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Newsletter Summer 2015

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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 be acknowledged within a few days.

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**Deadline for the Autumn issue is 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015**

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

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[ Postal contributions to: EONL Co-ord, PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT ]

*[NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER]*

*~~~~~ N.B. postal system subject to forwarding delays ~~~~~*

### **Section Editors**

**REVIEWS:** *Tammy Dolling:* bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

or EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT *[\*\*\*NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER\*\*\*]*

**Got an idea for a section you'd like to edit?** Contact Publications Secretary (inside back page)

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## Co-ordinatorial

Many apologies for the late arrival of the EO Summer Newsletter. Pressure of work, and all that ... We did have an excellent volunteer for NL Co-ordinator after the Spring issue; but due to life/family pressures she has unfortunately been unable to pick up the job at this time – so, I'm still hoping some kind, flexible, patient, literate, well organized person will step up ...

### **Please note especially in this issue:**

- 1 – AGM Advance Notice (below)
- 2 – EO Local Group Insurance due soon (p.12)

*Anne, June 2015*

## EO AGM 2015

For the last two years we have held our AGM at the Snibston Museum of Discovery, and had hoped to use this wonderful venue again.

Sadly, it is to close in July. However we have found another family-friendly venue, in Coventry: a meeting room at the Herbert Art Gallery/Museum. The Coventry Transport Museum is very close and also free to visit. Have a look at what's on offer (as well as the meeting): [www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)

[www.transport-museum.com](http://www.transport-museum.com)

We do want you to attend the meeting, please! – AGM at about 1:45 pm; arrivals from 11 am (refreshments provided) and informal discussion before and following the formal meeting. See website & next NL for details.

*N.B. EO postholders may claim travel expenses*

**DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

## EO VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

*(We Need You!)*

### **Local Contacts and Helpline**

#### **Volunteers**

Always needed! If you've had support from EO in the past and want to give something back; or you now have enough experience of home education to share with others and want to experience the 'glow' you can get from supporting new home educators, please get in touch to find out more.

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

#### **Revising Website Pages**

Do you have expertise in a particular section? Notice anything out of date (there's probably lots!)? Don't just tell us – please offer to revise and update the section or article.

Contact: [publications@educationotherwise.org](mailto:publications@educationotherwise.org)

#### **Newsletter Co-ordinator**

To liaise with other members of NL team, prepare copy and ensure it is delivered to printer on time ... further details of what actually happens in practice and FAQs available from Anne Rix <[arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org)> Or Contact: [eonl@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eonl@educationotherwise.org)

### **Wanted! Reader Contributions Please**

Members often tell us how much they enjoy reading other home educators' experiences and ideas – but often these are written on blogs, email lists, facebook, etc. and can easily be lost. Please consider also sending your thoughts to the newsletter, to share in a more permanent form and provide inspiration for others. Short or long(ish!) letters, articles, ideas for activities, how home education works for you ... anything HE-related that you do, is valuable and will be interesting for other families.

Please send to: [eonl@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eonl@educationotherwise.org)

## Report on Meeting with members of the Association of Elective Home Educational Professionals

As mentioned in the previous issue, a new body of LA personnel has been set up with the above title (AEHEP). EO was not invited to send delegates to the Launch (in February) but was invited to an informal meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April, with some of the LA personnel. Jonathan Adams and Anne Rix attended this meeting. An official report was published on 28<sup>th</sup> April and EO released their own report shortly afterwards. Both reports are printed below. A third report was published by a home educator who had attended, with a Special Needs perspective.

### AEHEP and EHE Support Group Discussion – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 12:00 – 2:00pm

#### Present:

Dave Harvey	Tricia Farey	Wendy Charles-Warner
Jenny Dodd	Anne Rix	Alison Sauer
Penny Stephen	Jonathan Adams	Mike Fortune Wood

#### Notes of Meeting.

It was agreed by all attending the meeting that Chatham House Rules [*sic*] would be observed.

The attendees agreed that all actions resulting from discussions would be recorded and shared following the meeting with all attendees. Once agreed for accuracy these would be available to share with all interested parties.

Draft Terms of Reference were shared with the group. These will be discussed at the next AEHEP Committee meeting and regional meetings before being signed off for wider publication.

**Action** All present agreed not to publish these until after the AEHEP Committee and Regional groups had signed these as the final TOR.

Following a wide ranging discussion on items from the 'items for discussion' listed on the agenda the following actions were agreed.

#### **Actions**

1. The AEHEP joint chairs agreed to take back to the Committee the suggestion from the EHE support groups present to allow Associate Membership, or Observer Status for EHE Support groups.
2. The Committee will discuss the collection of data from regional groups in particular the level of 'forced EHE' known to LA and regional members.
3. It was agreed to discuss training for LA EHE professionals at the next committee meeting.
4. It was agreed to discuss the area of SEN and future developments with regard to the new legislation 2014.
5. Take the item of EHE staff compliance with legislation to the next committee meeting.
6. Discuss, how and what information and contact details will be published following the next Committee Meeting.
7. Plan a further meeting with representatives of home educators support groups.
8. Discuss the issue of a statement from the AEHEP which say that it is not the intention of the AEHEP to ask for a National Registration System for EHE to be imposed.

### **EO REPORT ON AEHEP MEETING 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

EO trustees were not informed prior to the meeting that the Chatham House Rule would be applied, although the two participants who had not so far made their attendance public agreed to be listed as having attended. [<http://www.chathamhouse.org/about/chatham-house-rule>]. We believe that our report is within the spirit of this rule. However, before considering whether to accept any further invitation to engage with the AEHEP, trustees will seek clarification of reporting expectations; also of the basis upon which our input is being sought.

We are aware of the report published by Tricia Farey, and the EO trustees who attended the meeting consider that this covers the discussion points thoroughly.

Specific points made by EO trustees who attended were:

- The 2007 Guidelines should be fully implemented by all LAs; this would provide consistency of practice in all areas, and ensure that home educators are treated with respect by LA personnel.
- LAs should work with HERS in their own local areas (without collecting names). This has implications for 'training' in that LA personnel gain understanding and appreciation of the range and value of home education in practice, and exchange information.
- Strong criticism of the NSPCC report particularly as to EHE being a very minor aspect of the cases picked.
- EHE ≠ CME/risk and should not incur referral to other agencies. Ample safeguards are in place to protect children where there are genuine safeguarding issues.
- 'Forced EHE' can develop with appropriate support into a positive experience; the EO Helpline has examples where this has happened.
- Daniel Monk appears not to have sought input from home educators in his presentation to LAs.
- EO is opposed to compulsory registration of EHE families.
- EO supports the 2007 Guidelines in that LAs have no duty with regard to assessment or monitoring of home education.

General points included:

- The remit of the AEHEP (confirmation that the aim is to ensure LAs act within law and guidelines), how far this body could influence individual LAs, potential for involvement of HERS in various capacities.
- The wide variation of procedures and policies between different LAs, some due to local demographics.
- LAs have a duty to offer support but policies vary as to how this is provided and followed up.
- Possible training packages for LA personnel exist; involvement of HERS in developing and providing these.
- Daniel Monk appears to have no understanding of home education, and his presentation to LA is therefore inappropriate as 'training' in EHE.
- Variation of procedures between different LAs; EHE often small proportion of one person's job within LA.
- Statistics from a recent report on the HE Safeguarding Myth were quoted and paper copies handed out.
- Description of an E-learning system that would have minimal cost/time implications for LAs, can be applied to all personnel likely to have contact with HE families (not just EHE staff) and would provide continuity over change of LA personnel.

*Anne Rix and Jonathan Adams, on behalf of EO Trustees.*

## Notes from AEHEP meeting – SEN angle

From the outset it was made clear no one there can represent home educators, they can only give their own views.

### Format of meeting

At the start of the meeting it was stated that the Chatham House Rule would apply. This is taken to mean that the people who attended the meeting cannot be identified unless they have stated themselves to be participants. In addition, views expressed cannot be attributed to an individual. A person attending the meeting can however report what he or she said.

Tricia expressed concern about secrecy and questioned how home educators could pass on their views/questions if they don't know who is attending. It was agreed that names would be published in the notes. A draft will be sent to participants for comments before final notes are agreed for wider distribution.

Should it be the same participants at future such meetings? There are benefits from continuity. Participants could disseminate information to the home education community and feed back to the Association.

Tricia said if the Association met different people it would allow for a wider range of views to be heard.

### SEN

A recent case was discussed from media reports where a child with a statement of SEN had not had annual reviews. Tricia said this was quite common.

What would be the view if parents did not provide input to the annual statement review, what should the LA do?

Tricia said if your child gets no provision from the LA why bother writing reports and attending meetings? Gave example from own experience.

One LA provides support at home if it is not more expensive than other provision.

Every child in school costs at least £5K. Home educators save the state money. Does the LA have access to those funds if a child is not on roll? The High Needs Block can be used but is not ring fenced.

In some local authorities, SEN is not the remit of the home education department.

Tricia said SEN don't understand EHE, EHE wash their hands because SEN, families left in no-man's land.

Do the guidelines needed updating because of SEN?

Were changes to SEN good for families? High hopes initially but it is hard for parents to get all the evidence together.

Parents are able to request an assessment. Tricia said EHE officers should support the parents in putting their case together, all LA officers should understand that evidence won't be based on professional reports or use same jargon in same way but one big difference in new regs is the importance of the parent and how LAs must listen to what they are saying and not brush them off as they have in the past.

Tricia said LAs have no legal grounds to refuse deregistration from special schools yet either they do this or they drag process out. Please can the association send a message to members to tackle this.

### LAs good and bad practice

Home educating families are terrified of local authority officers because of the threat of a referral to social services.

More parents are turning to home education, most are genuine but others do either to avoid exclusions and or because of schools off-rolling.

Could reliable figures be collected for the number of children and young people being off-rolled? Off rolling is on the agenda for the next AEHEP meeting in June.

How many home educated children are unknown to the local authority?

Is it part of the LA's job to check that parents actually want to home educate? In one LA the child's name is taken off the school roll but the place is kept open for 20 days.

Offering home educators something they want is a way to maintain contact, such as paying for exams.

Practice differs in different areas as to what happens when a family ignores the initial approach from the LA; in some areas social workers and police will turn up on the doorstep. Bad news spreads fast and that there are Facebook groups with over 7,000 members.

Where there is trust and a positive relationship, home educators will flag up any safeguarding concerns to the LA. There is a conflation of education and safeguarding, also with Children Missing Education.

Lancashire and Hampshire are examples of good LAs. Tricia said that Hampshire cut back on visits for financial reasons and that if budgets were reinstated the two LAs may react differently, Lancashire has not had the same cuts.

When policies are improved following advice there is an initial dip in visits but then an increase. Some LAs might need bringing into line but it is not the business of the Association to force anyone. One local authority provides half day weekly phone-in surgery and workshops, uses money for support. It would be beneficial to share good practice.

When LAs work with local home educators, relationships improve, so a national body should encourage LAs to talk to local home educators. Some parents would be apprehensive in this situation because they would fear being judged.

Some LA officers are dismissive of home educators and do not use respectful language.

Some local authorities are sending in school nurses.

There are new requirements on public health.

A general discussion took place on data sharing.

There might be a situation where the family asks the home education service to step in and help with other services. Tricia said that's different to unwanted data sharing.

Parents are encouraged to talk to LAs and to send in educational philosophies.

Some cases concern family law, particularly issues with ex partners.

Work is done in translating complexities and helping people to deal with local authorities. Should people always respond to letters from the LA? Tricia said it is best for advice to be given by locals with local knowledge.

A lot of LAs mention Phillips vs Brown but they don't realise the context. It is necessary to read the full hearing.

Once a year LAs should write to families offering information and support and asking families to let them know if there's a problem. This discharges the LA's duty. Then if it appears education is not suitable, it becomes the LA's reactive duty to do something.

### **Safeguarding and seeing the child**

Are home educators more equally or less likely to abuse children? Hard copies of a report on this topic were circulated.

A teacher in school is more likely to be found guilty of abuse than a home educated child is to be abused.

Home educated children are twice as likely to be investigated by social services yet 3.5 to 7 times less likely to end up on a Child Protection Plan.

Are local authorities protecting themselves because of high profile cases where they are terrified it might happen again?

Guidelines are very clear, so all that is needed is to stick to them.

How is home education dealt with at child protection conferences?

Tricia said that Local Safeguarding Children Boards heavily influence what happens on the ground in LAs. EHE managers need to educate them, part of their role is to educate other services.

## **Training on home education and the law**

Daniel Monk is an academic, not a 'jobbing lawyer' and his training material has multiple inaccuracies. Local authorities – particularly in the South East – are getting Daniel Monk to provide training.

Training is available for local authorities on home education and the law.

Training has been delivered to wider services including directors of children's services.

A training package has been offered to LAs free of charge which would normally cost a 4 figure sum and has been turned down because the LA will only use in-house training.

Research into the training of LA officers in home education reveals extensive safeguarding training but only a tiny minority had training in elective home education and the law.

Tricia said Lancashire are developing e-learning system to educate wider services, including health and police, about EHE that could be extended for other LAs to use which would ensure proper understanding.

Tricia said with e-learning all staff are trained, not impacted by changes to personnel as new officers do the training within weeks of taking up post.

Home educators would have to have input to training materials.

Tricia said local home educators would have input in Lancashire.

## **The Association**

Revised draft terms of references for AEHEP are not to be shared more widely at this stage as they have not been seen by other members of the AEHEP committee.

Can anyone outside the local authorities (such as those attending the meeting) be associate members of the Association? To be taken back to the AEHEP committee for further discussion.

Could the Association develop into a professional association, for example as with paralegals, if they don't comply with certain conditions, they get struck off?

Should the Association be able to apply sanctions?

Could the Association have an investigation panel for home educators to refer bad officers? The Association would not have the authority to do such a thing.

Will there be lobbying for compulsory registration?

AEHEP is about LAs working together to achieve consistency. They will listen to home educators but in the end they have to do it for themselves.

Tricia said that one of the members of the committee (not present) was from an LA which was previously an example of an egregiously bad LA, now superb, all about support and no intrusion, so the Association has the knowledge and skills within its own ranks.

The Association would not know where the problems were, and therefore it needs feedback from those at the meeting about what is happening on the ground.

How could home educators who were not known to their LAs put across their views?

Tricia said that in Lancashire those people can already have their say and attend meetings.

Tricia asked about who was on the committee. Names would not be released until after the next meeting in June.

Can the Association make a statement on behalf of AEHEP that it is not their intention to lobby for monitoring? Correspondence with Stephen Bishop led a lot of home educators to believe that the Association would lobby for monitoring.

Emails have been received about the association.

LA officers calling themselves professionals is an insult to true home education professionals  
"If the AEHEP can work with you then we'll all move forward, don't expect the pace to be quick."

## **Actions**

Actions were agreed and will be published soon. *[see official report, page 2 – AR June 2015]*

*Tricia Farey*

## Musings of a Permanently Frazzled Mummy

### *Volunteering on the EO helpline...*

As I write, the political leaders in the UK are frantically trying to drum up last minute support for their policies, ahead of the General Election in 2 days' time. Whatever the outcome, I feel that big changes could be afoot for our minority community, so solidarity amongst us is essential, particularly over the coming months. I remember well the panic I felt during the 'Badman crisis', not just at the prospect of being forced to register my children as home-educers, but more so at the obtrusive and suspicious nature of the proposed annual visits, especially without me being present as my children could be interrogated.

I do, however, have to admit that I did absolutely nothing to support our community at that time: I was very new to the home-ed scene, and still struggling to shake off the shackles of my own education, and the straight-jacket I'd worn as a teacher myself, (ok, so I perhaps haven't totally relaxed, but I'm a darn sight more confident than I used to be!) I pretty much kept my head down and got on with things as quietly as I could, and just hoped that the whole thing would quickly blow over: I kinda felt that I wouldn't be much use, and that all the trouble-shooting would be best left to the 'names' that frequently pop up on many of the home-ed forums, because they seemed to know exactly what to say, who to contact, how to argue with the powers that be.

Fast-forward to 2015, and although I'm still no expert on politics or the law, I do now feel confident enough to offer something back to our community, hence me finding myself volunteering to go on the EO helpline. I'd met Anne, Edwina and Shena, amongst lots of wonderful others, at the AGM last Autumn, and I'd been impressed by their willingness to give up so many hours of their time to support us, year after year, so that I felt it was only right to proffer up some of my time and energy in return. Anne immediately requested an article for this newsletter, and with her knowing my background, I couldn't exactly say that it wasn't my kind of thing, then Edwina decided that I'd do well on the helpline, being approachable and friendly (or as my husband says, not being shy in coming forward...)



The first stint I did on the rota was a real eye-opener. I discovered that so many people, those who are currently home-educing and those who are considering it for their children, have no idea of the current legalities concerning HE, and generally assume that 'school at home' is the expectation of their LA, and the norm amongst HE families. Armed with the helpful and succinct booklet provided by Edwina, and the list of local contacts and useful numbers, I soon set to reassuring my callers that it takes all sorts to home-ed, and all sorts of approaches are perfectly valid and valuable.

I'm finding that my own legal knowledge is improving, as I explain that no, you don't have to follow a curriculum, you don't have to do a set number of hours, that you don't even have to do anything that looks like a school activity, ever in fact, and it's wonderful to hear the sighs of relief as the family I'm talking with exclaims that I've given them the confidence they needed and they're going to write the de-reg letter immediately. (Prompt a quick reference to the EO website where there's a sample de-reg letter and more guidance!) One wonderful lady who I've met on the helpline, calls me with regular updates since her daughter came out of school, and we're even planning to meet up when she travels through my area later this year, so I've made a new friend into the bargain!

The only slightly difficult caller that I've had to deal with was a gentleman asking for local contact info so that he could contact home-educers in a particular area, even though he wasn't HE himself or interested for his own children. I smelt a rat! This was also during my first stint, so feeling a little out of my depth, I referred him to Edwina, as all volunteers are advised to do if they feel they need some

backup. He then growled at me that he'd already spoken to her and that 'She wasn't much use either!' followed by him slamming the phone down on me. What a lovely man! And definitely not a genuine caller!

So, how does being on the EO helpline fit into our busy home-ed family life? Surprisingly well, actually. Edwina is very flexible with the rota, and is willing to work around set commitments that I may have. She's kindly giving me the next month off as I endure the busiest time of my year marking GCSE exam papers (when my ragamuffins will be largely raising themselves, generally running wild, and learning loads in the process....hmmm, starting to realise that I may actually hinder their learning at times....)

Most callers just need a little reassurance that it's something they have a vague chance of doing with some success, and armed with the number of their local contact, they can then get in touch with home-edders in their area, so calls usually don't last long at all. There have been one or two calls where the prospect of me feeding my kids lunch at any point that day was fading, as the caller seemed to have launched me into the role of general counsellor and life-sorter-outer, but it's easy enough to deal with the predicament by explaining firmly but politely that my littlee needs help in the bathroom so I must run, but that they can phone the helpline at any time if they need further support. Once or twice I've needed to check something with Edwina, but my caller has been more than happy to wait for me to be able to get back to them, usually by email, so again, it's a fairly quick and easy process.



One other occasion I've been caught out by the phone was only a week ago on my recent shift: I was racing through to grab a shower before heading out with the kids when the phone rang, and because I was waiting for some important blood test results at the time, I answered it. Luckily it was a short and sweet call that was dealt with promptly, because by the time I'd put the phone down, my goose-pimples had grown goose-pimples: that'll teach me to pick up the phone in a state of semi-undress and in full view of anyone who'd arrived at the door at that moment... good job the volunteer line doesn't yet use Skype!

Not only has my own knowledge increased, but volunteering on the helpline has also helped me to be able to rationalise for myself, and verbalise more effectively, why I'm home-edding, and what I'm hoping to achieve with my family. Callers often ask how I go about home-edding on a daily basis, how I juggle my part-time job, how I meet the needs of 4 kids of varying ages and differing needs and interests, and my explanations have served to reinforce why we as a family have taken this particular path, and this particular approach, which has boosted my self-confidence as well. (My pseudonym is still rather apt, but I've figured that's more down to my personality than leading a stressful lifestyle!)

The personal qualities needed to be a volunteer on the helpline are simple: the ability to pick up the phone and be friendly; the ability to refer to a list of contact numbers and pass that number on; the ability to reassure an anxious voice that they most certainly are up the job of home-edding and that it's the most wonderful experience they could share with their child. It's certainly a positive feeling knowing that I'm doing just a little bit of good, supporting and hopefully strengthening our community, with just a little bit of effort. Every single one of us has skills and abilities that we can share for the good of our fellow home-edders, and in this uncertain climate, it's definitely a case of needing more hands on deck.

*[name and address supplied]*



## BIG BANG FAIR

I'm one of a team of three home-educated teenagers (myself, my sister and our oldest HE friend) who exhibited our project (Reminiscence App) at the finals of the National Science and Engineering Competition at the Big Bang Fair, attended by around 75,000 people over the four days in March.

We came up with the idea of making an app to help people with dementia when our great aunt was diagnosed with Alzheimers. She seemed a lot happier when she got the chance to look through old photos or watch old movies and remember her past, but a lot of the pictures were too small for her to be able to see them properly, and she was starting to forget how to use the video player. We thought that a touchscreen device, which enabled her to zoom in or play videos without any confusing buttons, would probably be easier.

Manchester Girl Geeks run sessions once a month where you can go and learn about different kinds of technology, so we went to their session in January 2014 which was called 'Appy New Year', and looked at app design using a website called Appshed. We went away and produced a prototype app on Appshed, and tried it out on our aunt to see if it would be worthwhile to go any further with the project. There were some good things about the prototype but it also highlighted a few issues. If you want the full story about the app and the progress we've made so far, you can visit our website (link at the end of the article), or watch a short film we made: <https://youtu.be/3bn2iWB8WeY>

We entered our project in the Junior (aged 11-14) category of the NSEC, and learnt that we'd got through to the finals in January. We had to fund the whole thing ourselves so wrote begging letters to a lot of companies etc. ThinkBuzan very kindly gave us a copy of their iMindMap software to make posters with and we managed to persuade our uncle to print them at work for us, but I think if you got through to the finals and couldn't afford to get there/accommodation etc, you can apply for a bursary from the NSEC.

We weren't quite sure what to expect and hadn't practiced a presentation to give to the judges, thinking we would just be answering questions, but found out we should have prepared a presentation on the first morning so we had a lot of prep to do in the hour and a half before judging began! Apart from one moderator who didn't seem to like our idea as she didn't think carers would want to spend the time putting information on the app, the judges were all pretty positive and encouraging in the way they interacted with us and the questions weren't too difficult. The people on the other stalls around us were friendly and there were some great ideas. We also got to attend a few



finalists-only events including science shows and a Q&A session with the celebrity judges.

We didn't come away from the Big Bang Fair with any prizes but we did get some helpful suggestions from some of the people who visited the stand and talked to us, and other exhibitors, and it was a great experience. We'd love to carry on working on the app so if anyone in the home education community has any advice on where to go from here we would love to hear from you! At the moment we are trying to work out whether it is possible for

us to develop the app ourselves or if we would need to contact a developer to code it for us. You can find out more about entering the National Science and Engineering competition here: [www.nsecuk.org](http://www.nsecuk.org) and if you enter for 2015/16 and get through to the finals and have any questions feel free to get in touch with us!

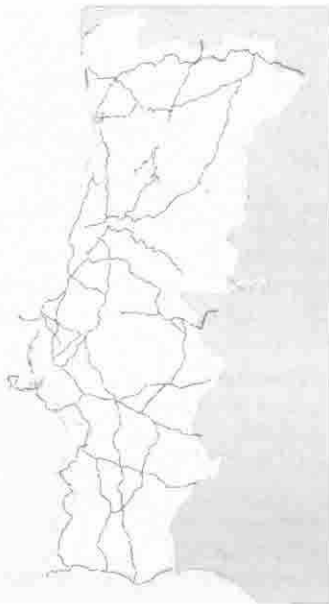
More information on our project: <https://reminiscenceapp.wordpress.com/>

Fureya, Cheshire

## HE Around the World – Portugal

By Corinna Spellerberg

In Portugal, the cut-off date for school attendance is the 15th of September, so children who turn 6 after that date attend free, state-owned schools until the age of 18. Some private, fee-paying schools exist as well.



But here is the great news: Home education is entirely legal in this country! And it is even firmly anchored within the articles of the constitution: Parents have the right and the duty to educate their kids (*Lei Constitucional n.º 1/2005 de 12 de Agosto*, Article 26.5). The person mainly responsible for the child's education has to provide some proof of competence. And the registration can even be done online!

There are certain requirements for homeschooled children regarding annual reports, following the national curriculum and periodic testing taking place in schools (after 4th year, 6th grade and 9th grade, but resitting exams is possible).

Portugal also has some international schools, and it is possible to sit IGCSEs as an external candidate.

It is hard to obtain information that is not in Portuguese, even on the internet, and below are some links I have been able to find.

### 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) home ed law support organisation:  
<http://www.hslda.org/hs/international/Portugal/default.asp>
- The website of the major home education group MEL: <http://www.educacaolive.pt/mel/>
- The above also contains a practical guide (in Portuguese):  
<http://www.educacaolive.pt/mel/perguntas-frequentes/ensino-domestico/>
- A personal and also professional report from a home educating mother; the video was filmed at a conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa9BkryYluw&feature=related>
- Social network site (Portuguese): <http://ensinodomestico.ning.com/>
- Blog (Portuguese, with reasonably good Google translation in place):  
<http://aprendersemescola.blogspot.co.uk/>
- Corresponding Facebook group (Portuguese):  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aprendersemescola/?fref=ts>
- Yahoo group, again in Portuguese, but most people seem to speak English here:  
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ensinodomestico/info>

## Book Reviews

**Title:** What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know

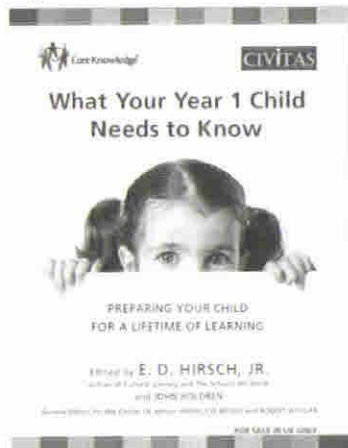
**Reviewed by:** Jennifer

**Author:** Edited by E.D. Hirsch Jr and John Holdren, Editors for Civitas UK Annaliese Briggs and Robert Whelan **Publisher:** Civitas - June 2011 **Original Price:** £16 (various on Amazon)

Although it wasn't written with home education as such in mind, What your Year 1 Child Needs to Know, was written for parents to use at home so is compatible with home education and as such is unique as there are very few books of this nature on the market.

It contains six sections, Language and Literature, History and Geography, Visual Arts, Music, Mathematics and Science. Each section starts with some general comments for the parents, but the bulk of it is for the parent to share with the child, either reading aloud if the child does not yet read, or letting the child read it themselves, then going on to suggestions for discussion.

For instance, the Literature and Language section starts by discussing different ways that a child can learn to read and pointing out that no one single way is the right way, suggesting a balanced approach. It shows examples of the alphabet and how it is written, and some suggested resources. Then it goes to discuss reading aloud, which is very much in line with what many experienced home educators do, and includes a selection of nursery rhymes, fairytales, fables, and short stories, all beautifully illustrated.



The following sections are laid out in a similar way. It is not a comprehensive curriculum or textbook, but contains the building blocks and basics for parents to enjoy learning with their children.

Many experienced home educators will find that this book describes what they did in the early years, but those new to home education who don't feel they want to use a strict curriculum would welcome a book such as this. This book would be suitable for a wide spectrum of home educators, from the very structured to the unstructured autonomous style. Even those that follow a curriculum would find it a suitable complimentary addition to their home education. In addition, it has been edited for use in the UK, which makes it different from other curriculum books that are mostly available from the US.

It is child centered, gentle, and doesn't push or have expectations. It is an ideal book for dipping in and out of.

Although there is plenty of information to read about and a large section of poetry, nursery rhymes and short stories, the book also has lots of ideas and resources to suggest too.

This book would appeal to both those new to home education who wish to have some sort of guide to help them along the way, as well as those that follow a more autonomous and unstructured route.

*Sitting in the garden on a lovely summer's day with a good book is one of life's greatest pleasures! If you and your family like to indulge why not share with us the books that you are currently enjoying. We welcome reviews of all types of books from our members.*

*Please send reviews to [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org).*

*Look forward to receiving your contributions!*

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

The new SEN reforms do not seem to be living up to past expectations:

John Harris (Guardian) interviewed Melinda Nettleton and John Friel, lawyers, special needs parents, and campaigners; authors of *Special Needs and Legal Entitlement – the essential guide to getting out of the maze*, find that the legal complexity involved in establishing entitlement has increased rather than decreased under the new system. Using an array of case studies and forensic legal analysis, they highlight the awkward relationship between parents, schools, local authorities, the NHS and central government, and how to navigate a system that draws all of these together (short answer: with difficulty). What they say about the system amounts to a story of ministers and civil servants going into three-year frenzy to apparently no avail. Mr Harris has also spoken to parents and teachers, who again find the new system is unclear, and reports serious concerns from IPSEA (Independent Parental Special Education Advice).

These findings seem to fall short somewhat of the standard the National Autistic Society had expected, and the 'Main points' listed in the Department For Education 'Transition to the new 0 - 25 special educational needs and disability system':

National Autistic Society (May 2015): Commenting on the changes, Mark Lever, Chief Executive of the National Autistic Society, said: "This is the biggest shakeup of the Special Educational Needs system in 30 years and there is a lot to be positive about.

"However, the reforms do not go far enough. Our research shows that nearly 50% of parents have waited over a year to get the right support for their child. A joined up system of redress is needed to counter this, with education, health and care plans underpinned by a single point of appeal. Without this, we're concerned that too many families will continue to face an exhausting process of being passed from pillar-to-post while they fight for the right support.

"The ultimate test for these reforms is whether they can end these battles for support and create a system in which parents are equal partners in decisions about their child's education and the planning of local services."

We will be closely monitoring the implementation of the changes to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people with autism

The 'Main points' from the Department for Education:

1.7 From 1 September 2014 young people in further education and training who receive support as a result of a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) can choose to request an education, health and care needs (EHC) assessment under the Children and Families Act 2014. All young people who receive support as a result of a LDA who will continue in further education or training beyond 1 September 2016 must have an EHC plan by that date where one is needed. Until that point, local authorities should continue to implement their duties in relation to young people who receive support as a result of a LDA.

1.8 By 1 April 2018, local authorities must have transferred all children and young people with statements of SEN to the new SEN and disability system following a 'transfer review' – that is an EHC needs assessment in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/1530). We expect the vast majority of children and young people with statements of SEN to be transferred to an EHC plan. To ensure children and young people continue to receive the support they need during the transition period (1 September 2014 to 1 April 2018), local authorities must continue to comply with particular elements of the 1996 SEN framework (Part IV of the Education Act 1996 (including schedules 26 and 27), The Education (Special Educational Needs) (England) (Consolidation) Regulations 2001 and 2007, the 2001 SEN Code of Practice and the statutory

guidance, Inclusive Schooling), as applicable, in relation to children and young people with statements of SEN.

1.9 Local authorities should consult with parents, young people and relevant professionals to develop a local transition plan setting out when and how children and young people with statements of SEN and young people who receive support as a result of a LDA will transfer to the new system, including the order in which they will be transferred. To ensure that momentum is maintained across all areas, all local authorities will be required to ensure that some groups of children and young people are transferred to the new system by particular points during the transition period. Local authorities should publish the first version of their local transition plan in September 2014 to ensure that parents and young people can access information about when they will be transferred to the new system and what the transfer process will entail.

1.10 New provisions for children and young people aged 18 and under in youth custody commence on 1st April 2015. For those entering or already in youth custody with a statement of SEN, the special educational provision in the statement will be deemed as if it is made in an EHC plan. Local authorities will be under a duty to arrange appropriate support and must conduct a 'transfer review' on release if they have not conducted one in youth custody or where they are due to conduct a review under the wider procedures for transfer. Local authorities should take reasonable steps to inform those with LDAs of their right to request an EHC needs assessment. For young people with LDAs who request an EHC needs assessment, where the local authority believes it may have to make special educational provision on release it must carry out an EHC needs assessment.

1.11 Early years settings and schools are expected to have adopted the new SEN support approach set out in the 'SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years' by spring 2015 for children and young people who do not have statements of SEN and to have applied it to all children and young people by September 2015 at the latest.

1.12 Further education and training providers should implement the approach set out in the 'SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years' from 1 September 2014.

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:

The new special educational needs maze, where parents go back to the start:

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/feb/17/new-special-educational-needs-laws-support-chaotic>

The National Autistic Society:

<http://www.autism.org.uk/news-and-events/news-from-the-nas/new-sen-system-comes-into-force.aspx>

Melinda Nettleton and John Friel: Special Needs and Legal Entitlement - The Essential Guide to Getting out of the Maze

<http://www.jkp.com/uk/catalogsearch/result/?q=Special+Needs+and+Legal+Entitlement>

A guide to the revised SEND Code Of Practice:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/417435/Special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilities\\_guide\\_for\\_parents\\_and\\_carers.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417435/Special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_guide_for_parents_and_carers.pdf)

The full revised SEND Code Of Practice:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/398815/SEND\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_January\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)

The Children And Families Act:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted>

Department for Education. Transition to the new 0 to 25 special educational needs and disability system:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/414952/SEND\\_Reforms\\_transition\\_advice\\_March15.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414952/SEND_Reforms_transition_advice_March15.pdf)

## **LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUP ORGANISERS**

*Time to thank about renewing your*

### **PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR 1ST SEPTEMBER 2015 – 31ST AUGUST 2016**

This benefit for Local Groups run by EO members will be continued for the coming year, and the cost will be held at £10 per year *or part year* from 1<sup>st</sup> September. This is excellent value compared with insurance arranged by individual HE groups. As it's subsidised from EO funds (which means from the subscriptions EO members pay) there are some terms and conditions – for example, we ask for 3 EO family members to sign up to take responsibility for the group and to keep in contact with us.

Please note that your group must comply with the description agreed with the insurance company, in accordance with the general understanding of a Home Education Group, i.e.:

- *A group of home educating families providing mutual support, sharing information and resources, and meeting for social and educational activities and/or outings.*
- *Activities are free (or at small contribution to cover costs) i.e. non profit making.*
- *Parents attend with their children, who are of mixed ages.*
- *Usually, activities take place at a variety of venues, are organised by different parents and open to all local HE families.*

Also, EO insurance cannot act as an 'umbrella' for other formally incorporated organisations. For example, if your group is a charity in its own right, you will need to take out separate insurance.

Please don't leave it till the last minute to look at the policy documents and guidance for the EO insurance. We have found that groups take some time to digest the information, and then may have queries. Getting the required three EO member signatures also seems to cause delays.

Detailed guidance and an application form are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website. These are for the current year (up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015) but we anticipate that the terms and conditions will be very similar for the coming year. To minimise work for volunteers, we would prefer 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, who will also answer any queries you may have (Anne is still acting): <[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)>

***N.B.*** *If you are using the current forms (2104/15), please note the new PO Box address –  
PO Box 6, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT*

*Using the new address will avoid forwarding delays.*

#### ***SUMMER SALE – 2014/15 – 50% REDUCTION!***

*If your group isn't currently covered by EO Public Liability insurance for 2014-15, you may take advantage of the 'end of season' special rate of £5, from now until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. But remember, you will need to renew on 1<sup>st</sup> September (£10) for the coming year (up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016).*

Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator [lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

**HE families** – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that not all groups are 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,  
[scottandrachel@ntlworld.com](mailto:scottandrachel@ntlworld.com)

**Busy B-Mes** – 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) Contact 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.  
[www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com)

**Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP)** Contact Catherine: [catewhyte@hotmail.com](mailto:catewhyte@hotmail.com)

**Bristol Home Education Co-op** – contact point for HE activities in Bristol, including FREE weekly Co-op meet up with crafts, activities & socialising. Yahoo group for event details, information & support: Contact: [BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.com) Or 0117 9553582  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHEC/>

**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. Contact: Therese, [alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com](mailto:alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com)  
<http://alternative-education-bristol.moonfruit.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)

**High Wycombe home ed group** – Friendly weekly group meet up with activities. Contact: [cm2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cm2002@yahoo.co.uk)

**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>

Georgeanne 01908 662256 [sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift7@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) Contact

Taryn: [tarynearley@googlemail.com](mailto:tarynearley@googlemail.com)  
<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@karenrodgers.co.uk](mailto:karen@karenrodgers.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.btcc.co.uk/>

#### Cornwall

**Home Group** – S E Cornwall HE Group - Alternate Mondays in Liskeard: classes in drawing & draughtsmanship/drama for ages 8-15. £6 per session. Contact Kath; 01579 340591

**Lastwithiel area HE group** – Started 2013 – range of HE activities, all welcome! Contact Samantha: [samsawinna@hotmail.com](mailto:samsawinna@hotmail.com)

#### Cumbria

**West Cumbria Home Education Group** – friendly group, members from all over W.Cumbria, structured or free range – All welcome! [www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/)  
Contact Tallie: [metallienat@aol.com](mailto:metallienat@aol.com)

**West Cumbria Home Educators** – (including Keswick). Mutual support for HErs in West Cumbria:  
[WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com](mailto:WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com)

#### Derbyshire

**Chesterfield Home Education Grop (CHEG)** – weekly meetings and days out for all ages: Contact Sandy: [sandymaryott@gmail.com](mailto:sandymaryott@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.  
[www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900](http://www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900)

**Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group**. Based in S. 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)

**Dart Valley Home Ed Network** – Out and about visits: natural history, 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) Neil 01363 82314  
<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk>

**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday. Friendly group for children of all ages. Contact: Lisa 07969299543 or Sue [su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk)

**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group for families.  
[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK\\_HomeEd/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/)

**NDHE (North Devon Home Educators)** – Meeting up for local trips and activities. Contact: [ndhomeed@gmail.com](mailto:ndhomeed@gmail.com)

**South Devon Home Education Group** –  
<http://www.southdevonhomeeducation.co.uk/> Contact Helen: 01803 390639 [helenlloyd-hoare@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:helenlloyd-hoare@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Stover HE Group** – Informal educational and social meets in local and surrounding areas. [stoverhegroup@gmail.com](mailto:stoverhegroup@gmail.com)

## Dorset

**HEoND (Home Educators of North Dorset)** – Friendly group meeting regularly in Sturminster Newton. Contact June: [bugchick@mac.com](mailto:bugchick@mac.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation)  
**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings. Contact Carol: 01202 677066 [carolstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolstone@yahoo.co.uk)

**HERA** – friendly group meets weekly in Poole. Provides support for HE families/prospective HE. Contact Tracie: [scallieuk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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). Contact Emma: [bmth.home.ed@gmail.com](mailto:bmth.home.ed@gmail.com)

## Durham

**County Durham Home Educators** – contact, information, activities, get together and trips.

<https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/durham-home-educators>. Contact: Emma, [emmadfisk@gmail.com](mailto:emmadfisk@gmail.com)

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

## Essex

**Essex Home Education Yahoo Group** – Members organise HE events and meetings in Essex, and offer support, advice and encouragement to other Home Educators. Contact Lou: [louise.thorn@googlemail.com](mailto:louise.thorn@googlemail.com)

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/essex-he-e-group/info>  
**Haverhill HE group** – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex. Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## Gloucestershire

**GlosHE.org.uk** – HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. [www.gloshe.org.uk/](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.  
Contact Roxy: [cdsnhf@googlegmail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlegmail.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

**ActiveEO** – HE group based in West Sussex and Hampshire. Contact Julie: 01243 552168 [bevmats@btinternet.com](mailto:bevmats@btinternet.com)

**East Hampshire Home Education Group (EHHE)** Social activities mainly for 5-11 yr but all ages welcome. Fields & playground. Contact Alison: [a.jahns@btinternet.com](mailto:a.jahns@btinternet.com)

**FAREGOS Home Education Group** – HE group/email list for Fareham Gosport and South Hants.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FareGosHE/>

**Hampshire FRHEBEEs (Free Range & Home Educated Bees)** – West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBees/>  
Contact Karen: 01425 652721

**North Hampshire HE Group** – Regular activities and meetings organised suitable for all ages [jakimparsons@gmail.com](mailto:jakimparsons@gmail.com)  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NH-HE/> Jaki 07731 805323

**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/>  
**South Hants Home Ed** – A support group for home educators <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southhantshomeed/>

## 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. Karen: [Karen@curvespace.com](mailto:Karen@curvespace.com) or 01983 568516 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWHomeEd/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWHomeEd/>

## Kent

**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/dragonflykidzhomeeducation/group/>

**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)

**Rochester HE Group** – weekly meetings Tuesday afternoon. Contact Sally: [sally\\_wilton@lineone.net](mailto:sally_wilton@lineone.net)

**SATHE (Supporting Autism Through Home Education)** – West Kent group open to all parents/carers HE/flexi-schooling or considering HE for children with autism/ sensitivities or learning difficulties. Contact 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: 07828193668 [lesley294@aol.com](mailto:lesley294@aol.com)  
<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

**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, 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-ld/>

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

## Leicestershire

**HE-AL message board** – details of HE Events in Leicestershire.

Site run by local HE groups, but open to all HERS in the Leicestershire area <http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>

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

**Loughborough Home Ed** – meet for various regular/one off groups, including French and maths in Loughborough. Contact: [nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk](mailto:nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk)

**Stoneygate** – Weekly play session, £3.50 per family, including drinks. Large, safe, grassy area. Contact Cat: [catbellinger@gmail.com](mailto:catbellinger@gmail.com)

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

## Lincolnshire

**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/)

**Homeschool Lincolnshire** – active and supportive group, 40+ families incl. plenty of teenagers. Monthly events and activities list. Contact Elaine: 01507 328688

[homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com)

**Lincolnshire HE** – [www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm](http://www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm)

**North Hykeham HE Group** – Weekly meetings, primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328 [debi-crow@googlemail.com](mailto:debi-crow@googlemail.com)

## London

**Adventures with Education (Hackney)** – A home education group based in Hackney London. <http://awe.gn.org.uk/>

**Brandram Roaders** – Weekly meetings in term time.

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

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

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

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

**WIGWAM** Jubilee Park N9 . Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Contact Eleanor: 07866 701442

[elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Norfolk

**Home Educating 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. Lots of activities!

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

**The Barefoot Learners** – Games and activities for all ages.

Contact 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. Support and friendships; parent-led and professionally-led educational activities. Wide range of resources, large community space, sports facilities and outdoor play. [www.iflow-he.org](http://www.iflow-he.org) Email: [welcometoflow@gmail.com](mailto:welcometoflow@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 and neighbouring counties; all welcome.

<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. Contact Beverley: 01743 718429

**Telford area HE** – Activities incl. skating football and drama sessions. For times and dates contact Denise: 07866 888879

**Shropshire Home Education** – For HERS 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://tauntonhomeed.blogspot.com/>

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

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

**Wells and Mendip Home Education Group (Wam)** – meet weekly for home educated 'school age' kids, run by parents; variety of projects and activities. Contact: 01749 675176

**Wiveliscombe/Taunton** – Monthly meetings and regular outings. Contact Maggie: 01984 624651

**North Somerset HE Group** – Weekly children's gym walks outings etc. Yahoo! group for members. Contact 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/>

## Staffordshire

**Mercia Education Group** – Regular, structured meetings, various venues in Lichfield and surrounding area. Academic base, many activities, wide age range.

<http://merciaeducationgroup.yolasite.com/>

## Suffolk

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

**Ipswich HE Wednesdays** – Shared lunch and activities. Contact Emma: [emma@nattyem.co.uk](mailto:emma@nattyem.co.uk)

**Ipswich town centre group + Book Club** – regular meetings.

Contact 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. Contact Jan: 01359 251184 [angusto@btinternet.com](mailto:angusto@btinternet.com)

## Surrey

**Dorking Home Educators** – meet fortnightly. Social and pre-booked activities, outings & trips. Amanda: [schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com)

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

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

**Home Educators Learning Project (HELP)** – educational support, outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>

**Leatherhead Home Education Group** – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities. Chrissie: 07840285703 [christabelthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelthorpe@hotmail.com)

**Surbiton Home Ed Group (SHED)** – occasional field trips, picnics, workshops, etc. Contact Ingrid: [Ingrid.meaker@mac.com](mailto:Ingrid.meaker@mac.com)

**Sutton/Epsom HE group** – Meets weekly and also monthly for outings. Contact Neia: [neia.glynn@btinternet.com](mailto:neia.glynn@btinternet.com)

**SW Surrey Home Ed** – Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming. <http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

## Sussex

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

**Brighton and Hove Home Educators** – Information on HE events and groups in the area. <http://bhhe.wordpress.com/>

**Eastbourne EO Group** – Regular gatherings & activities. <http://www.shinies.org.uk/>

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

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

<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

**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

**JIGSAW** – social events, educational group excursions, curriculum support, etc. Contact: [leliot@gmail.com](mailto:leliot@gmail.com)

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

**Wealden Home Educators' Network (WHEN)** (SE England) see Kent.

## Warwickshire

**Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry)** – monthly HE Group for all ages, activities and social get together. Also Arts Awards. Contact Sarah: [sarah@nellyb.co.uk](mailto:sarah@nellyb.co.uk)

**Warwick District HE** – Warwick/Leamington. Primarily for 0-11 but all welcome. Weekly meet for play etc. + trips etc. Contact 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. Contact Maria: [maria@trivialbusiness.co.uk](mailto:maria@trivialbusiness.co.uk)

**FRHEBees** – Salisbury & West Hampshire (New Forest). Warm, friendly welcoming group. Contact Sonia: 01722 711666

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

**Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle** – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance, but believe that best education comes from experience. Contact 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)

**Worcester Home Educators** – Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county.

[www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/](http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/)

**Worcestershire Home Ed** – Yahoo Group Email list for Worcs HERS <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

## Yorkshire

**DHE Doncaster home educators** Yahoo group for families in the Doncaster and surrounding areas. Contact Cheryl: 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 Scarborough and East coast area.

Contact Lisa: [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk)

[henney-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:henney-owner@yahoo.com)

**Huddersfield Art Workshops** – Monthly 8 yrs 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/> Contact Mandy:

01484 460026 [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk)

**Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group** – 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 HERS in & around S. Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/>

Contact Pauline: 077764 06409

[collicandydog123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collicandydog123@yahoo.co.uk)

**SYHEC – Yahoo!** group for parents HEing in South Yorkshire.

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

**Wakefield District Home Education Group** – Est. 2013. Currently regular Bowling & Ice skating, plus 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** – 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)

**ACTIVEO** – HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire.

Contact number 01243 552168 [bevmats@btinternet.com](mailto:bevmats@btinternet.com)

**Home-EASE (Home Education for all South East)** – Group of HE families in SE England. 0753 1677 083  
[homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk)  
**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) See Kent for details.  
**Wealden 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 HERs or those new to the area. New input welcomed.

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

<http://hecontactssandeventssw.yolasite.com>

**HE in Bristol and SW** – see Bristol

#### West Midlands

**Birmingham Home Ed (& W.Mids)** – meetings and events for HE families. <http://www.homeeducationbirmingham.org.uk>

**HELM** – home education group located mainly within the Birmingham, West Midlands area. Any and all home-educating parents welcome.

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM\\_home\\_ed/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM_home_ed/)

#### 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,

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

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iam/>

#### Wales

**Cardiganshire** – group meets on one afternoon per week near Lampeter. Social with occasional activities. Contact: 01558 685521 [thislittlelightofmine@phoncoop.coop](mailto:thislittlelightofmine@phoncoop.coop)

#### Carmarthenshire

**Carmarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown Carmarthen [caroline.milburn@yahoo.com](mailto:caroline.milburn@yahoo.com)

**Carmarthen Home Ed** – Social group meeting weekly for play and chat, indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. Contact: Sarah, [birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk)

**North Carmarthen HE Group** – meetings for friendship & play, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncarmarthenhomeed>

#### Conwy

**PLANT CONWY** – Weekly get togethers in the village of Conwy for Home edders - all welcome. Contact: [lily@agge.co.uk](mailto:lily@agge.co.uk)

#### Denbighshire

**Francysllite 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

**Bridgend Home Educators** – free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, outside speakers, activities, etc.

[www.bridgendhomeeducators.org](http://www.bridgendhomeeducators.org) or email

[info@bridgendhomeeducators.org](mailto:info@bridgendhomeeducators.org)

**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)

[www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com](http://www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com)

**New Foundations HE** – Meets Cardiff Thursdays 10-4. All activities free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com> 02920 216502 [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](http://www.newfoundationshe.com)

#### Gwynedd

**Creative Learning and Support** – Now meet every Wed. pm in Bangor. Contact Julie on 01286 678181 or Sarah on 01248 355182 <http://www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk>

**Langower HE Group** – Weekly meetings.

[rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)

#### Monmouthshire

**Monmouth Home Educators** – Meet weekly for fun and friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports. All ages welcome. Check for dates and times. Contact Roxy: 07765 058 777

**Usk Home Education** – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HERs in the area for fun and games and cups of tea. Contact Roxy:

[cdsnhf@gmail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@gmail.com) or 01989 768 128

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

#### 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](mailto:ianna.violet@hotmail.com)

#### Powys

**New Leaf HE Group (Newtown)** – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. [sloxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sloxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk)

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

#### Regional

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

**Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester** – for information about group activities in the Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester area local EO member Roxy 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)

Jayne: [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com) Or 02920216502

**South Wales Home Educators Network** – Email list for Home Educators in and around S Wales to arrange get-togethers/events, share ideas & news and offer support.

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

#### Channel Islands

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

**Guernsey Home Educators** – Group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey. Contact Yvonne: 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) Contact Anita: 01686 413502 [anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk)

## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

Jonathan Adams

*jadams@educationotherwise.org*

Lei Ashe (Local Contacts Co-ordinator)

*lashe@educationotherwise.org*

Shena Deuchars (Membership Secretary)

*sdeuchars@educationotherwise.org*

Vicki Hon

*vhon@educationotherwise.org*

Jill Ingle

*jingle@educationotherwise.org*

Hanna Newton

*hnewton@educationotherwise.org*

Fe Mukwamba-Sendall (Treasurer)

*fsendall@educationotherwise.org*

Anne Rix (Chair, Publications Sec., Acting Co. Secretary, Acting NL Co-ord, Buckstopper-General)

*arix@educationotherwise.org*

Edwina Theunissen (Enquiries Secretary)

*e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

Kathleen Thompson

*kthompson@educationotherwise.org*

N.B. Email to:

***trustees@educationotherwise.org***

goes to all trustees

Address for general correspondence by letter:

Education Otherwise [insert Dept. If known]

P.O. Box 63, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT

\*\*\* NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER \*\*\*

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

Webmaster: Tom

*webmaster@educationotherwise.org*

### Membership

Membership enquiries, address changes, membership cards, new member admin: please contact the Membership Secretary:

*membership@educationotherwise.org*

or by post to:

EO Membership, PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT

\*\*\* N.B. NEW PO BOX \*\*\*

### Other Useful Contacts

Anti-Bullying Contact: Kathleen Thompson  
01942 89 77 79

GCSEs at Home: Louise 08445 003 688

GCSE/Exams email list:

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

HE Exams Wiki: [www.home-education-exams.org.uk](http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk)

Exam Centres list: [http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding\\_an\\_exam\\_centre](http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre)

Concessions Contact: Lynsey Scott

*concessions@educationotherwise.org*

Concessions Co-ordinator: Cornelia Theunissen

*c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

Dylexia Contact: Iris Harrison

*Irisharrison6@aol.com*

Enquiries Secretary: Edwina Theunissen 01978

661882 *e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

Flexi-schooling: VACANT

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: Lei Ashe

*lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org*

(or via Enquiries Secretary)

Local Group Insurance: Anne Rix

*lgic@educationotherwise.org*

Local Groups Listings: Kennell Family

*eolg@educationotherwise.org*

Newsletter Coordinator: VACANT (Anne Rix Acting) *eonl@educationotherwise.org*

Publications Secretary: Anne Rix

*publications@educationotherwise.org*

School Anxiety Support: VACANT

Single Parent Contact: Sam Kruger 08445 003794

*singleparent@educationotherwise.org*

Special Needs: Alisa: 01458 835569 / 07707 060973

*send@educationotherwise.org*

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

Treasurer: Fe Mukwamba-Sendall

*treasurer@educationotherwise.org*

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Wendy Knight

*vol-coordinator@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.

Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

P.O. Box 63, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT

\*\*\* NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER \*\*\*

Helpline 0845 4786 345

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

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Registered Office Address: Bridgend, Meadow Lane, Swaffham, PE37 8LE

