFighter, Spam Arrest ChoiceMail, SpamButcher, Spameater Pro Spam Inspector, Spam Interceptor, SpamPal, Spam Sleuth.



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>



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 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 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 can offer 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 the Enquiry Secretary:

Jo Berry, Tel: 08445 868821,
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 nicholson@education-otherwise.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

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 Vicki on 08445 883513 or email: vskinner@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 few volunteers 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 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, for a chat about what the role could mean for you.

Email: lcco-ordinator@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 vicki@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.

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. Contact Carla, the Local Contacts Co-ordinator for more information and to discuss how you could help.

Latest Vacancies

Derby
Suffolk
Lincolnshire, South
Devon, East

England

Cambridgeshire
Channel Islands
Cheshire, West
Cheshire, Vale Royal (east)
Cheshire, Macclesfield
Cleveland
Derbyshire
Durham

Essex
South Gloucestershire
Gloucestershire
Hampshire
Herefordshire
Kent South East
Lancs, Bolton and Blackpool
Leicestershire
London, Central
London, Enfield
London, North West
London West, Richmond and Kingston
London, Waltham Forest
Manchester
Norfolk
Northumberland
Shropshire
Staffordshire, South
Sussex, West
West Midlands
Wiltshire
Yorkshire West
Yorkshire East, Hull

Scotland

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

Wales

Carmarthenshire
Ceredigion
Glamorgan
Flintshire

Off Shore

Northern Ireland
Europe

New Local Contacts:

East Sussex - Jude Birdsall-Williams, Tel: 08445 003863, Email: sussexeast-lc@educationotherwise.org

Teignmouth, Devon - Andrew Kennel, Tel: 08445 003929, Email: devonteign-lc@educationotherwise.org

London: South East - Barry O'Donovan Tel: 08445 884581 Email: londonse-lc1@educationotherwise.org

Herefordshire - Mary Daly, Tel: . 08445 003947 herefordshire-lc@educationotherwise.org



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

A company limited by guarantee and Registered in England and Wales No. 01917107
Registered Office: 41 St Mary's Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4HF Charity Registration No. 1055120

SPECIAL SPRING SALE – BARGAIN PRICES

HALF PRICE SALE EO BOOKS, CLOTHING AND STATIONERY ITEMS

Following the dissolution of our subsidiary trading company on the advice of the Charities Commission and our accountant, EO is now offering members the first opportunity to buy a limited range of items at half the original sale price.

EO MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM (circle price of item/s you require)

Name: Tel. No.

Address:

Postcode:

Email Address: Memb. No. (if known)

Books

Home Educating our Autistic Spectrum Children: Paths are Made By Walking. <i>Edited by Terri Dowty and Kitt Cowlshaw.</i>	£7.50
Early Years. A compilation of ideas and activities tried and tested by experienced home educators. It covers various subjects from Maths to Art and History to Language (EO Sept 2000 – 96 pages)	£2.00
Teach Your Own – John Holt. Confronts the common objections to home education and offers practical guidance to would-be educators. Discusses socialisation, serious play, children at work and the benefits and problems of living with children all day. (Lighthouse reprint 1997 – 206 pages)	£3.50
Free Range Education – Edited by Terri Dowty. A book for parents, those contemplating home education, families just getting started and anyone interested in this fast growing form of education. Full of ideas, experiences and practical suggestions. (Hawthorn 2000 – 246 pages)	£6.00
School's Out – Educating Your Child at Home – Jean Bendell. This fascinating personal story of teaching her two daughters at home will help parents make an informed decision. (EO Reprint 1997 – 204 pages)	£2.00
Educating Your Child At Home – Jane Lowe & Alan Thomas. Useful handbook for families new to home education. (Continuum 2002 – 164 pages)	£6.00
Educating Children at Home – Alan Thomas. Research work on a systematic inquiry of 100 home educating families. The readable format assesses parents' motives and methods, often challenging basic assumptions about the way children learn. (Cassell 1998 – 140 pages)	£5.00
Their Own Voices. A collation of wisdom from children and parents who have tried and tested home education over many years. (80 pages)	£2.00
Paula Rothermel's PhD Research (2002) Leaflet (12 x A5 pages). Shows benefits of home education for numeracy, literacy and social skills.	0.50
Learning From Home-based Education - Edited by Roland Meighan. Personal experiences and opinions of twelve people with a variety of approaches to home education from self-directed learning to more structured methods. (50 pages)	£2.00
Evaluation & Research in Education - Edited by David Galloway & Paula Rothermel. Special Edition Home Education of the academic journal "Evaluation and Research in Education" – Guest Editor Paula Rothermel.	£2.00
Troubled Children: A Fresh Look at School Phobia - Patricia Knox. The concept of school phobia is questionable and a more appropriate term of 'acute school-induced anxiety' is proposed. The existing research into this phenomenon can be shown to be both unscientific and based on unsound assumptions.	£4.00
The Non-Stop Reader - A Complete Guide to Reading for both Parent and Child by Maurice Pope, Helen Morrison and Selena Codd. (Non-Stop Books, 109 pages)	£2.50
The Non-Stop Reader Exercise Pack – exercises and activities to accompany the above book.	£1.50

Specials

	Qty.	Cost
Sun Shades – A good quality "School is not Compulsory" car sun screen. Simply spring open and affix to the side or rear car windows with the suction cups provided.		£2.50 each
Wristbands – Red Silicon wristbands debossed with the words "School is not Compulsory".		50p
Toiletry Bag – This deluxe tri-fold toiletry bag is ideal for overnight trips or camping holidays. 5 zippered compartments allow easy access and holds toiletries securely. Made with tough 600D polyester/ripstop fabric and with a hanging hook.		£3.50
Car Tax Disc Holder – A smart tax disc holder to complement our car stickers and sun screens. Printed with the 'School is not compulsory' slogan and the triangle logo, together with EO's web url and phone no.		50p
Playing Cards – This smart pack of playing cards even comes with its own frosted white protective case. Ideal for rainy days, long car journeys or family fun anytime. Box is branded with 'School Is Not Compulsory', and EO's website url and phone number.		£1.00
Clip on Clock Carabiner – Jumbo carabiner-style clip-on digital clock with time and calendar display. Lightweight and easy to carry, the extra large clip fastens quickly to a belt or bag. Complete with a small built-in compass. (needs new battery, thus bargain price!)		£1.00
Binoculars – Good quality limited edition 4x30mm binoculars with rubberised grip, a soft carry case and lens cleaning cloth. Ideal for nature studies!		£4.00
Recycled Ruler – A 30cm / 12-inch ruler is made from recycled CD cases. Printed with the broken triangle symbol, the slogan 'School Is Not Compulsory' and EO's website and helpline details. Colour: red.		50p
Recycled Pencil – This pencil is made from one recycled plastic cup. Branded with 'School is not compulsory', the website address and helpline number.		30p
Recycled Pen – Made using recycled CD cases, this environmentally-friendly pen is branded with 'School Is Not Compulsory', the Education Otherwise website address and the helpline number. White barrel with red clip. Black ink.		50p
Highlighter – triangular white 3 in 1 highlighter pen with pink, yellow and green ink.		50p
Red Pencil Case – polyester zipped case with EO triangle and logo.		60p
Eraser – choice of red or white	Colour Choice? Red OR White?	25p
Frisbee – ideal for the park, beach or garden. Has EO's triangle logo, 'School Is Not Compulsory', the website url and helpline number. Available in white or glossy red.	Colour Choice? Red OR White	£1.00

Clothing (Check stock before ordering)

	Colour?	Size?	Cost
Hoodies - Hooded sweatshirt with triangle logo and SINC. Black or Navy			Adult - £10.00 Child - £8.00
White T shirt with "School Is not Compulsory" and triangle logo	White		Adult - £3.00 Child - £2.50
Oskar T-Shirt – world logo and slogan – "The World's My Playground, I'm Home Educated"			Adult - £2.50 Child - £2.50
Navy T shirt with slogan "Home Education A Real Option."	Navy		Adult - £3.00 Child - £2.50

Postage - Orders under £20 in value – £3.00 Orders up to £30 in value - £4.00 Orders up to £40 - £5.00

Orders over £40 - £7.50 Orders over £60 – please contact us for postage quote

TOTAL Value of Goods Ordered £ Any donation to support EO £

Postage and Packaging (see above) £ **TOTAL PAYABLE £**

Cheques or postal orders to be made payable to: Education Otherwise Association Limited. Alternatively you can pay with a debit or credit card by phoning EO on 08445 867541 between 10am and 8pm.

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 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

BEDFORDSHIRE

EOLC: Pauline, 08445 868894 : beds-lc@educationotherwise.org

Bedfordshire Christian Home Ed :

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

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

BRISTOL

EOLC: Ian, Tel: 08445 003756 : bristol-lc@educationotherwise.org

Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP), meeting Monday & Friday, Carla: 0117 9354389 : 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

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

EOLC: Georgeanna, 08445 003763 : 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 : Georgeanne : sienna-swift7@power.net : www.mkhen.org.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - SOUTH

EOLC: Georgeanna - as above

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

EOLC: Sarah, 08445 003769 : cambs-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 : 07784 169260

CHESHIRE

Cheshire-South EOLC: Sue, 08445 003781 : cheshire-lc1@educationotherwise.org

Cheshire-Macclesfield EOLC: Debbie, 08445 003832 : macclesfield-lc@educationotherwise.org

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

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

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: 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 or Ruth, 0845 4560247

CUMBRIA EOLC: Jayne, 08445 003793 : 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

DERBYSHIRE

DHEG (Derby Home Education Group) meet every Monday - Gym club, fun physical movement and team games at a sports centre with an instructor. Over 8s 10am, under 8s 11am. Every fortnight (Thurs) there is an informal meet up at JJBs soft play area.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DerbyHE/DEVON>

DEVON

Devon: southdevongroup@googlemail.com

East Devon & Exeter EOLC : Kate 08445 003798 : eastdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org

Contacts & Events SW. See Bristol entry for details. Contact: 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

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

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

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 or Lucinda Tel: 01364 644556 Email: l.guy@dartington.ac.uk

South Devon Home Education Group, meet at Harberton Parish Hall, near Totnes. Lucinda : 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

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

DEVON/DORSET/SOMERSET BORDERS

Home Education Centre, 2 days/week. Workshops, sports, activities and support.

www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk : Karen, 01460 30461 : karen@homeeducationcentre.org.uk : or Louise, 01460 61325

DORSET

Dorset-North EOLC: Sharon, 08445 003807 : ndorset-lc@educationotherwise.org

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

Dorset-East (Poole) EOLC: Carol, 08445 003848 : poole-1c@educationotherwise.org

Contacts & Events SW. See Cornwall entry for more info. Contact 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 2nd 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-1c@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 damn 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@yahoogroups.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-1c@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 : isleafman-1c@educationotherwise.org

ISLE OF WIGHT

EOLC: Shara, 08445 003819 : iow-1c@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 Home 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

Syston 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: 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: 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: 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/WestNorfolkHomeEducator>
s

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

NORFOLK-SOUTH

EOLC: 08445 868904 : norfolksouth-
lc@educationotherwise.org

NORFOLK-BRECKLAND

EOLC: Tel: 08445 003998 : norfolkbreckland-
lc@educationotherwise.org

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

EOLC: 08445 003841 : northants-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Northants HE. Informal Group meets regularly for
various activities www.northantshe.org.uk :
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 or email:
secretary@iflow.org.uk or Tel: Juno 01604 505977

NORTHUMBERLAND-North

EOLC: 08445 003843 : northumberlandnorth-
lc@educationotherwise.org

NOTTINGHAM CITY

EOLC: 08445 003846 : nottinghamcity-
lc@educationotherwise.org

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

EOLC: 08445 003961 : notts-
lc@educationotherwise.org

OXFORDSHIRE

EOLC: Louisa, 08445 868873 : 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

Contacts & Events SW. See Bristol entry for more
info. Contact 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

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 : Karen,
01460 30461 : karen@homeeducationcentre.org.uk :
or Louise, 01460 61325

Yeovil: lyn@homeeducationcentre.org.uk

North Somerset Home Education Group, weekly
childrens gym, walks, outings etc, Vicky, 01275
848425 : 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

STAFFORDSHIRE

EOLC Moorlands - 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

**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

SUFFOLK

EOLC: Sue, 08445 868913 : suffolk-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Wetherden, meetings, 3rd Friday of the month
10.30am till 3pm, Wendy, 01449 614772 :
wenlyn@talktalk.net

Dennington, 2nd and 4th 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

Godalming Group, meets alternate Mondays. Serves
South West Surrey and surrounding area. Ruth:
www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk

Sutton/Epsom HE Group, all ages welcome, currently mainly under 10s. Liz: julysea@yahoo.co.uk or Paul: 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: 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, ActivEO, 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: 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: 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: 08445 853891 : bradford-

lc@educationotherwise.org

Wakefield EOLC: 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: 08445 003794 : denbighshire-
lc@educationotherwise.org

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

FLINTSHIRE

EOLC: 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 Nick - 01407
811049 : Julie, 01286 678181:
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

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:
cdsnhf@googlemail.com : 01989 768128

PEMBROKESHIRE EOLC: Yvette, 08445 003847 :
pembrokeshire-lc@educationotherwise.org

POWYS EOLC: 08445 003849 : powys-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Newtown, New Leaf Group. Fortnightly meetings for
all ages, for activities, socialisation and play :
siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk

Powys Yahooogroup, advertising home-ed activities in
Powys for home educating families :
siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk

NE WALES/BORDERS.

WREXHAM EOLC: 08445 003872 : 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

Scotland

Angus, Dundee, Perth & Kinross EOLC: Marley,
08445 868896: dundee-lc@educationotherwise.org

Borders EOLC: Jane, 08445 003716 : borders-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Highland & Isles EOLC: Lesley, 08445 003817 :
highlandislands-lc@educationotherwise.org

Clacks, Falkirk, N Lanarks & Stirling EOLC:
Janice, 08445 003789 : stirling-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Overseas

Australasia: Nicky, Email: australasia-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Americas: Sandy, 08445 853873 : americas-
lc@educationotherwise.org

VOLUNTEERS 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 to:
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: Tel: 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: Tel: 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 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: MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TEAM ~
08445 003698 concessions@educationotherwise.org

Designated Person: Jim Clossick ~ 08445 869091 ~ For EO members to call if they have safeguarding 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: VACANT ~ 08445 003709
laliaison@educationotherwise.org

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

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: VACANT from 30/4 ~ 08445 003876
lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org

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

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

Publications Secretary: 08445 003886
pubssecretary@educationotherwise.org

Research Contact: 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
St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW

Helpline 0845 478 6345

Information can also be found on the Education Otherwise website:

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120

A company limited by guarantee and registered in
England and Wales No. 01917107

Registered Office Address: 41 St Mary's Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4HF