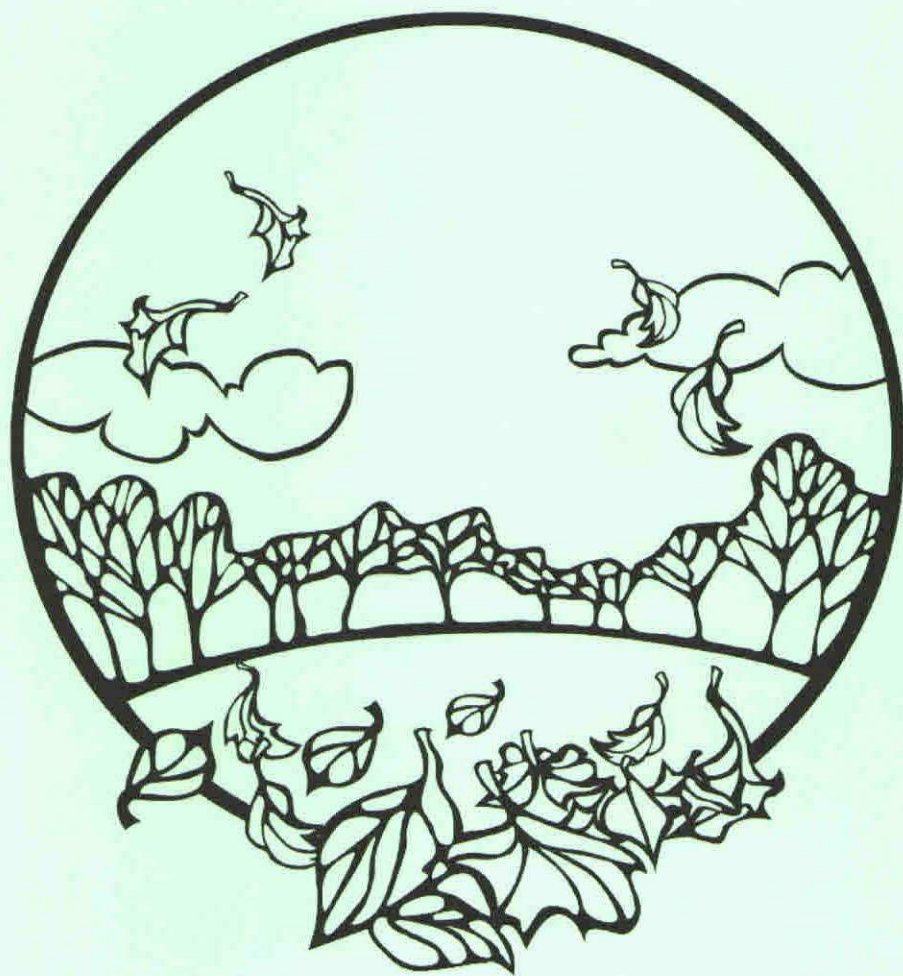


education otherwise



Newsletter Autumn 2014

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SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please mark material '**for publication**' and include your name, address, phone number and email as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (though details may be withheld from publication on request). Email contributions will normally be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose a stamped S.A.E.. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL co-ordinator (see below). *Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date before submission.*

Deadline for the Winter issue is November 14th

Please send contributions via Section Editors or Newsletter Co-ordinator:

Fiona Stewart (formerly Edana Edwards) <eonews@btinternet.com>

[postal contributions to: EONL Co-ord, PO Box 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN]

~~~~~ N.B. postal system subject to forwarding delays so allow extra time ~~~~~

### Section Editors

**REVIEWS** *Tammy Dolling:* [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)

or EO Reviews, PO Box 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN

### **DISCLAIMER**

The opinions in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the co-ordinator, 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 have been accepted in good faith. Inclusion does not imply endorsement by Education Otherwise Association Ltd., which cannot be held responsible for the information, goods or services provided, or any consequences arising from them.

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Submission does not guarantee publication. EO reserves the right to edit or reject contributions in line with editorial policy.

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### **IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL OR OTHER CONTACT DETAILS, OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE**

*please notify us by email: [database@educationotherwise.org](mailto:database@educationotherwise.org), or by*

*post: Database Administrator, Education Otherwise, PO Box 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN*

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### Co-ordinatorial

Hello and welcome to the Autumn edition of the newsletter! Summer eventually arrived, and it was lovely while it lasted – and who knows, we may get another peek at the sun before Winter bites. Meanwhile I have been squirrelling away for Winter whilst all the knitwear/snow shovels/boots/spirit stoves etc. are cheap! I have a feeling this Winter will be a savage beast, as according to ye olde weather lore, a colder than average August following a hotter than average July, heralds a harsh winter. And for every fog in August there will be snowfall (so they say.) Well I counted at least one foggy August morning here in South Yorkshire, so time alone will tell if those ancients knew more than the met office does, for all their fancy technology!

In other 'news' I have changed my name by deed poll, back to my original name, having changed it by deed poll nearly 10 years ago. Just to clear up any confusion, incase anyone notices, Edana Edwards was my old name. Also I must apologise for not writing my usual contributions for the newsletter this time around – I am somewhat preoccupied as my home educated son is LEAVING HOME soon! Yes another success story for home education and children with 'special needs' as he has also been given a

belated diagnosis of PDA – and really that explains everything. I can't imagine where he would be now, if I'd forced him to remain in the school system, but I'm pretty sure it wouldn't be Sheffield University.

I would like to encourage other readers with grown-up children, or those readers who have seen the benefits of home education for their children, to write in with their stories too. De-registering a child to educate them yourself is a very brave, optimistic (and scary) thing to do – sometimes a last resort when 'the system' has failed them. It is a shot in the dark – we really have no idea how it will affect our children long-term; we just have to travel hopefully and do our best for them. What works for one child won't necessarily work for another though, as each family is unique. We all have good days and bad days, and 'just too tired' days – I know I had many 'wondering if I did the right thing' days (especially as everyone was happy to tell me I hadn't), so it is reassuring to read about the experiences of those who have finished (or nearly finished) their home ed. journey – because we all do things differently, and yet our children turn out fine. If you want to share your 'I Did it My Way' story, then please post or email me your contribution. Don't worry if you are not 'a writer' – your contribution can be edited to your approval before going to print, and you may remain anonymous if you wish, although we will need your contact details.

Your money-saving tips, book reviews (by you or your child) and ideas for resources and activities are also very welcome, so please send them in (contact details inside front cover.)

Thanks for reading, and supporting Education Otherwise – I hope you have a mellow Autumn!

*Fiona Stewart, newsletter co-ord.*

(images in this newsletter from [openclipart.org](http://openclipart.org))

## AGM NOTICE & AGENDA

The **Annual General Meeting** of  
**Education Otherwise Association Ltd**  
will be held at **2.00 pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014**  
at Snibston Museum, Ashby Road, Coalville, LE67 3LN

The ordinary business of the AGM is to consider the accounts for year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014,  
to appoint auditors/independent examiners and  
to elect members (trustees/directors) to the Council of Management

At the time of writing there are 8 Council members in post, and our M&As require that one-third (i.e. 3) must stand down but may seek re-election. At the time of writing it has not been decided which trustees will stand down and/or stand for re-election. The Council may recommend other candidates for election.

Signed-Up Members (i.e. guarantors) of EO may also propose candidates. In this case, written notice from the proposer and signed consent from the candidate (who must also be a SUM / guarantor) must both reach the

**EO Trustees, 61 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL**  
no earlier than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September and no later than Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Names of retiring trustees, and those standing for election, will be posted in the 'Member Home' area of the EO website as available.

In the event of a vote at the AGM, guarantors (SUMs) present at the AGM are entitled to take part, provided their EO subscription for family membership is up to date.

If you cannot attend, you may appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.

### Agenda for AGM:

1. Minutes of the previous AGM (16<sup>th</sup> November 2013)
2. Consideration of the accounts for y/e 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014
3. Auditor/Independent Examiner's Remuneration
4. Appointment of Auditor/Independent Examiner
5. Election of new Council Members

Please arrive by 1.30 pm as the AGM will start promptly at 2.00 pm.  
Forms of proxy MUST be registered by Noon

SUM, Proxy and Nomination/Acceptance forms are available on the 'member home' area of the EO website and included in this newsletter

Two EO members (18+) per family may become SUMs (and so entitled to vote or to appoint a proxy) by completion of a SUM form each

EO Trustees <trustees@educationotherwise.org>

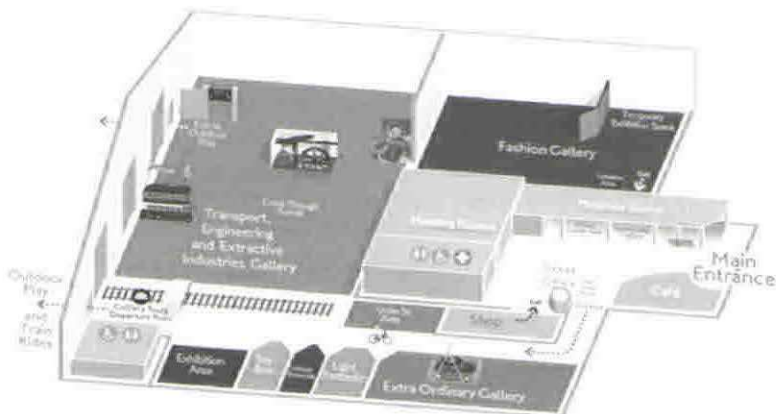
---

N.B. Informal meeting from 12 noon to 1pm for AGM registration & free museum pass.  
Open Council/Trustee meeting approx 2.45 (following AGM) to 4pm  
All EO Members are welcome to attend, meet trustees, and contribute to discussion.

## EO AGM 18<sup>th</sup> October – VENUE INFORMATION

### EO Annual General Meeting 2014 + Science Education/Play – A Grand Day Out!

Mark it in your diary: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October at Snibston Museum, Ashby Road, Coalville, LE67 3LN



There is an onsite café, and the venue is wheelchair accessible. The fantastic science-based educational/play exhibitions and galleries surround the meeting room. Some examples are:



**The Light Fantastic Gallery** - with exhibits focusing on the everyday effects of light and the behaviour of light. Try out hands-on exhibits with ultraviolet light, prisms, lenses and shadows and travel through our giant periscope.



The cutting-edge **Extra Ordinary Gallery** explores the technologies and inventions that have shaped our everyday lives. There are over 20 interactive exhibits for visitors to get their hands on including lifting a mini and making fire!



**The Fashion Gallery** - The largest fashion gallery outside London - houses designs from some of the most celebrated fashion designers of our time as well as historical exhibits.

**Toy Box Gallery** - Coalville is home to the world-famous Action Man! Learn about local company Palitoy and take a nostalgic journey through the world of toys.

Check out all the attractions at:

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

The normal entry price to galleries is £24.25 for a family of 4, but  
**EO members (SUMs) attending the AGM will be entitled to  
FREE entry to the galleries and exhibitions**  
(once registered to attend AGM)

There will be an informal open Council meeting from 12 noon, giving members a chance to meet current trustees, register to attend AGM and obtain free exhibition entry.

The AGM is scheduled to start at 2pm, after lunch (the café is pretty good!), and should last only about 45 minutes – so you'll have plenty of time to explore the exhibitions. Please attend the AGM if you possibly can. It is the way to ensure you have an influence over how EO is run.

After the AGM there will be a further open Council meeting, with time for general informal discussion.

***N.B. Local Contacts and other volunteers holding named EO posts may claim reasonable travel expenses for attending the AGM.***

#### **How to get to Snibston Museum**

**By Car** - Snibston is located on the edge of Coalville town centre on the A511, just 4 miles from J22 of the M1 and J13 of the A42/M42. It is clearly signed on all major approach routes.

**By Public Transport** - To plan your journey by public transport visit  
<http://www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk>

**By Walking / Cycling** - Snibston is served by the Sustrans National Cycle route Number 52

Telephone: 01530 287444      Email: [snibston@leics.gov.uk](mailto:snibston@leics.gov.uk)

More details from the museum website <http://www.snibston.com/>

This is the same venue as last year; the museum is open-plan, facilities are informal but convenient; museum staff friendly and helpful.

The museum ask that children are accompanied in the exhibition space; but we hope it will be possible for parents to arrange to share this duty with others, taking turns to attend part of the Open Council Meeting – though we ask that you do turn up for the AGM which is usually short.

AGMs in recent years have struggled to reach a quorum of members (SUMs) as required under our governing documents, so we hope that more of you will come and give your support, as well as joining in the discussion and decision-making for your organisation.

The Museum staff appreciate an indication of how many people might need lunch (though you are welcome to bring your own and sit with other members in the designated 'EO' area of the cafe).

Also, the meeting room layout and number of chairs provided vary according to need.

Therefore trustees ask that EO members who intend to come to the AGM and OCM let us know in advance so that we get an idea of numbers. Please email: [trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)

## Education otherwise Association Limited – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

To be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 2:00 pm At Snibston Museum

### Form of Proxy (For Signed Up Members not attending the AGM)

**N.B. See the notes and instructions overleaf before completing this form.**

Please return this form of proxy as soon as possible to:

**EO Proxy, 61 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL**

to arrive by **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October** if by post.

If your proxy is bringing it to the meeting, please note that time must be allowed for registration before the meeting (see notes 3 & 4)

*Please note that Proxy Forms CANNOT be sent electronically.*

Name of Member: ..... Memb. No. (if known) .....

Address: .....

I, being a Signed Up Member of Education Otherwise Association Limited, hereby appoint [the Chair of the meeting or] [the following named adult] (see notes 1 & 4):

(Name) ..... of address: .....

or failing that the following named adult (see notes 1 & 4):

(Name) ..... of address: .....

(see note 1) as my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Limited to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and at every adjournment thereof.

Unless otherwise indicated below, my proxy may exercise their discretion as to how they vote and whether or not they abstain from voting (see note 2).

Signature: ..... Date: .....

#### Election of Trustees: (see note 2)

| Name of proposed trustee | YES | NO |
|--------------------------|-----|----|
|                          |     |    |
|                          |     |    |
|                          |     |    |
|                          |     |    |
|                          |     |    |

|  | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
|  |     |    |
|  |     |    |
|  |     |    |
|  |     |    |
|  |     |    |

Signature: ..... Date: .....

## Notes and instructions:

### Note 1

- If you wish the chair of the meeting to act as your proxy, leave these lines blank.
- If you wish to appoint a different proxy, insert the name of your proxy (and alternative proxy) in block capitals.
- If your proxy (or alternative proxy) is unable to attend the meeting, your proxy reverts to the chair unless you delete the words "the chair of the meeting or".

### Note 2

- Names – **which must be received by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October** – will be posted in the Member Home area of the EO website as received. Please check before instructing your proxy. Chair of Meeting will confirm eligibility on the day.
- If you wish your proxy to be able to vote as they see fit, taking account of any instructions you may have given, leave this section blank.
- If you wish to instruct your proxy (or the Chair) how to vote, you may **EITHER** write in the names and place an 'X' in the appropriate box, **OR** provide your proxy with a separate, signed statement of your wishes.

### Note 3

By completing and returning this form you are not prevented from attending the meeting in person if you later decide to do so. However, your attendance revokes the appointment of proxy. Please note that members wishing to attend the meeting in order to vote must arrive at the venue **by Noon** in order for the registration process to be completed.

### Note 4

You must have returned a completed SUM (Signed Up Members) form to : EO SUMs, P.O. Box 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN **by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October if by post**, or if in person **by Noon on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October at the meeting**.

### Note 5

If, after returning a duly completed proxy form, you wish to revoke your proxy appointment you must sign and date a notice clearly stating your intention to revoke that proxy appointment and send it to:

**EO Proxy, 61 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL to arrive by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October.**



## EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

### SIGNED-UP MEMBERS (SUM) FORM (Guarantor Declaration)

*N.B. Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS and sign both sections*

I (FULL NAME) .....

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

wish to become a guarantor (Signed-up Member) of Education Otherwise Association Limited ('the Association').

I confirm that I am over the age of 18 and a paid-up family member of the Association. 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 Association'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. The Association may then disclose the details on this form.

I further understand that in the event of my ceasing to be a paid-up family member of Education Otherwise, or if at any time I resign as a SUM by written notification to EO's correspondence address, I will cease to be a guarantor and Signed-Up Member of the Association one year later.

Signed: ..... Date .....

#### 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: .....

Signed: ..... Date .....

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

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.

Education Otherwise will continue to send any correspondence related to your Signed-up Membership to the email or postal address given on this SUM form until the Association is advised in writing by the SUM of resignation or that the address on the Register of Members should be changed. Such changes should be notified to Education Otherwise SUMs, 61 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL

Please return this form to: Education Otherwise SUMs, 61 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL

## education otherwise

We are delighted to announce that some vacancies have now been filled. We have some new Local Contacts, and volunteers for the Helpline rota – although there's still room for more!

Webmaster – Tom has stepped into this job with verve, and we are looking forward to his help in co-ordinating the transfer to the upgraded website, when this comes on stream. Many thanks to Louisa and Charles who had remained in the post long after they wished to retire – your commitment is valued.

Concessions Co-ordinator – Thanks to Cornelia who has taken on the checking of existing concessions and updating the information on the EO website. Concessions specific to EO members are in the private 'member home' area (not the public section of the website).

All parts of EO's administration really do need more input than can be managed by the current group of volunteers.

EO was set up as a membership organisation, run by members, and until a few years ago this worked reasonably well with teams of volunteers covering the various activities, and jobs being split where possible. When some jobs became too large to be done on a voluntary basis we tried using paid staff, firstly on a contract basis and then employment, but that became unwieldy and – in the end – too great a financial drain on EO's resources. It also meant that the former volunteer teams disintegrated.

Several of the current trustees who took on administrative jobs that for a while had been done by paid staff, are really struggling to fit everything in – and in some cases close to collapse. Modern technology means that new members, and other enquiries that arrive every day, expect an immediate response; and often this is impossible.

It's got to the point where we're running so hard trying to catch up, that even urgent work isn't always getting dealt with in a timely fashion, and although some new volunteers have come forward, unless this is for a specific 'job' it's often difficult to know how to involve people without spending even more time in sorting out how they can help.

If EO is to remain viable, it is essential that we recruit more volunteers to help with the routine administration of our – your – charity and company. This is not always exciting and high-profile, and sometimes it's thoroughly frustrating; but we know that the services EO provides are valuable and that can be a great source of satisfaction.

If you already hold a named post in EO, so have some experience of how the organisation works, why not consider coming forward as a trustee (preferably having found someone to take over your existing post). While there are legal, financial, strategic and management responsibilities (for overview see Charity Commission website: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/trustees-staff-and-volunteers/trustee-role/becoming-a-trustee/>) other valuable skills are the capacity for clear thinking and hearing different views, and to work as a team within the framework of 'consensus' decision-making. It helps if you have the knack of making a molehill out of a mountain! If you need to know more, please contact trustees.

Also, please attend the AGM if possible – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October. It is vital for the future of EO that more members take part in the overall decision-making process.

*EO Trustees* <trustees@educationotherwise.org>

**Education Otherwise Association Limited**

Annual General Meeting (AGM) 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014, Snibston Museum

**Form of Proposal for Trustee & Acceptance of Nomination**

Signed-Up Members (i.e. guarantors) of EO may propose candidates for election as Trustees.

Written notice from the proposer and signed consent from the candidate

(who must also be a SUM / guarantor) must **both** be returned to:

**EO Trustees, 61 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL no later than Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

Name of Proposing Member

(please print clearly): ..... Memb No (if known\*):.....

Address.....

.....

I, being a Signed Up member of Education Otherwise Association Limited, hereby propose

Name of Nominee

(please print clearly): ..... who is also a Signed up Member of EO Assoc. Ltd

of address .....

.....

for election as a Trustee of Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

===== section below for completion by nominee =====

I hereby confirm that I am a Signed Up Member of Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

I accept the above nomination and am willing to stand as a Trustee.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Name (please print clearly):..... Memb No (if known\*):.....

***NOMINEE:*** Please also supply a brief written statement (herewith, or by email) about your EO/HE experience and the skills and qualities you could bring to the post of Trustee. This will be printed in the 'Member Home' area of the EO website.

\*N.B. Membership Number is printed on address label of newsletter

Return form to: EO Trustees, 61 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL to arrive by 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## NOTICE TO EO SUMs and to FAMILY MEMBERS

Re: EO AGM 2014

Signed-Up-Members/Guarantors of EO are entitled under our Memorandum and Articles of Association to vote at General Meetings, and to receive relevant notices and documentation 21 days prior to the meeting. Family members may become SUMs by completing the form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Although it is now accepted that such notices may be sent to SUMs via electronic means, it is also good practice for paper copies to be provided. In order to avoid a separate mailing to SUMs, and so that family members who are not SUMs may be aware, Notice of Annual General Meeting 2014 and associated information is included in this newsletter. However, please note that timescales for returning forms are extremely tight – if you wish to take part, please do not delay!

Part of the business of the Annual General Meeting is to consider the accounts for the financial year. EO's financial year ends on 30<sup>th</sup> June, and this year the AGM is earlier than usual. Also, due to change of Treasurer and bank signatories, the present Treasurer was unable to access all the necessary information for preparation of accounts until late in the year. This means that it may not be possible to provide copies of accounts until close to the time of the AGM, though we hope these will be available on the day.

Documents relevant to the AGM 2014 are available to view or download from the 'general meetings' menu item in the 'Member Home' area of the EO website. When completed, accounts for y/e 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 will be posted there. Since nominations for new trustees can be received up to 4 days prior to the meeting, these will also be posted in the 'Member Home' area of the website. We urge all EO members to check this during the run-up to the AGM.

*EO Trustees*



## VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

As always, we need people who can offer skills, knowledge, and a fairly regular time commitment to help EO run more smoothly. *If you can commit either regular or one-off chunks of time, and are willing to check emails frequently and liaise with appropriate trustee, please contact the trustee named for more information. If you feel you could contribute but don't fancy any of these vacancies, please send your ideas to our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Wendy <[vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org)>*

N.B. all EO volunteers are eligible for a reduced membership subscription, and may claim reasonable travel expenses for attendance at AGMs.

### Helpline Telephone Volunteers

The Helpline is always in need of new volunteers. There's a rota, with 3 lines at a time (on 08445 numbers which are diverted to your own phone when you're on rota) so you don't have to be 'in' all the time you're 'on' (currently about one week a month, but could be less with more volunteers coming forward). You need to have experience of home education, but apart from that the main requirement is to be a good listener, as most callers need to 'tell their story' and to be reassured that HE is legal, that you don't need to make it like school, etc. before they can start to think about anything further. There's a whole sheaf of information that you can refer people to (or look at yourself) for deregistration procedures and so on, as well as backup from EO Local Contacts (who should know about HE activities in their area and how their own LA operates) and other EO specialists. For more detailed information we 'signpost' to a range of other organisations. The Helpline co-ordinator is Edwina (who also does a lot of other stuff!) and if you want more information you can contact her by email: [Edwina.Theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:Edwina.Theunissen@educationotherwise.org) or ring her on 01978 661 882

### Local Contact Volunteers

The primary role of the Local Contact is to welcome new HE families to EO and to provide contact with their local HE community, information about local activities, reassurance that HE doesn't need to be 'school at home' but that a wide range of approaches are possible, encouragement to be confident in their ability to provide for their children's needs by home-based education, and non-judgemental listening. It's also valuable if the LC can offer information about deregistration, the procedures and policies of their Local Authority, and support the family's interactions with the LA. Some LCs like to organise local activities, but that's not essential and often shared by a number of local families. If there is no LC in your area, and you have some experience of home education, please consider volunteering to provide this valuable connection. For more information, please contact the LC Co-ordinator, Lei Ashe [lccoordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lccoordinator@educationotherwise.org)

### Updating website information

It's like the Forth Bridge, this one – no sooner has our information been revised, than something changes and it needs doing again. This is especially important for the website upgrade that is being developed. So we need volunteers to keep an eye on each of the downloadable leaflets, check out that links and other contact details still work, keep up with new developments/defunct areas, etc. Have a look at the website [[www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)] and choose your interest – or if you notice a topic that isn't there but would be useful to other home educators, compile the information and send it in. Please contact EO Publications Secretary Anne Rix <[arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org)> Tel: 01760 441810

## EO's Activities – nearly 40 years on

The original concept of EO as a grass-roots membership-based organisation providing information and support for families who choose to educate their children outside school has both widened and become more complex since its creation in 1976. Then, most contact between members was through national gatherings and local meetings – and some members didn't even have a home telephone! In 1985 EO became incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee, and also a charity. It therefore comes under the control of the Charity Commission (<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/>) as well as being regulated by Companies House (<http://companieshouse.gov.uk/>) both of which require regular updates and adherence to legal conditions and principles.

Even in 1985, contact between EO members was mainly in person, by letter, or by landline telephone. What a contrast to the present, where so many electronic means of communication are available, and there are many alternative sources of information and support for elective home educators. So it is perhaps worth looking at the role of EO today.

EO's charitable status depends upon provision of 'outreach' services of support and information that are available to any home educator – the Website (public area), Enquiries and Helpline provide a first 'port of call' for new home educators; the Public Forum, Yahoo email lists and Facebook group enable nationwide networking between home educators for additional support – none of us can know everything, but on these media, experienced home educators (whether EO members or not) can share their knowledge and expertise with those new to home education or with specific requirements.

Costs involved in providing these services are met from EO members' subscriptions, and many EO members also make use of these and/or give voluntary support through joining one or more of the charitable outlets.

EO members can benefit from certain other provisions, which are also subsidised from membership fees, e.g. Low cost public liability insurance for local EOHE groups, certain Concessions, Local Contact network, access to Benefits and Work guides ... and the newsletter. Details of these, and the confidential online Member Directory, are available via the private 'member home' area of the EO website. Members who become SUMs (signed-Up Members – i.e. guarantors) may also vote on EO business at General Meetings, propose and elect trustees, or stand as trustees themselves and so help with the administration of the organisation.

Trustees are also volunteers, usually who have previously carried out some other named role in EO. They have responsibility for the overall operation of EO and ensuring that legal requirements are met – there's a fair bit of boring administration that keeps us pretty busy! Most trustee business is now conducted via the trustee forum, but we aim to have 2 face-to-face meetings a year, in order to ratify decisions made by electronic means and to improve teamwork. One such meeting takes place around the AGM, and is open to all EO members.

EO as a charity is permitted to campaign regarding national and local government policy relevant to home education, but this must be done without showing any party political bias. Therefore it is not possible (as has recently been suggested in some social media) for EO to campaign on the basis of what might happen if a particular party should form a government at the next general election. However, there is now considerable experience within EO and the HE community generally as to how to respond to government initiatives regarding home education, and although there is at present no official EO government policy group, EO trustees (with help from other EO members) have made responses to several recent ones. While specific provisions vary, the basis of our response has always been to oppose any form of compulsory registration, monitoring or curriculum for elective home education.

*Anne Rix (for EO Trustees)*

## Home Education Around the World – Singapore

Home education was officially recognized by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in 2000, stating that all children born after 1996 have to attend a school for 6 years, starting at the age of 6, with an explicit exemption for home education made in the law. Parents need to gain approval and obtain a certificate, state their curriculum plans and their intention to adhere to the law regarding exams.

The fact that home schooling does exist here is actually quite amazing, as the educational environment is very competitive, and Singaporean state law overall is known to be very restrictive (it is called a "fine" city for a reason). There is a prescribed exam called the PSLE (Primary School Leaving Examination), to be taken between the ages of 11 and 15, and the home educated children who have already taken it in the past seem to have done well (that data is old though, from 2008).

Most existing home ed. families seem to be middle class Christians, either 'expats' or Singaporeans, who expect to improve on the state system by introducing their family values into their children's education. Regarding extra-curricular activities, Singapore seems an ideal place also when it comes to religious diversity and language resources. There is an annual meeting and social get-together for home educators old and new called the "Annual Curriculum Fair" - organized by one particular home ed. group.

### Links:

- general overview;  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling\\_international\\_status\\_and\\_statistics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling_international_status_and_statistics)
- HSDLA, a Christian website specialised in HE world-wide:  
<http://www.hslda.org/hs/international/Singapore/default.asp>
- home education law in detail: <http://www.moe.gov.sg/initiatives/compulsory-education/exemptions/>
- local group of 200 families, fair organizers: <http://singaporehg.byethost13.com/>
- local, very active support group; all the information you need is here:  
<http://singaporehomeschooling.com/>
- interesting, informative general website: <http://sg.theasianparent.com/home-school-or-regular-school/>
- newspaper article about the first exam group in 2008:  
<http://news.asiaone.com/News/Education/Story/A1Story20081121-102306.html>
- blog by a Christian mum of six: [http://apieceofcake.typepad.com/homeschooling\\_in\\_sg/](http://apieceofcake.typepad.com/homeschooling_in_sg/)

*by Corinna Spellerberg*

## Musings from a Permanently-Frazzled Mummy

### **Not** going back to school...

Apart from our annual camping trip to the coast, we've largely hibernated this summer, or at the very least avoided shops of any sort. Why? Well, because from the third week in July, the whole country has been bombarded with messages to grab the best deals on 'Back to School' gubbins: shoes, uniform, bag, pencil case, stationary, PE kit...the list goes on - and dutiful parents respond obediently in their droves. Or in the case of a friend of mine, over £50 of art supplies ready for her daughter to start GCSE Art (and we're supposedly the beneficiaries of a free education system!) Suffering from mild claustrophobia, the stuffy shops and never-ending queues are not for me. It is with a definite sense of relief that I know it will soon be safe to head out into the world again, for the start of September means the fresh air will be shared with a much smaller number of people, as school children return to their classrooms, and us home-edders greet the outside world like an old friend.

So, while the majority of the country are gearing up for families to be separated again for the bulk of the day, for homework diaries to be crammed full of meaningless tasks, and notes between home and school, as learning targets are being set for each child in each subject, what does our September look like? Well, we do make a few tentative plans: we're starting off with a 'Not Back to School' picnic with local chums to celebrate another year of freedom. We'll be heading off with bicycle panniers full of yummy picnic food, sun cream (I'm ever-hopeful) and some sports equipment as we enjoy being out and about, finally, as a family who all have bikes. We've got a few books and DVDs ready, along with a list of potentially useful websites, for beginning our latest educational 'topic' - but apart from that, our diary for the Autumn term looks pretty empty!

Yes, we have our monthly local home-ed group and sports sessions, regular get togethers with friends either at home or in country parks or at the beach; the odd trip to the local library; weekly swimming lessons; plus learning how to use the vacuum cleaner and washing machine squeezed in, but we certainly don't have any targets to be working towards, or any sort of schedule to keep to. Having tried and failed to stick to a routine, we've found ourselves becoming more autonomous and 'unschooly' as time goes on. I'm anticipating that our topic will be begun with great gusto from all sides, then over a few weeks our enthusiasm will begin to wane, and we'll surreptitiously 'forget' that we ever had a project to be working on in the first place. I'm sure that our lack of stickitivity for anything vaguely formal is down to my failing as a home-edding mummy, and perhaps a definitive move away from my previous career as an English teacher, but hey, we're happy, and our

unschooly approach generally works well for us, so I won't reach for the red pens and workbooks just yet! That's not to say that we don't have some sense of looking back over the previous academic year to judge what has been achieved, or that we don't have aspirations and dreams for the new year we're entering. We do. We just tend to go about it in the same informal and slightly chaotic way that we tend to approach every other aspect of our lives.

Over the past 12 months, our eldest (11yrs) has gone from strength to strength with reading independently, and although he's still several years behind where a school would like him to be, we're proud at how far our young, dyslexic warrior has come. Number 2 (9yrs) developed something of a bird obsession after spending hours glued to 'Springwatch' and has spent much of the summer identifying birds and educating us at the same time. In the last couple of weeks, he's also decided that he *would* like to learn to read so has begun sharing his older brother's books and doing rather well with them. Number 3 (5yrs) finally grasped how to make it half way across the width of the pool and was moved up to stage 2 (after a very painful, and expensive, 16 months in the first stage) and has also declared she wants to learn to read - so out will come the Jolly Phonic flashcards (for a week or two anyway). Number 4, our little baby doll, (3yrs) has finally started to talk, and now doesn't shut up, and has declared she will start to wear 'big baby' pants very soon - don't even suggest to her that she might be anywhere near leaving babyhood!

We have acquired a 2 berth caravan that we intend to use as a guest room, which needs painting, and then number 1 and myself will make upholstery covers for the new foam blocks we bought (we treated ourselves to one sewing lesson with a local seamstress, so here we go!); we have the veggie garden to get in some sort of order; the cupboards need an 'Autumn clean' (time ran away with me before I had chance to do a 'Spring clean') and oh yes, we have our new topic to start....

So even without targets, a curriculum or even a schedule of some sort, we've got a pretty busy and fun-filled Autumn to look forward to. We'll have many hours of uninterrupted family time to enjoy; countless squabbles to sort out I'm sure, and all the usual crazy juggling that goes with being a busy family. I am truly appreciative of all the time I will get to spend with my 4 slightly wild but loveable ragamuffins, and feel rather sad when I hear parents saying they can't wait to pack their offspring back off to school at the end of the holidays. For us, September simply means 'family time', as does every other month of the year. Our focus is never on measuring progress or working out what the next step should be, but rather on allowing each child to develop at their own speed, in the direction they choose. Ain't it grand not to be going back to school!

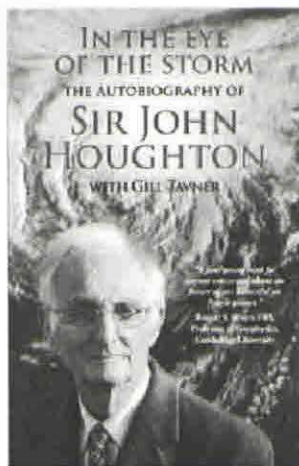
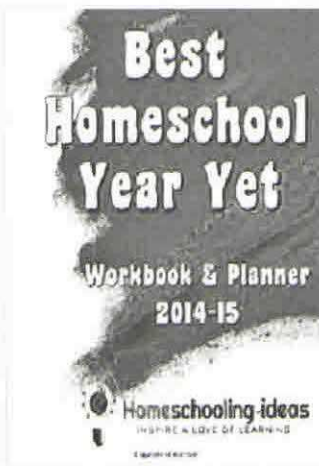
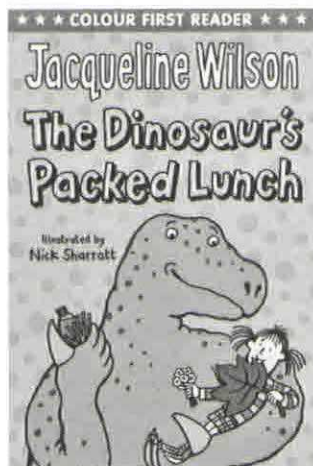
*'Permanently Frazzled' (name and address supplied)*

## Book Reviews

by Tamatha Dolling

We would love to hear about the books which you and your family have read and enjoyed, so please send us your reviews for the newsletter! Don't worry about illustrations or ISBN numbers as those can be added by the editor. See inside front cover for submission addresses.

Don't forget that the EO Amazon store has a wide range of books on offer, and by using the store you not only get Amazon's great prices, but you also help EO to raise funds. The store can be accessed via the main EO website.



This month we are featuring a review by our newest reviewer, Cove, who is 11 years old. Thank you for such a great review Cove!

### **The Dinosaur's Packed Lunch**

Author: Jacqueline Wilson

Publisher: Corgi Pups

RRP: £3.59 (£1.99 on kindle)

ISBN: 978-0552557825

This is a story about a girl called Dinah who did not like going to school. The school is visiting a museum and she has not got a packed lunch.

An iguanodon dinosaur comes to life and feeds her a dinosaur's packed lunch! Next day she turns into a dinosaur and has lots of fun.

I like this book and suggest this book for children who like dinosaurs and funny stories.

### **Best Homeschool Year Yet**

Author: Julie Gilbert

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

RRP: £14

ISBN: 9781499743012

Website: [www.homeschooling-ideas.com](http://www.homeschooling-ideas.com)

**We have one copy of this excellent planner to give away. If you would like to be entered into the prize draw please email your details to [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org) by the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

One of the biggest challenges in home educating can be finding time to fit everything in—from finding resources, to facilitating learning, to organising field trips, keeping chaos at bay and feeding everyone – the 'to do' list can seem endless. This workbook and planner from home educating mum Julie Gilbert is designed to make life easier. It is much more than a simple calendar or planning aid as it has been designed to help you get the most out of home education, and to help you see what works and what doesn't, for you and your family. The book is divided into four sections:

1. Learn from last year then say goodbye: essentially doing a review of what worked or not.
2. Dream Big: deciding what a best homeschool year means to you
3. Take Action: turn your dreams into actionable steps
4. Calendar and Action Worksheets: to help you stay on track or make adjustments as you go.

Each section has lots of room for writing and getting all your ideas down on paper. The boxes in the calendar are also big enough to write in lots of activities. Overall this is an excellent resource to allow home educators to plan ahead and to take time out to find out what is working best for their family. The planner is available to download from the website if you prefer working online instead of on paper. The website is also full of lots of ideas and additional resources.

### **In the Eye of the Storm: The Autobiography of Sir John Houghton**

Author: Sir John Houghton with Gill Tavner

Publisher: Lion Books

RRP: £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-7459-55841

No matter your views on climate change there is no denying it is one of the most talked about issues facing the world right now. It can often be hard to find clear and simple explanations for what is happening to our climate, but in his autobiography Sir John Houghton seeks to do this.

A renowned scientist, Sir John has been at the forefront of researching the Earth's atmosphere for much of his career. He is probably best known for being the Director General of the UK Meteorological Office at the time of The Great Storm, in 1987, but away from the spotlight he has been a leading light in climatic research since arriving at Oxford University in 1948.

Over his long career Sir John has been instrumental in helping the scientific community and the World at large understand the changes that our planet is undergoing. He is a deeply religious man and it is interesting to see how the quest for the truth in both religious and scientific matters has shaped his thinking. As he himself said, "The more I have found out along the way the more I have realized just how much more there is to know. It's a marvellous, endless and constantly engaging quest in which the most important thing of all is to maintain a truthful mind, which I have tried to do. Only with a truthful mind can we be objective observers of creation; recording and reflecting upon the wonders we see."

He ends the book with a chapter devoted to current scientific thinking on climate change, and what we can do to ensure the future of our planet, and life as we know it. Sir John's autobiography is a fascinating and engaging look into the life and mind of one of the world's top scientists and is a must read for anyone interested in climate change.

## Penny Pinchers

### Tips for Life on a Budget

**Sensible Shopping** - Steve from Mold sent in this great budgeting advice: *I gave up a couple of years ago using one of the 'big' supermarkets and use one of the German 'discounters' (Lidl & Aldi). There is no need here to use the basic or value brands, as generally they don't have any, and the vast majority of their produce is really high quality. It works for us because we work to a set daily menu, Pizza Monday, Pasta Tuesday, Jacket Potatoes Wednesday etc. I have a pre-prepared shopping list on the computer which I print off on a weekly basis, I then just tick the items I need for that week and, generally speaking, do not buy anything that is not on the list. This way I am not tempted by those special offers that I don't need (those Thai Garlic prawns on BOGOF). I do go to other stores (try the Co-Op just before closing time for fantastic breads at almost giveaway prices) but only for very specific items. I have also informed my children that when the biscuits are gone that is it until next week! May not work for you, but it certainly has for us!*

**Water Saving** - If you're on a water meter, Lyn B from Hampshire sent in some useful advice: *(1) have a note on your loo saying don't flush if it's just a wee! (2) keep the plug in when everyone showers then use containers/buckets to flush the loo - our family's daily showering works out to be about the right amount of water for flushing. (3) have water butts by your drainpipes (4) catch your washing machine waste water (5) wash dishes in a small bowl, and while you wait for the tap to run hot, run off the cold water first into another washing up bowl for rinsing.*

**Alternative Food Suppliers** - Lyn B also sent in this advice: *we buy in bulk from [www.suma.coop](http://www.suma.coop) and [www.infinityfoodsretail.co.uk](http://www.infinityfoodsretail.co.uk) - ethical, good for the planet, exciting when delivered. You can get together with one or two others families if you want to easily get to the minimum cost for delivery. Check out the offers page each time. Many members of our home ed. group also love the excitement of the weekly veg box delivery - again, supporting local, etc. Most veg box schemes also sell lots more than veg. [www.riverford.co.uk](http://www.riverford.co.uk) is a good place to start, as they have franchises over a lot of the UK. By not going to shops, we avoid temptation, and have more time!*

**Transport** - Another tip from Lyn B: *not having a car saves us SO much. many peopel told me I wouldn't be able to home ed without a car - but many of us manage. If you do need a lift, it's amazingly easy to offer petrol money and be offered lifts by the many people who are happy to fill their cars. Other advantages to not owning a car are pretty obvious - health; children knowing their way around.*

**Recycling Clothes** - Another great idea from Lyn B: *our home ed. group meets once a month in a hall where we have a "bring and take area" - there is always stuff to be taken away, and the only rule is that you take anything of yours that hasn't been taken (rare). My 14 yr old daughter is still completely happy in passed on clothes, and it's lovely seeing the same clothes she wore (which were already at least second hand) now being worn by children of all ages. We only buy clothes (or anything actually) if we really, honestly need it - which is very rarely.*

## EO SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) News

The new code is planned to come into effect on the 1st September 2014 but needs to go through and be acknowledged by both Houses Of Parliament. New Transitional Arrangements were published on the 22nd July 2014. Some of the key changes seem to be that from September 2014 onwards:

- 1) Changes have been made regarding the text of the tribunal and how it can obtain EHC assessments. ECHPs may be approved for those who are 16 and older.
- 2) ECHPs that are non-statutory have become transformed.

**Latest guidance from the National Autistic Society includes some clear pointers and also states that those who currently have a statement may have to wait 'three and a half years' to move on to the new system:**

*You will probably have heard that there are going to be changes to the way children and young people's special educational needs (SEN) will be identified, assessed and met in England. The reforms, introduced through the Children and Families Act, come into force in September 2014. It is important to note that the changes only affect families living in England and nothing will change until September 2014. Until then the current system of identifying, assessing and meeting SEN for children and young people will remain the same. Right up until September 2014, you can still apply for a statutory assessment of your child's needs, with a view to getting a statement of SEN. From September 2014, those children and young people who currently have a statement will gradually be brought under the new scheme. This will not happen straight away and the government expects the transition from statements to Plans (the new document for meeting the most complex SEN) will take up to three and a half years.*

### **The key changes:**

The key changes introduced by the Children and Families Act will include:

- a) Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments (section 139a assessments for those in Year 11 currently) will be replaced by Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans
- b) EHC Plans will provide statutory protection comparable to that in Statements of SEN for young people who are in education or training up to the age of 25 instead of ending at 16
- c) Young people over 16 will be entitled to appeal to the First Tier Tribunal with regard to provisions in their EHC Plan
- d) Parents and young people with autism have the option of a personal budget to buy specialist support when a Plan is issued
- e) Local Authorities will be required to publish a 'Local Offer' outlining the support they and other local authorities nearby will normally provide for children with SEN
- f) School Action/School Action Plus and IEPs will no longer exist and school based provision will be replaced by a single category called SEN Support
- g) Health services and local authorities will be required to jointly commission and plan services for children, young people and families

## **A new SEN Code of Practice:**

A new SEN Code of Practice sets out the detail of the new SEN legal framework and provides detailed guidance for professionals who work with children and young people with SEN, specifically:

Local Authorities (education, social care and housing and employment services);

Education providers (early years providers, schools, further education colleges, etc);

Health bodies (Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Trusts, NHS England, etc); and

The SEND Tribunal

Although the SEN Code of Practice contains the guidance that professionals working with children and young people with SEN should adhere to, it is also an essential document for families of children and young people with SEN. We know parents rely on the current Code of Practice to understand their child's entitlements to SEN provision and who is accountable for delivering it. It is therefore essential that the Code is accessible to families and accurately reflects what they expect of professionals who work with their children. Below are answers to common questions we get asked about the SEN reforms:

### **What is an EHC Plan?**

*An EHC Plan will replace current Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments. The plan will be a legal document describing a young person's needs, the provisions to meet those needs and the suitable educational placement. Government has stated that the Plan must be person centred, focusing on the needs and aspirations of the child. EHC Plans will continue into further education and training, and for some young people up to the age of 25.*

### **Who will have an Education Health and Care Plan?**

*The Department for Education has stated that a child or young person who currently has a Statement of SEN will have an EHC Plan. Guidance says that EHC Plans should be issued when the local authority considers the special educational needs of the child cannot be reasonably provided for with resources normally available to mainstream early years, schools and post 16 provisions.*

*Young people aged 19-25 or their parents have the right to request an assessment of their special educational needs at any point and it will be possible for them to have an EHC plan. However there is no automatic right of education up to 25 years.*

*Children and young people with primarily health or care needs will not be issued with a plan, unless these needs impact their education.*

### **Will there be help for children without an EHC Plan?**

*Yes, SEN Support will be the support available in school for children and young people who have special educational needs but do not have Education, Health and Care plans.*

## **What is a personal budget?**

*All families whose child has an EHC plan will have a right to request a personal budget. The personal budget will allow young people or parents to buy support identified in the plan directly, rather than relying on the local authority.*

*Parents or young people will be given a choice of whether they want to take control of the personal budget by either having an agency managing the funds on their behalf or by receiving direct payments, allowing them to purchase and manage the provision themselves.*

## **What is the local offer?**

*It is a requirement for the Local Authority to publish information about what provision it expects will be available for children and young people with SEN aged 0 – 25 years, both within and outside their local area. The local offer must include information about:*

- 1) Education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN (which should include information about its quality and the destinations/outcomes achieved by those who use it)*
- 2) Arrangements for identifying and assessing children and young people's SEN (including arrangements for requesting an EHC needs assessment)*
- 3) Other education provision (outside of schools or colleges such as sports or arts provision)*
- 4) Training provision, including Apprenticeships*
- 5) Arrangements for travel to and from schools, post-16 institutions and early years providers*
- 6) Support to help children and young people in moving between phases of education (for example from early years to school, from primary to secondary) and to prepare for adulthood*
- 7) Sources of information, advice and support in the Local Authority's area relating to SEN forums for parents and carers, support groups, childcare and leisure activities*
- 8) Arrangements for making complaints, for the resolution of disagreements, mediation and parents' and young people's right to appeal a decision of the local authority to the tribunal.*

The Code of Practice says local authorities must involve children in planning decisions about which services for young people with SEN are needed. This includes planning the content of the local offer, deciding how to publish the offer and providing feedback on the services contained in the local offer.

**The NAS would like to thank the Council for Disabled Children for allowing us to use their FAQs as basis for the above information. If you have any questions about the new SEN reforms in England, or would like further information about how this may affect your child, please contact the Education Rights Service on 0808 800 4102**

IPSEA expressed their concern to the House Of Lords that the code "may be far too lengthy and complex to be of use to families". They have also recently set out a useful EHC checklist plan, for those who may be applying for one:

The four underpinning principles:

The preparation process and the contents of the EHC plan must reflect the four key statutory principles which require LAs to have regard to:

- (a) the views, wishes and feelings of the child and his or her parent, or the young person;
- (b) the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, participating as fully as possible in decisions relating to the exercise of the function concerned;
- (c) the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions;
- (d) the need to support the child and his or her parent, or the young person, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help him or her achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes (Children and Families Act, section 19, our bold type) Plans should also be "clear, concise, understandable and accessible to parents, children, young people, providers and practitioners". The law requires needs and provision to be "specified", which case law has established means no vagueness, especially in the provision sections.

**Feel free to contact us if you would like to get involved with EO SEND:**

**[e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)**

References:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/335489/transitional\\_arrangements\\_for\\_parliamentarians.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335489/transitional_arrangements_for_parliamentarians.pdf)

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[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/328221/SEND\\_implementation\\_update\\_-\\_June\\_update\\_version\\_15.1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/328221/SEND_implementation_update_-_June_update_version_15.1.pdf)

<http://www.autism.org.uk/living-with-autism/education-and-transition/primary-and-secondary-school/extra-help-for-your-child-in-school/extra-help-in-school-england-and-wales/preparing-for-change-sen-reforms-england.aspx>

<http://www.ipsea.org.uk/news/changes-to-sen-law/ipseas-concerns-about-the-new-sen-code-of-practice.aspx>

<http://www.ipsea.org.uk/AssetLibrary/News/IPSEA%20EHC%20plan%20checklist%20July%202014.pdf>

## CRITERIA for LOCAL GROUP LISTING on EO WEBSITE

### ***Is your Local Home Education Group listed on the EO website? If so, PLEASE READ ...***

While we welcome the increasing diversity of HE groups and other alternative education resources, this has meant that some anomalies have crept in to the EO website listing of HE groups, and we feel that clarification is needed.

Inclusion in the list is dependant upon the group being organised in accordance with the general understanding of a Home Education Group, that is:

- A group of home educating families within a specific area, providing mutual support, sharing information and resources, whether by electronic means or by meeting for social and educational activities.
- Activities are free (or at small contribution to cover costs); parents attend with their children, who are of mixed ages.
- Usually, activities take place at a variety of venues in the area, are organised by different parents and open to all local HE families.

These are essential criteria for the EO website Local Group listing.

Please note, we do require two named contact people for the group, with email and/or phone details, to ensure we can keep in touch with you, though these do not need to be shown in the public entry (the email contact form is directed to one of the given email addresses).

Further information about your Home Ed group should give an indication of what kind of activities take place and how it is organised, so that potential members can make an informed choice as to whether they wish to join your group. Where Facebook or other social media are mentioned, this should be part of the general group description and not as a replacement for Yahoo group/email/phone/website.

PLEASE NOTE – alternative/small/free schools/learning centres (e.g. where activities are organised only at a specified venue, requiring fees with a fixed course commitment/timetable, and children are left without parents) do NOT qualify for HE group listing. Nor do websites, Facebook pages etc. that simply list books/resources/equipment/etc. If you are unsure, please email the Local Groups Co-ordinator with a full description.

Organisers of Local HE Groups are asked to check their entries on the EO website AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, to ensure that they conform to the above criteria and that the contact information is up to date and accessible. If you find that amendments are required, please email the Local Groups Co-ordinator as soon as possible: EO Local Groups [eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

**GROUPS THAT DO NOT SUPPLY THE REQUESTED INFORMATION, OR APPEAR NOT TO FIT THE DESCRIPTION ABOVE, WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE EO LISTING BY 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.**

*(though of course you are free to re-apply if you missed the deadline!)*

***Do you run a local group with other home educating families?*** If so and you'd like an entry on the local groups list on the website (and in the newsletter), please complete the application form on the website by choosing 'HE Groups [Area]' from the left hand menu at: <http://www.educationotherwise.net>

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

**HERs** – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that groups are not always run by EO members. Further information on the groups listed below is available via the Local HE Groups area of the EO website. **If you know of a group that's not listed, please ask the organiser to enter it at [www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)**

**Group organisers** – please remember when giving details of events, that this list (both in Newsletter and on main area of website) may be seen by people who are not members of Education Otherwise, and adjust your information accordingly. Please also notify us promptly of contact & other changes via the Local Groups Co-ordinator: [eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

### England

#### Bedfordshire

**Christian Home Ed** – Scott and Rachel, [scottandrachei@ntlworld.com](mailto:scottandrachei@ntlworld.com)

**Busy B-Hes** – Weekly drop-in offering chats and support; activities.

Pauline 01234 720819 / 07976 026167 [p.curl28@btinternet.com](mailto:p.curl28@btinternet.com)

**BedHed** – An informal group of home educating families in and around Bedford <http://bedhed.org.uk>

#### Berkshire

**Berkshire Home Educators** – for HE families in & adjoining Berkshire

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/berkshirehomeeducators/>

**Expanding Horizons**: trips, activities, regular meet ups and information for other Local groups. [www.expandinghorizonsuk.com](http://www.expandinghorizonsuk.com) : Rebecca

01494 882484, [expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com](mailto:expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com)

**Heroes-HE** - weekly Home Education Club at animal farm, with

workshops, etc. [www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html](http://www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html)

#### Bristol

**Bristol Home Education** – A local support group Bristol area.

<http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk/>

**Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP)** Carla 01179 354389

[carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Bristol Home Education Co-op** – contact point for HE activities in

Bristol. E.g. music, Spanish, English and art classes, climbing sessions,

special workshops, days out, and a FREE weekly Co-op meet up with

crafts, activities & socialising. Yahoo group for event details,

information & support: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHEC/>

Contact: [BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.com) Or 0117 9553582

**Home Education in Bristol and the South West** – local website with

information and links for groups, events and activities in Bristol and the

surrounding areas + national info & resources.

<http://alternative-education-bristol.moonfruit.com/>

Contact: Therese, [alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com](mailto:alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com)

#### Buckinghamshire

**Free Range Education** – range of educational events and activities in

Milton Keynes & North Bucks Sarah: 07725 039981

[www.freerangeeducation.org](http://www.freerangeeducation.org)

**Home Education Milton Keynes** – informal non-hierarchical group for

HERs in Milton Keynes & surrounding areas. <http://www.he-mk.org.uk>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MadCows-MK/join>

**Milton Keynes Home Educators Network (MKHEN)** – Educational and

social activities and events, online support groups, mentoring and an

active relationship with the LA. <http://www.mkhen.org.uk>

Georgianne 01908 662256 [sienna-swift@powernet.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift@powernet.co.uk)

**MK-CHEF** – HE support group for Milton Keynes. Affiliated to Home

Service but you do not need to be a Christian to join.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/mk-chef>

**South Bucks Home Educators** – (& surrounding areas)

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

Expanding Horizons, (see Berkshire).

#### Cambridgeshire

**Cambridgeshire Home Educators** – A website all about home educating

in Cambridgeshire including local groups and how to contact them.

[www.cambshomeed.co.uk](http://www.cambshomeed.co.uk) Jane: [cambshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:cambshomeed@gmail.com)

**Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF)** – for parents/carers who

HE or considering HE. <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/>

Morag: 01223 464918 [morag2000@hotmail.com](mailto:morag2000@hotmail.com)

**Cambridge Home Educating Community Activity List** – summary of

sessions and regular groups in Cambridge [www.educationchoice.org.uk](http://www.educationchoice.org.uk)

Karen: 01223 573220 [karen@karenrogers.co.uk](mailto:karen@karenrogers.co.uk)

#### Cheshire

**Mid Cheshire Home Educators** – Bi-monthly meetings and regular

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

**South Cheshire Home Educators** – Jacqui, [southcheshirehe@gmail.com](mailto:southcheshirehe@gmail.com)

<http://www.southcheshirehe.btck.co.uk/>

#### Cornwall

**Home Grown** – 5 E Cornwall HEGroup - Alternate Mondays in Liskeard:

classes in drawing & draughtsmanship / drama For ages 8-15. £6 per

session. : Kath 01579 340591

**Lostwithiel area H.E. group** - New group just starting up - come along

and help! Contact: Craig, [hyrax@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hyrax@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Cumbria

**West Cumbria Home Education Group** – friendly group members from

all over W. Cumbria – Structured or Free-range – All welcome!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/> Contact: Tallie,

[metallienat@aol.com](mailto:metallienat@aol.com)

**Cumbria Home Educators** – Meets fortnightly near Kendal and in

Penrith. Trips and interesting activities around Cumbria and further

afield <http://www.communigate.co.uk/lakes/cumbriahomeed/>

**West Cumbria Home Educators** – (including Keswick). Mutual support

for HERs in West Cumbria : [WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com](mailto:WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com)

#### Derbyshire

**Chesterfield Home Education Group (CHEG)** weekly meetings and days

out for all ages, <https://m.facebook.com/groups/437541106366026/>

Contact: Sandy, [sandy.marriott@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.marriott@gmail.com)

**Derby Home Education Group (DHEG)** – Weekly. Gym Club at sports

centre with instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>

**Home Ed Buxton Area** – Local meetings/activities for HERs and those

considering HE <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeedbuxtonarea>

#### Devon

**Buckfastleigh Wildspace** – Nature study and gardening group based at

Buckfastleigh Town Hall. Welcomes HE families.

<http://www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900>

**Dart Valley Home Ed Network** – Out and about visits: natural history

photography and more. Members-only internet group. Hannah

and Gordon 01803 762788 [lindnich@tesco.net](mailto:lindnich@tesco.net)

**Exeter Home Education Community** Wednesday drop-in; GCSE; green

woodwork permaculture pottery & more. [nbedford@btinternet.com](mailto:nbedford@btinternet.com)

<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk> Neil 01363 82314

**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group, for accompanied children.

[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK\\_HomeEd/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/)

**Stover HE Group** – Stover/ Newton Abbot. Informal educational and

social meets in local and surrounding areas.

[stoverhegroup@gmail.com](mailto:stoverhegroup@gmail.com)

**Teignbridge and Torbay Home Educators** – Social events and

educational visits. <http://www.teignbridgeandtorbayhe.co.uk>

Julia 07905 293223 [Julia@classroomfree.co.uk](mailto:Julia@classroomfree.co.uk)

**Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group**. Based in 5 Dartmoor,

local and area groups & resources, plus promotion of your groups.

<http://dartmoor-sw-he-group.yolasite.com/>

Contact: [dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com)

**South Devon Home Education Group** –

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

Helen 01803 390639 [helenlloydhoare@btinternet.com](mailto:helenlloydhoare@btinternet.com)

**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday - A friendly group

for children of all ages. Contact: Lisa 07969299543 or Sue

[su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## Dorset

**HEoND**, Home Educators of North Dorset, friendly group meeting on a regular basis in Sturminster Newton. June, bugchick@mac.com <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation/>

**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings Carol 01202 677066 carolstone@yahoo.co.uk

**HERA** – friendly group meets in Poole weekly, providing support for HE families/prospective HE. Contact Tracey scallieuk@hotmail.co.uk **Bournemouth and Poole Home Educators** – Bournemouth/Poole area for play dates and visits to places of interest/museums/etc. [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth\\_and\\_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth_and_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795). Emma: bmt.home.ed@gmail.com

## Durham

**Durham HE** – Yahoo group. Get-togethers arranged between members in various areas of County <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeed>

## Essex

**A Different Class Home Education Group** – Southend-on-Sea. Non-profit weekly meetings regular outings. [www.adifferentclass.org](http://www.adifferentclass.org)

**Haverhill HE group** – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex. Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk)

**WIGWAM Epping Forest** – A weekly informal drop-in group. Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

**Southend HE Group** – Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk>

## Gloucestershire

**GlosHE.org.uk** – HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. <http://www.gloshe.org.uk/>

**Glos Otherwise Club** Fiona 01684 290087 [brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk)

**Forest of Dean HE group** – Bridge and dam building river clearance fire building woodland walks etc. Roxy [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)

**Stroud email list** Nick 01453 840036 [nick.weir@localfood.org.uk](mailto:nick.weir@localfood.org.uk)

**Cirencester and Cotswold group** – Meetings plus will answer HE queries. Pam 01285 721008 [pamela.perryman@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.perryman@gmail.com)

## Hampshire

**ActiveO** HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire, <http://www.activeo.co.uk/index.html>

Contact: Julie, [juliegoddard23@btinternet.com](mailto:juliegoddard23@btinternet.com) 01243 552168

**East Hampshire Home Education Group (EHHE)** Social activities mainly aimed at 5-11 year olds but all ages are welcome. Fields and playground access. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/808282682520757/?ref=ts&fref=ts> Contact: Alison, [a.johns@btinternet.com](mailto:a.johns@btinternet.com)

**Hampshire FRHEBEES** – Free Range & Home Educated Bees. West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBees/>

**North Hampshire HE Group** – Regular activities and meetings organised suitable for all ages <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NH-HE/>

Jaki 07731 805323 [jakimparsons@gmail.com](mailto:jakimparsons@gmail.com)

**Portsmouth Home Education Group** – HE or Interested in HE <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portsmouthhomeed/>

**SEEDS** – Meets every term time afternoon for sports/play + weekly full day activity. Southampton. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

## Herefordshire

**Hereford Home Education** – Indoor and outdoor facilities ages 3-15. [herefordhe@gmail.com](mailto:herefordhe@gmail.com)

**Monmouth and Herefordshire Home Educators** – Local meets and events Yahoo! group. Roxy 07765 058 777

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

## Hertfordshire

**Herts Home Educators** – Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home educators. [newhomeeducators@gmail.com](mailto:newhomeeducators@gmail.com)

## Isle of Wight

**Isle of Wight Learning Zone** – A network of HE families

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

**IW Home Ed** – Facebook group & yahoo group for any and all home educators on IoW. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWHomeEd/>

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

Karen: [Karen@curvespace.com](mailto:Karen@curvespace.com) or 01983 568516

## Kent

**Rochester Group** – Weekly meetings Tues. afternoon Contact: Sally: [sally\\_wilson@lineone.net](mailto:sally_wilson@lineone.net)

**Dragonfly Kidz HE Group** – (Canterbury & Thanet) meets socially for learning activities swimming bowling days out etc. in a wide range of locations around Canterbury Thanet Whitstable etc. All Welcome! Steph for more info: [stephgater@rocketmail.com](mailto:stephgater@rocketmail.com) 01304 814362. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dragonflykidzhomeeducationgroup/>

**Kent ASD Home Ed** – For parents/carers of ASD/Aspergers children who are educating them 'otherwise'. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asd-home-ed-medway>

**Medway and Maidstone HE activity group - HE OMEGA** – A group of home educating families in Medway and Kent.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>

Contact Esther: [e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk)

**SATHE Supporting Autism Through Home Education** – West Kent group open to all parents/carers HE/flexi-schooling or considering EO for children with autism/ sensitivities or learning difficulties. Denise 07554 386844 [S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk)

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/S-A-T-H-E/>

**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for trips, hall meets, swimming etc. To join Yahoo! group email:

[southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Or contact: Lesley Herriot [lesley294@aol.com](mailto:lesley294@aol.com) 07828193668

<http://www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk>

**Wealden Home Educators' Network** – active network of home educating families in SE England. We offer help and support, information, activities, events and camps for home educators.

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

**Lancashire**

**LEAD Home Education** – swap ideas, share stories and arrange local social gatherings. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead\\_he/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/)

**Boneheds** – Help support advice and friendship to all families who are home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton Lancashire and surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boneheds/>

**Home Ed Leyland** – Friendship help support and advice for all families who are home-educating (or considering HE) in Leyland and surrounding districts <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-l-ly/>

## Leicestershire

**Stoneygate** Weekly play session at Stoneygate.

£3.50 per family, including drinks. Large, safe, grassy area,

[www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/)

Contact: Cat, [catbellingerg@gmail.com](mailto:catbellingerg@gmail.com)

**Leicestershire Christian Home Educators** – monthly meet up every 3rd Tuesday. Free play opportunity in a safe and fun place. Home Ed Off-Peak Pass available: £1.50 per child £5 per family free drinks. All welcome! Anne-Marie Marshall: [mrsamarshall@googlemail.com](mailto:mrsamarshall@googlemail.com)

**Charnwood & Melton Yahoo Group** – many home ed groups, gatherings and Events. Vikki, [vikkiandmartin@googlemail.com](mailto:vikkiandmartin@googlemail.com)

**HE-AL message board** – details of HE Events in Leicestershire. Site run by local HE groups, but open to all Herts in the Leicestershire area

<http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>

## Lincolnshire

**Lincolnshire HE** – <http://www.home-ed.uk.net/index.htm>

**Home Ed Lincs** – Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home\\_ed\\_lincs/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/)

**North Hykeham HE Group** – Thurs 10-11.30ish. Primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328 [debi-crow@googlemail.com](mailto:debi-crow@googlemail.com)

**Homeschool Lincolnshire** – active and supportive group, 40+ families incl. plenty of teenagers. Monthly events and activities list: Elaine. 01507 328688, [homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com)

## London

**South London Home Education Googlegroup** – email group for HE activities in 5 London area. <http://groups.google.com/group/slhe>  
Contact Angela: [mastweiler@gmail.com](mailto:mastweiler@gmail.com)

**Markfield - Portland H.E. Group** For children under 12yrs. Contact: Shelly : [Shellydonael@gmail.com](mailto:Shellydonael@gmail.com)

**The Otherwise Club (NW)** – A community centre for HE families. Leslie 0208 969 0893

**Brandram Roaders** – Weekly meetings in term time. [rubbyraoburn@hotmail.com](mailto:rubbyraoburn@hotmail.com)

**Haringey Home Education Club** – meetings and other events <http://www.hhec.org.uk/> @hhec.org.uk

**Magpie Home Educators (East London)** – Phil 0208 500 1053

**Home Study Groups** – small group of HE families pooling resources for tutored home study groups. Ingie 0203 566 8706 [iberritt@gmail.com](mailto:iberritt@gmail.com)

**WIGWAM** Jubilee Park N9 - Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Norfolk

**Home Education in Norfolk (HENS)** – A group for HE families in Norfolk, Those on the borders also welcome.

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

**West Norfolk Home Educators** – A meeting place for home educators and families interested in home educating.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

**The Barefoot Learners** – Games and activities for all ages. Be Coffin 07814 592 290 or 01263 73 99 83

## Northamptonshire

**Northants HE** – Informal group meets regularly for various activities <http://www.northantshe.org.uk/>

**IFlow** – weekly HE community group in NW Northants. Professionally led educational activities. Wide range of resources in a large community space with sports facilities and outdoor play [www.iflow-he.org](http://www.iflow-he.org) Email: [welcomelflow@gmail.com](mailto:welcomelflow@gmail.com)

## Nottinghamshire

**Notts Sheep Special** – Online support group for HE parents of special needs/differently-abled children in Nottinghamshire & bordering counties. [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts\\_Sheep-Special/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts_Sheep-Special/)

## Oxfordshire

**Oxfordshire Home Educators** – A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire but those in neighbouring counties also welcome to join. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OxonHE/>

**OHED** – Website with information about HE in Oxfordshire

[www.ohed.org.uk](http://www.ohed.org.uk) Louisa: [louisa.southey@gmail.com](mailto:louisa.southey@gmail.com) or 01865 735705

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).

## Shropshire

**Rushbury/Stretton HE Group** – Parent and child-led activities as well as people from the wider community Beverley 01743 718429

**Telford area HE** – activities for times and dates of skating football and drama sessions. Denise 07866 888879

**Shropshire Home Education** – For HEers in Shropshire area to chat arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>

**Otherwise Engaged** – Online diary of group activities cultural events workshops resources and projects for Shrops and West Mids based HE families: <http://www.otherwise-engaged.org.uk/home-education.html>

## Somerset

**Taunton Home Education Group** – Free play, arts & crafts, games, etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tauntonhomeeducation/>  
[tauntonhomeeducation@yahoo.com](mailto:tauntonhomeeducation@yahoo.com) <http://tauntonhomeed.blogspot.com/>

**HEY Yeovil** – All HE families welcome. Lyn Crocker 01963 23669 [heyeovil@hotmail.com](mailto:heyeovil@hotmail.com)

**Wells Swimming Group** – Weekly swimming Wells Leisure Centre term time only. Lesley 01749 689241 [mumfordturner@hotmail.com](mailto:mumfordturner@hotmail.com)

**Oake HE Group** – Monthly meetings and regular outings.

Maggie 01984 624651

**North Somerset HE Group** – Weekly children's gym walks outings etc.

Yahoo! group for members. Vicky 01275 848425

[victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk)

**Bath HE Yahoo! Group** –

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/>

## Suffolk

**Dennington HE Group** – Wide range of activities all ages welcome.

Janet 01728 638795 [janetlomas@gmail.com](mailto:janetlomas@gmail.com)

**Haverhill HE Group** – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex.

Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk)

**Ipswich Wednesdays** – Shared lunch and activities. £3.50 per family.

Contact Helen: [helen@design256.com](mailto:helen@design256.com)

**Ipswich town centre group + Book Club** – Lisa 07538 102322

[llw\\_llg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk)

**Tostock HE Group** – All families welcome to this very friendly group. Jan 01359 251184 [angusto@btinternet.com](mailto:angusto@btinternet.com)

## Surrey

**Dorking Home Educators** – Meet fortnightly in Dorking. Social and pre-booked activities. Regular outings and trips. Contact: Amanda:

[schrondingperscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrondingperscat81@hotmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/113572308842436](http://www.facebook.com/groups/113572308842436)

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

**SW Surrey Home Ed** – Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming.

<http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

**Sutton/Epsom HE group ESHEG** – meetings every Thursday plus

occasional outings, Contact: Neia, [neia.glynn@btinternet.com](mailto:neia.glynn@btinternet.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/175604625849421/>

**Leatherhead Home Education Group** – Leatherhead and surrounding

area regular day trips and activities. Chrissie Thorpe 07840285703

[christabelthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelthorpe@hotmail.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/313168112059023/>

**Home Educators Learning Project** – Aims to bring together Surrey based home educators for educational support social and educational outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>

**Godalming HE Group** – A group for HE families based in South West Surrey and surrounding area. <http://swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk>

**Surbiton Home Ed Group (SHEd)** – parent-led clubs, professionally led

educational workshops (local flora & fauna; archaeology; ICT). children

aged 0-16 regularly attending. Contact Ingrid: [ingrid.meaker@mac.com](mailto:ingrid.meaker@mac.com)

## Sussex

**ActiveO HE Group W Sussex and Hants** (see Hampshire)

**HEDGE Home Ed Group** – Hastings/St. Leonards weekly social meetings + trips etc. [www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk](http://www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk) Beshlie 01424 812870

**South Eastern Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) See Kent for details.

**Forest Row HE Group** – regular monthly meetings + many other fun &

learning <http://www.facebook.com/groups/forestrowhomeeducators>

**Eastbourne EO Group** – Regular gatherings & activities.

<http://www.shinies.org.uk/>

**Brighton and Hove Home Educators** – Information on HE events and

groups in the area. <http://bhhe.wordpress.com/>

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

**Hastings & Rother Home Educators (HARHE)** – small number of families; activities include Forest School, cycling, daytrips, bowling and

swimming. Check out our website and us or come along to an activity

[www.harhe.btck.co.uk](http://www.harhe.btck.co.uk) Catherine: 01424 812213

## Warwickshire

**Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry)** – For over 11s working towards Arts Awards. Sarah [sarah@nellyb.co.uk](mailto:sarah@nellyb.co.uk)  
**Worcestershire Home Educators Network** – Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county. <http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/>  
**Warwick District HE** – Primarily for children 0-11 though all welcome. Warwick and Leamington, Alison 07782 299181 <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>

## Wiltshire

**Chapmanslade H E group.** For anyone Home Educating (or considering it) in town and surrounding area. Meetings twice monthly - Facebook: Chapmanslade Home Education Group. Dr Contact: Maria, [maria@trivialbusiness.co.uk](mailto:maria@trivialbusiness.co.uk)

**Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle** – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance, but believe that best education comes from experience. Dee: [dee.dilloway@yahoo.com](mailto:dee.dilloway@yahoo.com), 07753 260317

## Worcestershire

**Bewdley HE Group** – Weekly meetings, social/activities etc. all welcome. Sophie 01299 405669, [sophiebutcher29@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sophiebutcher29@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Worcestershire Home Ed** Yahoo Group Email list for Worcs HEs <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

## Yorkshire

**Yorkshire and North Yorkshire. (North West)** We are a support group for HE families living in and around York. Regular monthly meetings also social, education and fun activities during the month. <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/yorkdistrict/info>  
Contact: Tracey, [tracey@littleave.freemove.co.uk](mailto:tracey@littleave.freemove.co.uk)  
**HEDG** – Home Education Doncaster Group. Regular H.E. meetups and outings Doncaster & surrounding area. See our Facebook or <http://www.homeeducationdoncaster.co.uk/>, or contact: Gillian, [gillycooper@hotmail.com](mailto:gillycooper@hotmail.com) 07938 007 306

**DHE** Doncaster home educators Yahoo group for families in the Doncaster and surrounding areas. Cheryl May on 07825 914340 [cheryl0407@aol.com](mailto:cheryl0407@aol.com) <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/DHE/>  
**HENNEY (Home Education Network North East Yorkshire)** Regular meet ups around the Scarborough and East coast area. Lisa Riley [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk) [henney-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:henney-owner@yahoo.com)  
**Huddersfield Art Workshops** – Monthly 8yrs plus. Jane 01484 645034  
**Huddersfield Book Group** Monthly Marsden library. Jane 01484 645034  
**Huddersfield Home Educators** – Monthly themed meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/> Mandy 01484 460026 [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk)

**Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group** – A friendly & active group with visits & workshops for children 8-16.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>  
**NYHEC (group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire, [nyhecowner@yahoo.com](mailto:nyhecowner@yahoo.com)

**North + West HE Group** – Meets Skipton monthly and Bradford Gym Club weekly. Regular meetings and outings. Judith 01756 791356

**Rotherham Home Education** – friendly informal group for HEs in & around S.Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/> Pauline 077764 06409 [collecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk)

**SYHEC – Yahoo!** group for parents HEing in South Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/syhec/>

**Wakefield District Home Education Group** – New Group 2013. Currently regular Bowling & Ice skating. Will be organising more trips and visits as numbers increase. Contact Tracey: [wakefieldHE-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:wakefieldHE-owner@yahoo.com)

## Regional Groups

### East of England

**East Anglian Home Ed Network** – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/East-Anglian-Home-Ed-Network/>

## East Midlands

**East Midlands Home Ed** – forum to help inform and support HE families in the East Midlands. <http://groups.yahoo.com/oup/emhe>

## South East

**FLAGS (Kent/Surrey/Sussex)** – Active group (Kent/Surrey/Sussex) meeting weekly during term time <http://www.flags-education.org>  
Karen 01732 864524 [karenlow@uwclub.net](mailto:karenlow@uwclub.net)  
**ActiveEO** HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire  
Contact number 01243 552780 <http://www.activeo.co.uk/index.html>  
**South Hants Home Ed** – A support group for home educators <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southhantshomeed/>  
**FAREGOS Home Education Group** – HE group/email list covering Fareham Gosport and South Hants. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FareGosHE/>  
**Home-EASE (Home Education for all South East)** – Group of HE families in South-East England 0753 1677 083 [homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk)  
**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) See Kent for details.  
**Walden Home Educators' Network (WHEN)** (SE England) see Kent.

## South West

**Home Education Centre (Devon/Dorset/Somerset)** – Meets two days a week. Workshops sports activities and support. <http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk>  
**HERs and Events SW** – network to support new HEs or those new to the area. New input welcomed. [southdevonic@gmail.com](mailto:southdevonic@gmail.com) <http://hecontactingmum@yahoo.co.uk>  
**HE in Bristol and SW** – see Bristol

## West Midlands

**Mercia Education Group** – Regular, structured meetings – various venues Lichfield and surrounding area. Academic base – many activities – wide age range. <http://merciaeducationgroup.yolasite.com/>

## Isle of Man

**Home Education on the Isle Of Man**  
Contact: Dawn, [sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Home Educating Network - Isle of Man** – Informal group of parents HEing on the Isle of Man. Yvonne, [isleofmanic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmanic@educationotherwise.org) <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>

## Wales

### Carmarthenshire

**Carmarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown Carmarthen [caroline.milburn@yahoo.com](mailto:caroline.milburn@yahoo.com)  
**North Carmarthen HE Group** – meetings for friendship & play. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncarmarthenhomeed>

### Denbighshire

**Francysyllte HE group** – Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. [vivodsam@gmail.com](mailto:vivodsam@gmail.com)

### Flintshire

**Flintshire Home Education** – Regular meet ups activities & support. [flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)

### Glamorgan

**Cardiff Home Education Group** – Meets Mondays during term time, in Pontcanna. Social group children all ages, everyone welcome. Contact: Sarah – [cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com) website [www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com](http://www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com)  
**New Foundations HE** – Meets Cardiff Thursdays 10-4. All activities free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com> 02920216502 [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com)  
**Bridgend Home Educators** free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, outside speakers, activities, etc. See [www.bridgendhomeeducators.org](http://www.bridgendhomeeducators.org) or email [info@bridgendhomeeducators.org](mailto:info@bridgendhomeeducators.org)

## Gwynedd

**Garndolbenmaen Home Education Group** (North West Wales). Garndolbenmaen Home Education Group, Gwynedd, North Wales. Social home ed group based near Porthmadog.  
<http://garngroup.co.uk/> Contact Steve, [mungfu@gmail.com](mailto:mungfu@gmail.com)

**Langower HE Group** – Weekly meetings. [rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)  
**Creative Learning and Support** – Now meet every Wed. pm in Bangor. Julie on 01286 678181 or Sarah on 01248 355182  
<http://www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk>

## Monmouthshire

**South Wales Home Educators Network** – Email list for Home Educators in and around S Wales to arrange get-togethers /event, share ideas & news and offer support. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swhen/>  
**Usk Home Education** – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HERS in the area for fun and games and cups of tea. Roxi: [cdsnhf@gmail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@gmail.com) or 01989 768 128 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HerefordshireHE/>

## Montgomeryshire

**Shiny Happy Children** – Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie [llanfyllinHE@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllinHE@gmail.com)

## Neath Port Talbot

**Wise Up Community HE Group** (Port Talbot) – Support and information for home educating families and those considering home education.  
<http://www.zoneseven.co.uk/ianna.violet@hotmail.com>

## Powys

**New Leaf HE Group** (Newtown) – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. <http://newleafgroup.org.uk/> Contact: [info@newleafgroup.org.uk](mailto:info@newleafgroup.org.uk)

**Wrexham and Surrounds Home Education (WASHE)** – Activities around Wrexham area. <http://washe.co.uk/>

## Regional Wales

**Elective Home Education Wales** – Linking HE families across Wales.  
<http://www.ehow.co.uk>

**Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester** – for information about group activities in the Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester area local EO member Roxi 01989 768128 [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)

**New Foundations** – HE group and charity offering social & educational activities and support in Cardiff and South Wales. Every Mon 10am - 3pm. All HE families welcome. [www.newfoundationshe.com](http://www.newfoundationshe.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/329840653796249/>  
Jayne: [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com) Or 02920216502

## Channel Islands

**Home Education Jersey** – New home education group. Jess: [homeeducationjersey@gmail.com](mailto:homeeducationjersey@gmail.com)

**Guernsey Home Educators** – Fledgling group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey. Yvonne Burford on 01481 264776 or [Atplir@hotmail.com](mailto:Atplir@hotmail.com)

## International (UK based)

**HE-DS (Home Educating a child with Down's syndrome)** – Linking families who are home educating a child with Down's syndrome.  
<http://www.oakwellbarns.co.uk> Yahoo group (private, by invitation)  
Anita Kolaczynska 01686 413502 [anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk)

## PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR LOCAL GROUPS

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015**

The Education Otherwise Policy has been renewed, on the same terms as in previous years. It provides public liability insurance for the kind of activities usually carried out by home education groups, i.e. where parents attend with their children.

We are holding the cost to groups at £10 for the year (or part year) to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015, but as it is heavily subsidised from membership subscriptions, we would urge more groups take advantage of the deal. Not everyone in your group has to be a member of EO, but at least 3 EO member families must take responsibility for organising the group and ensuring that the terms of the insurance policy are followed.

Detailed guidance and an application form are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website. To minimise work for volunteers, we would request members to obtain these from the website, but in case of difficulty you may request details by email from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator:  
<[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)>



**If undelivered please return to:**

**Education Otherwise  
PO Box 1309  
Blackpool FY1 9HN  
United Kingdom**

Delivered by



**Iris Harrison 198201-086  
The Burntlands Rochford  
Rochford  
Tenbury Wells  
Worcestershire  
WR15 8SH**



## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

**Julie Arnold** (Treasurer)

[jarold@educationotherwise.org](mailto:jarold@educationotherwise.org)

**Lei Ashe** (Local Contacts Co-ord)

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**Shena Deuchars** (Membership Sec.)

[sdeuchars@educationotherwise.org](mailto:sdeuchars@educationotherwise.org)

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**Edwina Theunissen** (Enquiries Sec.)

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**Kathleen Thompson**

[ktompson@educationotherwise.org](mailto:ktompson@educationotherwise.org)

N.B. Email to

[trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)

goes to all trustees

Address for correspondence by letter:

Education Otherwise

P.O. Box 1309

BLACKPOOL

FY1 9HN

AND WEBSITE:

[www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)

### Membership

Membership enquiries, address changes, membership cards, new member admin: please contact the Membership Secretary: [membership@educationotherwise.org](mailto:membership@educationotherwise.org) or PO Box 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN

### Other Useful Contacts

Anti-Bullying Contact: **Kathleen Thompson**

01942 89 77 79

College/GCSE Contact: **Roger Scaife** 08445 003 708

GCSEs at Home: **Louise** 08445 003 688

GCSE/Exams email list:

[https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HE-Exams-](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/info)

[GCSE-A\\_AS\\_Levels-OU-Others/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/info)

Concessions Contact: **Lynsey Scott**

[concessions@educationotherwise.org](mailto:concessions@educationotherwise.org)

Concessions Co-ordinator: **Cornelia Theunissen**

(Acting) [c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)

Enquiries Secretary: **Edwina Theunissen**

01978 661 882 [e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)

Flexi-schooling: **VACANT**

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: **Lei Ashe**

[lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org)

Local Group Insurance: **Anne Rix/Julie Arnold**

[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)

Local Groups Listings: **Kennell Family**

[eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

Newsletter Coordinator: **Fiona Stewart**

[<eeonews@btinternet.com>](mailto:eeonews@btinternet.com)

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School Anxiety Support: **Jayne Owen** 08445 008469

Single Parent Contact : **Sam Kruger** 08445 003794

[singleparent@educationotherwise.org](mailto:singleparent@educationotherwise.org)

Special Needs: **Denice** [send@educationotherwise.org](mailto:send@educationotherwise.org)

**Alisa**: 01749 830034 / 07707 060973

SEND email list via: <http://www.he-special.org.uk/>

Treasurer: **Julie Arnold**

[treasurer@educationotherwise.org](mailto:treasurer@educationotherwise.org)

Volunteer Co-ordinator: **Wendy Knight**

[vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org)

Webmaster: **Tom** (Acting)

[webmaster@educationotherwise.org](mailto:webmaster@educationotherwise.org)

# education otherwise

Education Otherwise is a membership organisation which 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 a stamped, A5 S.A.E. to:

P.O. BOX 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN

Helpline 0845 4786 345

Web Site: <http://www.educationotherwise.net>

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Registered Office Address: 61 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL

