

# education otherwise



*A playground on a summers day. Drawn by Fred age 7 of Stockton.*

## Newsletter Summer 2018

## 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 be acknowledged within a few days.

If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the Publications Secretary (see inside back page). *Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date before submission.*

**Deadline for the Autumn issue is 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

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

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

*N.B. EO postal address for any other correspondence (not newsletter):*

2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

### Section Editors

**REVIEWS – Kerri:** bookreviews@educationotherwise.org Or: EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT

*Got an idea for a section you'd like to edit? An interesting HE story? A query? Or want to get in touch with another contributor – Contact Newsletter Co-ordinator: eonl@educationotherwise.org*

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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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *We normally print only first name and Town or County of adult EO members. If you wish you may use a pseudonym, but we still need your full name and address for administrative purposes.*

For **CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTIONS:** *We print first name and age – but again, we also need family name and contact details (of parent). We do not print anonymous contributions.*

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OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE**

*please notify us by email: membership@educationotherwise.org, or by post to:*

*Membership Secretary, Education Otherwise, 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN*

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### Co-ordinatorial

**Hello!** It's my first Newsletter as Co-ordinator and I'm very happy to be here. I've written a bit to introduce my family and our journey into HE on page... I'd love to hear your views on the newsletter and any suggestions you have going forward.

**Apologies** again for the lateness of this newsletter. We're going to be back on track for Autumn and with that in mind, I'm asking for any submissions to the newsletter to be received by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Do your young ones have a story or poem they would like to send in? Perhaps you would like to do a regular piece? Let me know.

**Book Reviews** Due to the reduced timeframe between the Spring and Summer newsletters, we are unable to bring you book reviews this time. Apologies, we'll be back on track next copy.

*Emma, June 2018*

### EO Notices

#### Keep us updated

Have any of your contact details changed since you became an EO member? If so, did you know that you can check and update them yourself via the website? Here's how:

1. Log into the site using the login form at the bottom of the home page at [www.educationotherwise.org](http://www.educationotherwise.org)
2. Under 'Member pages' in the top menu, choose 'Member area'.
3. From the Member menu, choose 'Update your details'.
4. Enter your new details, and click 'Save'.

And while you're there, why not ....

#### Visit the member forum

There are threads open now about the new draft EHE guidelines and call for evidence, and EO's forthcoming change to CIO status – as well as many other discussion topics and a welcome thread for new members.

#### Forgotten your login details?

If you've lost your password, you can reset it by clicking the 'Forgot your password?' link below the login box and then following the instructions. But you'll need your username to complete the process. If you've lost that too, get in touch via [webmaster@educationotherwise.org](mailto:webmaster@educationotherwise.org) using the email address for your account, and we'll send you a reminder.

#### Volunteer needed for Local Groups Liaison

This post would suit someone who enjoys keeping accurate records and is comfortable communicating by email and telephone. The time commitment required is small and very flexible. The main tasks of the Local Groups Liaison volunteer are:

- To maintain the list of local HE groups published in the newsletter and on the EO website.
- To be the main contact, via email, for local groups wishing to join the list, or to make changes in their entries.
- To contact listed groups, on a regular basis and a minimum of once per year, to check that the details we hold for them are correct.
- To liaise with the EO HE Group Insurance contact and the Membership Secretary, verifying the status of applicant groups.
- To provide the Trustees with updates about any significant matters relating to local HE groups.

This is a voluntary post, but agreed expenses will be repaid. If you'd like to know more, please contact [trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org).

## YOUNG WRITERS PAGES



If you'd like to add your stories, poems, drawings etc., or to make suggestions, please send them along. We can type up from handwriting, arrange formatting, etc.

Only – **please** make sure you include family contact details in case we need to get in touch with you or your parents.



### Cat from the Rescue Place

Suddenly some dynamite, which was outside, exploded, and there was Jet the cat outside the door and they decided to keep him because no-one claimed him.

Then there was a small earthquake and Jason started to investigate. He found and opened a box and it was actually a box of the power to do anything. He got the power to do anything. He gave Jet the power to talk and make anything. He locked the box in a cupboard which could not be unlocked by anyone who doesn't have power.

Jason decided that he wanted to go to the fish and chip shop and play the gun game, so he got his bag and went to the fish and chip shop. He got £1 out of the magic bag and put it in. He played the game again and again and again etc, etc, etc. Jet was Agent Two and he was playing the game as well.

And then Jason's enemies from the world of the villains, who had some powers, appeared because they had detected him now that he had power.

And Jason suddenly had a ball of string in his left hand and a fire gun in his right hand and he threw the ball at the baddie and before it hit him he shot the fire gun at the ball of string which set on fire. He did the same with the other ones.

And one night Jet the cat was making himself the power to do anything that a human can do when... a baddie suddenly appears Jet makes himself a lazer-gun and fights but he gets hurt even though he killed the baddie but the vet could not make him better so they took him to the animal rescue centre where he would find a new home and he found a home with a nice lady.

The end.

Jason, age 8



Christine woke up saying she had made a poem in her dream, about mermaids and colours...



### *Mermaid sea and river walk*

*If only I could walk on my hands beyond the grey sea  
If only I could walk on my hands beyond the grey river  
If only I could walk on my hands beyond the blue sea  
If only I could walk on my hands beyond the blue river.*

*Christine, age 6*

*(She'd been thinking about how 'The Little Mermaid' would feel. The grey and blue are because seas and rivers sometimes look grey and sometimes blue. Granny wrote it down for her and sent it in, with parental permission)*



## Join the Writers' Group



In 2015, a group of children's authors wrote to Education Secretary Nicky Morgan to voice their concerns over the impact of the National Curriculum on creative writing in primary schools. Because they were 'taught to the test', and the tests favoured complex language over simple regardless of context, children were being told "not to use simple words such as 'good', 'bad', 'small' or 'big' but to always find other more 'interesting' words to replace them – such as 'wonderful', 'terrible', 'minuscule' or 'enormous'". This approach directly contradicts the most basic tenets of good writing, and the consequences were, as the writers pointed out, potentially dire: "We risk producing a generation of children who believe that a sentence such as 'I bounded excitedly from my cramped wooden seat and flung my arm gracefully up like a bird soaring into the sky' is always better than 'I stood and put my hand up'." Good grief, we all thought – how could things get any worse? We found out soon enough when the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) test was born, introducing 7-11 yr olds to the dreaded 'fronted adverbial' and a whole slew of other arcane grammatical terms.

But while children in primary schools may be having all the joy of creative writing sucked out of them, those lucky enough to be educated at home have the freedom to explore the worlds of their imagination without let or hindrance: no arbitrary rulings on 'good' and 'bad words'; no being halted in full flow because the bell's gone; no arcane grammatical terms to memorise for the sake of something to test. Just a blank page waiting for words to fill it.

Ask any writer, though, and they'll tell you that for them, that's the stuff of nightmares. It's generally accepted now that creativity actually benefits from constraints, and many writers, artists and musicians intentionally set limitations on their work as a way to spark the creative process. This makes sense when you consider that the human race got where it is today by being a problem-solving species: faced with factors that limit us, our brains spring into action to devise ways around

those limitations. So when it comes to creative writing, the blank page isn't likely to inspire - but give the writer a problem to solve and they're off on an adventure of their own making.

That's what our new regular feature, The Writers' Group, is for - to toss curve balls for prospective writers to catch. The writing prompts and exercises you'll find here aren't age-limited, and they don't involve rules, tests or adjudication. Just run with them, have fun with them, and if you're happy with the result, send it to us and we may publish it here in the newsletter or on the EO website. In any event, we'd love to read it!

*Now choose one of the three prompts below – or if you're feeling creative, try all three. And look out for more in the Autumn issue.*

### **Prose: Being superhuman**

Is saving the world all it's cracked up to be? Bring together two real-life or fictional heroines or heroes in a conversation where they share their regrets. You could write this as either a short script or short story, whichever you prefer.

### **Poetry: Try a triolet**

Everyone's heard of Haiku, but far fewer have tried the Triolet. It comes from France and is just eight lines long, but its first two lines are repeated - the first line twice - so there are actually only five lines in which to get the poem's message across. It has a set rhyme scheme based on only two rhymes (you can see how it works in the example below) but you can use any metre (rhythm) as long as it's consistent.

You didn't walk me home today.  
I walked alone and wondered why  
You saw me leave and turned away.  
You didn't walk me home today.  
I hadn't an excuse to stay  
and so I smiled and waved goodbye.  
You didn't walk me home today  
I walked alone and wondered why.



### **Prose: Flashy writing**

Create a piece of flash fiction (that's a very short story up to 500 words long) beginning 'We were hanging out the flags when they got here.'

Email your work for publication to: [writersgroup@educationotherwise.org](mailto:writersgroup@educationotherwise.org)



## HE: A Learning Curve

As I'm new to the newsletter and to all of you, I thought I would introduce myself and tell you a bit about our journey to Home Education.

My eldest, Oliver, had always struggled with school. We moved up from Cambridgeshire when he was in Reception (aged 4/5) and he changed very quickly from being a happy, calm little boy, to a withdrawn unhappy child. When year 2 SATs exams came around, his teacher said she was concerned that he would 'fail' them as he kept daydreaming and needed constant prompting to do his work. He was referred to

Camhs for ASD assessment. Of course, there are long waiting times for this and although he was tagging onto another child's TA, he was still struggling and more importantly, still unhappy.

Fast forward 2 years and he would meltdown every morning because he didn't want to leave the house to go to school and when I finally got him into the playground, he would root himself and refuse to go in. He was a very depressed 8 year old. At the same time, my then 5 year old Fred, found himself at the mercy of much older children at the school and his confidence and emotional stability started to shatter. My children were suffering from anxiety. There should be no reason for a child to be suffering anxiety or depression.

My husband and I decided enough was enough and after month of careful consideration, we deregistered them both from school. Our primary concerns centred around their mental health. However, it didn't make the decision any less terrifying. For myself especially it meant a complete change of focus. I went from having a life completely revolved around the school, to being totally apart from it. I had joined EO prior to deregistering and found the letter templates and LA information very useful. I also joined a lot of facebook pages. Where we live, we are very lucky to have a strong and vibrant HE community.

The children settled into Home Ed with joy and enthusiasm, but I found it a little harder. I think I have been so school indoctrinated that I found it hard to let go of the structure. I had been Vice Chair of Governors at the school, Treasurer of the 'Friends of' group and volunteered in the school nursery. So I was pretty invested in the school and the school system.

At first, I tried to make it too much like school at home. This did not go down well, and the children rebelled, so I have slowly learnt to ease off. I keep repeating to myself 'we don't have to follow any curriculum'. We are now semi-structured. It suits us. That's the great thing this way of learning, you tailor it to your children and their specific needs. You try things and get things wrong until you get them right.

It's just over a year on from de-registration, and the children are happy. So much so that people have commented on how much they have changed. Oliver especially. He has become so outgoing and confident. It brings me so much joy to see the children happy again and flourishing. Long may it continue.

*Emma Pattison*



## EO info stalls at spring and summer fairs and festivals

My name is Habiba Willow, a long-time member of EO and over the years have been low profile as far as newsletter articles go. I have 'always' (since 1968 anyway) been a regular attender of fairs and festivals. I think it was in the summer of 1980 that I was at one of the many East Anglian fairs. I already knew about EO and had two children then: Melanie age nine and Jack aged one. We (partner David and I) knew we intended to home-educate Jack and any other offspring (Grace and Alice, as it turned out).

At this fair we came upon Sarah Guthrie - of *Educating Archie* fame, though we didn't know that then. Sarah was running an information stall with leaflets and books relating to EO and home education. We had a good chat, we joined EO, and I came away with the idea that we could do that, i.e., run info stalls at fairs and gatherings. Of course, part of me said, 'Really? Could you do a good job of that?' I didn't give this voice too much attention, and by the next summer the Willow family were 'on the road', taking EO information out to many people at many diverse events. Our pattern for some years was to leave home (then on the border of Essex/Suffolk/Cambs) in May and stay away until September or October. It was a most enjoyable lifestyle being outdoors all the time, first in an old and leaky bell tent and later (luxury) in a 12ft caravan. As well as providing the EO information, we started selling handknitted hats and scarves, wool and jumpers, and second-hand clothes, which meant we were making our lives as we travelled. In between events we would sometimes stay with other EO families, or just find a place to park up.



What's prompting me to write this article is to say to you all out there, 'you could do this!'. Not necessarily all summer, I realise, but you could consider providing EO info at your local fair or festival. It's easy and fun, and if you can't answer all the queries, hand them a leaflet and/or direct to them to someone who can, or to the website.

At the present time I am still out there on the summer festival circuit, providing info and encouragement to all those folks who want to home educate but just need a bit of a nudge and the reassurance that they are not alone, EO is here to support them, and chances are they'll have a local group nearby. There are still very many people who have no idea that it is legal to home educate. I find it hugely rewarding to help people become aware of this right, and to tell them how much freedom they actually have in this area.

Having done it for so long now, I am rewarded several times every summer by adults and children coming up to me and saying, 'Thanks. We did it because of your encouragement and it's been great!'

So - I can't cover the whole country! Think about whether you would like to do this and, if you'd like to know more, drop me an email on [habibawillow108@gmail.com](mailto:habibawillow108@gmail.com)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Habiba Willow (Dorset)

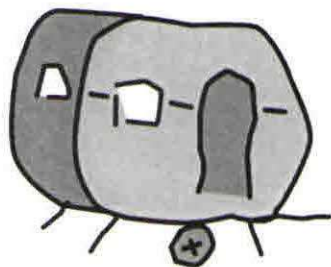
Note: we are currently working on providing an 'events pack' for use at fairs, festivals, and other gatherings, comprising posters, leaflets, and other materials. If you have a background in marketing, design, or any other related field, we'd welcome your input into this project. Please contact [trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)



### **Musings of a Permanently Frazzled Mummy: Small steps towards independence**

With my hopes for a few peaceful months now well and truly in tatters, I'm trying my hardest to embrace all the changes that are heading rapidly towards the frazzled household. It's starting to feel like a season of great upheaval, but one which I'm hoping will be positive for all the ragamuffins. Having studied the bank account and come to the stark realisation that we can't afford to build some extra bedrooms on the top of

our garage, we decided that we were going to have to think outside the box, if we were to provide our kids with some much-needed space. Cue several hours spent gleefully clambering in and out of static caravans, under the watchful eye of our static expert next-door neighbour, and we finally decided on the one which is to become a new home for our teenage ragamuffins. The lady in charge of preparing the vans for sale was very hesitant to show us the chosen van, having what she called a 'Mr Bean' kitchen – the previous owners had done a rather shockingly poor job of painting all the wooden kitchen units – but we all fell in love with the van as soon as we climbed in. All the traditional furniture has been ripped out of the lounge and the bedrooms, so there's plenty of space to furnish it to our tastes (the boys think they'll be given free rein on the interior design, but they're going to be sorely disappointed!) and more importantly, plenty of space for the pool table that I am desperate to purchase for them. Having enjoyed 4 misspent years of higher education in pool halls, I'm quite keen to see if I can still remember how to hold a cue. I think I'm probably having a mid-life crisis, but I'm going to indulge myself anyway, under the pretence of creating a cool, teen hang-out area. We intend to put in a new shower room, donate our 2 sofas to their living room, and ignore the flaws of the shabby chic kitchen. The aspect that clinched the deal was the wooden 'Love' plaque on the shelf in the lounge: we have a 'Love' wall in our bedroom, adorned with different sizes and styles of the word 'love', so we took it as a sign that Mr Bean was intended to become part of the permanently frazzled household.



The boys are beyond excited! They are already planning the layout of each room, squabbling with the girls over which games/computers will live in Mr Bean and which will remain in the house, and hubby is getting them started on a Maths project to design and furnish the static to a given budget. There's educational value in every situation! I'm excited too – I quite like a bit of a cleaning and decorating project – but there is a tiny part of me that knows that this is a definite step towards the boys and their independent futures. Those who know me in real life, know that I would dearly love to be able to wrap all the ragamuffins up in cotton wool, and keep them protected at home with me forever, happy in our safe, little home-ed bubble. I know that they will never again move into the house on a permanent basis, and from their moving in date onwards, will be spending much less time with the rest of the family. I'm not sure I'll be able to shake my habit of checking on them every night as I go to bed, so I'm going to need a golfing umbrella to protect me from the elements, until we get round to building a basic covered walkway to join the van to the house. Hubby has suggested we install an intercom so I can just speak to them each evening (which would also prevent me disturbing the neighbours each time I shout them in for mealtimes) but I'm not sure that will fill my intense need to see them rather than just hear their voices. If I'm not yet having a midlife crisis, I think this emotional upheaval may well thrust me straight into one.

I had a little taste of life without my boys (melodramatic?? me??) when they went away on youth camp with our church last week. They headed down to Oxfordshire with around 60 other teens, to an outdoor activity centre, and enjoyed a range of sessions including rifle shooting, high ropes, crate stacking and the obligatory bonfire party. They came back much cleaner than they did the last time they went (my ocd tendencies do pay off eventually!), had even remembered to keep dirty clothes separate from clean ones (miracle!), and with deepened friendships and some new ones. I had made them promise to phone each day, under the guise of the girls needing to have a chat because they'd miss them terribly, but they were both fully aware it was me with the need. In reality, the girls managed just fine without them, and even commented that it was nice having some time without the boys to tease them and wind them up – the joys of a large family!



Frazzled parents and the girls enjoyed a day out at Sundown Adventure Land in north Nottinghamshire, and another day at Ikea munching on their luscious veggie meatballs, under the guise of finalising the plans for our new kitchen. The girls pronounced their day at Sundown to be 'amazing!', glossing over the fact that one of the rides nearly made me vomit down the back of their necks (the flying pig ride is to be avoided at ALL costs and should come with a severe health warning!) and they had a fab day racing about in the sun, with poor, arthritic dad limping after them. Sundown is good value for money, especially out of the main season

when we didn't have to queue more than a couple of minutes for each ride, but probably better suited to under 8s rather than under 10s as the website recommends. Take a look if you're interested:

<https://sundownadventureland.co.uk/>

So, we've got a crazy few months coming up with drama rehearsals, dance rehearsals, all the performances, birthday celebrations for all four ragamuffins', two weddings, plus the arrival of 'Mr Bean', so I'm guessing I'll end up looking even more frazzled than normal, but I'm glad that the end of our 'make the house big enough for 6' to-do list is finally in sight. Not sure we'll manage to fit in a camping holiday, but we've got plans for a few weekends away so I'll regale you with those adventures next time. I intend to spend some time concentrating on this midlife crisis of mine, and figure out how I'm going to make the most of my cosy, little home-ed bubble before we lose our eldest to college next year. In the midst of all the chaos that often accompanies home-educating a large family, I'm reminded that I need to take a few minutes to appreciate this amazing childhood of freedom and outdoor fun that we've been privileged to be able to give our ragamuffins, and try to overlook those things that frazzle me.

*'Frazzled Mum' (Name and address supplied)*

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE BUSINESS

### What is the EO Helpline?

*'Thank you so much for all the info A\*\*\*\*. We'd all be lost without this service.'*

*'... having some answers when you need them helps. Thankyou.'*

*'Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today. I sincerely appreciate the time you spent. Your advice was very helpful and gave me a new perspective.'*

The Helpline operates via both phone and email and, like every part of EO, is staffed entirely by volunteers. It's available equally to both members and non-members, and forms part of EO's public benefit commitment, as required by the terms of its UK charity registration. There is no charge to users beyond the cost of their call.



The Helpline phone numbers are widely publicised: three lines for England, one for Wales, and one for Northern Ireland. Each number is routed to a volunteer's home phone or mobile, the number of which is not revealed to the caller. Helpline telephone volunteers work on a rota system, and only receive calls when they are 'on duty' – usually for a week at a time, but we are currently looking at more flexible phone systems that would make it possible for volunteers to clock themselves in and out at times to suit their daily schedule.

Most calls to the Helpline are from families who are either considering home education or have just withdrawn their child from school. Often these families need general information about the legalities of

HE, and reassurance that it's perfectly feasible for the average parent with no special training to take responsibility for their child's education. Helpline volunteers are provided with information sheets on these basic issues, and can also refer callers to the website or to more specialised help.

Some families call the Helpline in a crisis, because they are having problems with their child's school or with Local Authority officials. Volunteers are not expected to know all the answers, and can ask for support from their Co-ordinator if they don't know how to handle a call. In many cases they will put the caller in touch with their EO Local Contact, who will be well informed about the situation in their own area and can often offer the most appropriate support. Local Contacts can also point new home educators in the direction of groups, resources and activities for HE families in their own locality.

### Volunteers needed

Telephone and email Helpline volunteers are always needed, and it's not necessary to make a bigger time commitment than you can manage. If you have personal experience of and enthusiasm for home education, enjoy talking to people, and can spare a little time to answer calls, please contact the Helpline Co-ordinator, Beckie Griffiths, on [rebecca.griffiths5@btinternet.com](mailto:rebecca.griffiths5@btinternet.com) to find out more.

## Local contact update

### New Local Contact Co-ordinator

We're delighted welcome Lorraine Carbert as our new Local Contact Co-ordinator:

*I'm from Liverpool and have been home educating two children for the past seven years, the older of whom is nineteen and enjoying college, and my youngest is twelve and still home educated. I've been local contact for about four years.*

*Local contacts are important as they help link new home educators to their local home ed community.*

*Home education has been a lovely choice for me and my family and something we have never regretted.*

Lorraine has taken on the role as a job share, so we're still looking for a second person to share it with her.

Experience as a Local Contact isn't essential – Lorraine has plenty of that – but we do need someone who is a good organiser and communicator. If you'd like to know more, please email [trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)

### Flyers and cards available

We have a stock of A5 flyers and business-card sized handouts (see below) available for those Local Contacts who would find them useful. If you'd like some, please email [swillans@educationotherwise.org](mailto:swillans@educationotherwise.org)



SCHOOL IS NOT  
COMPULSORY

education otherwise<sup>™</sup>  
[eeenquiries@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eeenquiries@educationotherwise.org)

Home Education FAQs

Local HE groups directory

Information Helpline

See [www.educationotherwise.org](http://www.educationotherwise.org) for details

Children do not have to attend school

Children can be educated at home

Home education is perfectly legal

You do not have to follow the National Curriculum

You do not have to be a teacher

You do not have to have lots of money

You do need to have a genuine regard for your child's emotional and educational wellbeing

Education Otherwise Association Ltd  
UK Charity No. 1055120. Company No. 01917107

Contact Education Otherwise to find out more

## Submitted by an EO Local Contact

### A Guide to How to be a Good Home Education Officer

or

#### Be Like Richard

*Most of my time is spent dealing with Local Authorities who overstep their remit, so today I want to tell local authority staff about how to be an excellent education officer.*

Richard Hatwood came to Denbighshire bringing a great deal of enthusiasm with him -not to 'catch' all home educators, but to provide a true means of accessing support when needed. Every home education officer should be like Richard!

**Doorstepping:** Richard has arrived at a family's home unannounced but only when he was aware that Mum was ill and genuinely concerned for her welfare. Mum was grateful for his help. Be like Richard, don't doorstep. Richard does not doorstep.

**Letters:** Richard's letters are polite and respectful. Be like Richard, be polite and respectful. Richard is polite and respectful!

**Acceptance:** Richard is considerate and genuinely looks at parents' replies with an open mind. Be like Richard, keep an open mind. Richard keeps an open mind!

**Support:** When parents are struggling to find a venue for an activity, or to find resources, Richard goes out of his way to try to help get those resources. Be like Richard, positively help home educators. Richard is positive!

**When things go wrong:** Richard investigates how he can help parents to get things right, before he takes action when they go wrong. Be like Richard, try to help and not condemn. Richard helps!

**Engagement:** Richard does not fret about engagement, because he treats parents with respect. Be like Richard, raise engagement. Richard raised engagement!



*Time to think about renewing your..*

### **PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR 1ST SEPTEMBER 2018 – 31 AUGUST 2019**

This benefit for Local Home Education Groups run by EO members continues at £10 per year *or part year* from 1<sup>st</sup> September; you can join at any time of year. As it is 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 from different households 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 co-operating to provide 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 (or other named adults) 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 constituted organisations. For example, if your group is a charity in its own right, you will need to take out separate insurance.

Detailed guidance and an application form are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website or by email from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator (Anne is still acting), but 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.

## SUMMER SALE – 2018/9 – 50% REDUCTION!

If your group isn't currently covered by EO Public Liability insurance for the current year (to 31<sup>st</sup> August) and you would like cover to start before 1<sup>st</sup> September, you may take advantage of the 'end of season' special offer of £5, from now until 31st August 2019.

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

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### Parents Please Note ....

**HE families** – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing – and let us know if you can't get in touch. 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)

### N.B. some groups have been removed due to lack of contact

If you wish your group to be added on the Website and in EO Newsletter please visit the Local HE Groups Directory on the EO website. For queries contact Local Groups Co-ordinator:

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

## ENGLAND

### Bedfordshire

**BedHed** – for support and organising meet ups.

Contact Susan: [susanthrossell@msn.com](mailto:susanthrossell@msn.com)  
<http://bedhed.org.uk>

### Berkshire

**Expanding Horizons** – [www.expandinghorizonsuk.com](http://www.expandinghorizonsuk.com) regular meet ups, trips, activities, and information for other Local groups. 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 Learn Place (HELP)** – Local support group Bristol area. Catherine: [catewhyte@hotmail.com](mailto:catewhyte@hotmail.com)

**Home Education in Bristol and the South West** – groups, events and activities in Bristol and the surrounding areas. 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)

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

**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)

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

Taryn: [tarynearley@googlemail.com](mailto:tarynearley@googlemail.com)

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

**Expanding Horizons** (see Berkshire).

### Cambridgeshire

**Cambridge Home Educating Community Activity List** – summary of sessions and regular groups in Cambridge. Karen: 01223 573220  
[www.educationchoice.org.uk](http://www.educationchoice.org.uk) [karen@karenrodgers.co.uk](mailto:karen@karenrodgers.co.uk)

**Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF)** – for parents/carers who HE or considering HE. Morag: [morag2000@hotmail.com](mailto:morag2000@hotmail.com)  
01223 464918 <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/>

**Cambridgeshire Home Educators** – Website all about HE-ing in Cambridgeshire including local groups and how to them. [www.cambshomeed.co.uk](http://www.cambshomeed.co.uk) Jane: [cambshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:cambshomeed@gmail.com)

**Little Learners (Duxford)** – Themed play-based meetings. Louise: [louise@tartarus.org](mailto:louise@tartarus.org)

### Cheshire

**Mid Cheshire Home Educators** – Bi-monthly meetings and regular outings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mche>

### Cornwall

**South East Cornwall** – courses and activities including Drama, Physics and English Lit. Kath: [kafrevell@phoncoop.coop](mailto:kafrevell@phoncoop.coop)  
**Lostwithiel area HE group** – range of HE activities, all welcome! Karen: [kazincornwall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kazincornwall@yahoo.co.uk)

## Cumbria

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

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

**West Cumbria Home Educators** (incl. 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. Sandy: [sandyariatt@gmail.com](mailto:sandyariatt@gmail.com)

**Derby HE Group (DHEG)** – Weekly Gym Club at sports centre with instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>  
Lynsey: [lynseyptic@ntlworld.com](mailto:lynseyptic@ntlworld.com)

**Home Ed Buxton Area** – Local meetings/activities for HErs and those considering HE

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

## Devon

**Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group**. Based in S. Dartmoor, All members may organise events and meet ups on our email list.  
Email: [dartmoor-sw.he.group@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoor-sw.he.group@gmail.com)

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

**Exeter Home Education Community** Wednesday drop-in, GCSE, green woodwork, permaculture, pottery & more.

Email: [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. Sue: [su.ryan777@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:su.ryan777@yahoo.co.uk)  
07523 982014

**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group for families

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

**Paignton and Torbay Homeschooling** – social meet ups, play and activities, twice weekly. Tessa: [Tessacoles@hotmail.com](mailto:Tessacoles@hotmail.com)

**South Devon Home Education Group** – near Totnes

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

Ambuka: [ambuka5planets@yahoo.com](mailto:ambuka5planets@yahoo.com)

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

**Teignbridge and Torbay HE Group** – Teen creative writing group, meeting every fortnight. [taluhla@gmail.com](mailto:taluhla@gmail.com)

## Dorset

**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings.

Carol: [carolstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolstone@yahoo.co.uk) 01202 677066

**Bournemouth & Poole Home Educators** – play dates, trips/visits, etc. Emma: [bmth.home.ed@gmail.com](mailto:bmth.home.ed@gmail.com)

[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth\\_and\\_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth_and_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795).

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

**HEoND (Home Educators of North Dorset)** – Friendly group meeting regularly in Sturminster Newton.

June: [bugchick@mac.com](mailto:bugchick@mac.com)

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

## Durham

**County Durham Home Educators** – information, activities, get togethers and trips. Emma: [emmadfisk@gmail.com](mailto:emmadfisk@gmail.com)

<https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/durham-home-educators>

**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, information and encouragement to other Home Educators.

Lena: [essexhomeedmod@btinternet.com](mailto:essexhomeedmod@btinternet.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)

**Southeast HE Group** – Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southeasthomeeducation/> or

Email: [southeasthomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:southeasthomeeducation@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

**Forest of Dean HE group** – Bridge and dam building, river clearance, fire building, woodland walks etc.

Ann-Marie: [amchandler@btinternet.com](mailto:amchandler@btinternet.com)

**Glos HE** – HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. [www.gloshe.org.uk/](http://www.gloshe.org.uk/)

**Glos Otherwise Club** – Fiona 01684 290087 or Email:

[brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk)

**Stroud email list** – different activities arranged via email list.

Nick: [nick@nickweir.co.uk](mailto:nick@nickweir.co.uk) 01453 840036

**Tewkesbury Allsorts** - activity/social group for young adults with additional needs/disabilities. [www.allsortsglos.org.uk](http://www.allsortsglos.org.uk) Max: 01453 750474 [max.pemberton@allsortsglos.org.uk](mailto:max.pemberton@allsortsglos.org.uk)

## Hampshire

**ActiveEO** – West Sussex and Hants <http://www.activeoe.com/>  
self-help group for home educators living near the south coast:

Cate: [bevmats@btinternet.com](mailto:bevmats@btinternet.com)

**Basingstoke Under 10s** – Academic club plus regular meet ups in different locations. Vanessa: [education@zee2a.com](mailto:education@zee2a.com)

**East Hampshire Home Education Group (EHHE)** Social activities mainly for 5-11 yr but all ages welcome. Fields & playground.

Alison: [a.johns@btinternet.com](mailto:a.johns@btinternet.com)

**FAREGOS Home Education Group** – Fareham, Gosport, S. Hants. Several meetings each week for sports, social activities, art, maths and English tuition for GCSE.

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

**Farnham Fun and Friendships** - social activities.

Jane: [homeed@blue@gmail.com](mailto:homeed@blue@gmail.com) tel 07437 203305

Farnham Lego Heds Lego etc. construction.

Laura: [llego@btinternet.com](mailto:llego@btinternet.com) tel 02392 478949

**Hampshire FRHEBEES (Free Range & Home Educated Bees)** –

West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBees/>

Karen: 01425 652721

**Home Education Network Hants**, near Winchester, ages 0-13.

Range of activities + regular club. [homeednetwork@outlook.com](mailto:homeednetwork@outlook.com)

**North Hampshire HE Group** – Regular activities and meetings organised, suitable for all ages. Email: [jakimp@parsons@gmail.com](mailto:jakimp@parsons@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** – Southampton, every term time afternoon for sports/play + weekly full day activity. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

## Herefordshire

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

**Home Ed. Herefordshire** – Alison: [alison.gwenter@gmail.com](mailto:alison.gwenter@gmail.com)

## Hertfordshire

**Barnet Home Educators Hub** – where children can grow and develop together and friendships are formed. Contact:

[sztejn@yahoo.com](mailto:sztejn@yahoo.com)

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

**Learning Begins In Wonder** – Free and subsidised events, resources and support to HE families in Hertfordshire and surrounding counties. Mandy: [mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk](mailto:mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk)

## Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight Learning Zone – Network of HE families

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

**IW Home Ed** – Facebook & 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) social & learning activities, swimming, bowling, days out etc. Wide range of locations around Canterbury/Thanet/Whitstable. All Welcome! Steph: [stephgater@rocketmail.com](mailto:stephgater@rocketmail.com) 01304 814362.

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

**HEarts & Minds** – Hernehill, various games, arts, crafts and organised activities. Davinia: [daviniaedmunds4@gmail.com](mailto:daviniaedmunds4@gmail.com)

**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)** – Group of home educating families in Medway and Kent.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>  
Esther: [e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk)

**Rochester HE Group** – weekly meetings Tuesday afternoon.

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

Denise: 07554 386844 or Email: [S-A-T-H-E@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:S-A-T-H-E@yahoo.co.uk)

**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for trips, hall meets, swimming etc. To join Yahoo! group email: [southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk) or Lesley: [lesley294@aol.com](mailto:lesley294@aol.com) 07828 193 668

## Lancashire

**Boneheds** – Help support information and friendship to families 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-lo/>

**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/)

## Leicestershire

**HE-AL message board** – details of HE Events in Leicestershire. Site run by local HE groups, but open to all HEers 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! Email: [mrsamarshall@googlemail.com](mailto:mrsamarshall@googlemail.com)

**Loughborough Home Ed** – meet for various regular/one off groups, including French and maths in Loughborough. Email: [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. 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 & activities list.

Elaine: [homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com) 01507 328688

## London

**Adventures with Education (Hackney)** – HE group

<https://adventureswitheducationhackney.wordpress.com/>

**Brandam Readers** – Weekly meetings in term time.

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

**Home Study Groups** – small group of HE families pooling resources for tutored home study groups.

Ingie: [ibertritt@gmail.com](mailto:ibertritt@gmail.com) 0203 566 8706

**Magpie Home Educators (East London)** – Fun, play and socialising for HE families. Phil: 0208 500 1053

**The Otherwise Club (NW)** – A community centre for HE families.

<http://www.theotherwiseclub.org.uk/> 07952 616 352

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

## Norfolk

**Home Educating in Norfolk (HENs)** – Group for HE families in Norfolk. Those on the borders also welcome.

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

**Home Ed Discoverers** – Norwich area; events, parties, trips, days out etc. Vikki: [Watts85.rv@gmail.com](mailto:Watts85.rv@gmail.com)

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

Be Coffin: 07814 592 290 or 01263 73 99 83

**West Norfolk Home Educators** – Meeting place for HEers and families interested in home educating. Lots of activities!

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

## Northamptonshire

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

## 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/)

**Non School Nottingham** – Online hub for info about events, classes, meetups, and local Facebook or email groups, for finding home ed community in the Notts area.

Website: <http://www.non-school-nottingham.org.uk/>

Contact: [info@non-school-nottingham.org.uk](mailto:info@non-school-nottingham.org.uk)

## Oxfordshire

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).

**Oxfordshire Home Educators** – A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties; all welcome.

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

## Shropshire

**Inspire HE Group**. Educational activities in Shropshire. Families from Shropshire and surrounding areas welcome to find out more.

Alison: [fellows-weir@megmag.plus.com](mailto:fellows-weir@megmag.plus.com)

**Oswestry and surrounds**. Regular meetings around area.

Katie: [llanfyllynhe@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllynhe@gmail.com)

**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>

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

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

**Telford area HE** – Activities incl. Skating, football and drama sessions. Denise: 07866 888879

## Somerset

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

**Bridgwater HE** – weekly social meet + ad hoc trips and activities. Contact: [Mfstainer@gmail.com](mailto:Mfstainer@gmail.com)

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

**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)

**Taunton Home Education Group** – Regular events and meet ups in Taunton; range of classes and workshops across Somerset [www.tauntonhomeeducation.com](http://www.tauntonhomeeducation.com)  
Email: [tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com](mailto:tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com)

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

## Staffordshire

**Growing Wild** meet weekly for gardening, social, play, crafts, activities and nature walks. Children of all ages welcome. Elly: [ellyweir@gmail.com](mailto:ellyweir@gmail.com)

## Suffolk

**Haverhill HE group** – South Suffolk/North Essex.  
Eve: [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk) 01440 788228 or 07768 763913  
**Ipswich HE Wednesdays** – Shared lunch and activities.  
Emma: [emma@nattyem.co.uk](mailto:emma@nattyem.co.uk)

**Ipswich town centre group + Book Club** – regular meetings.  
Lisa: [llw\\_llg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk) 07538 102322

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

## Surrey

**Dorking Home Educators** – fortnightly. Social and pre-booked activities, outings & trips.

Amanda: [schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/DorkingHomeEducators/>  
**Forest Families** – weekly meetings in Croydon. Sharing food, cooking & unstructured play in nature.

Maria: [mariaf.reyna@gmail.com](mailto:mariaf.reyna@gmail.com)  
**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.  
Christie: [christabelthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelthorpe@hotmail.com) 07840285703

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

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

**SW Surrey Home Ed** – Group for HE families based in SW Surrey and surrounding area. Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming.  
<http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

## Sussex

**ActiveEO** – 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/>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bhhe/>

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

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. Email: [l Elliot@gmail.com](mailto:l Elliot@gmail.com)

**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) see Kent

## Warwickshire

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

**Warwick District HE** – Warwick/Leamington. Primarily for 0-11 but all welcome. Weekly meet for play etc. + trips etc. Alison:

07782 299181 <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>

## West Midlands

**Cradley HE Group** – small group of families meeting weekly for friendships and craft activities in Cradley Heath. Kate: [katestrickland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katestrickland@yahoo.co.uk)

**F.R.E.E. HE Group (Shropshire)** – Free Range Exciting Education Group meets once a week for a variety of fun & educational activities including trips. Jan: [freeheg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:freeheg@yahoo.co.uk)

## Wiltshire

**Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle** – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance but believe best education 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: [s.a.moore@hotmail.com](mailto:s.a.moore@hotmail.com)  
01299 405196

**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

**Free Range Home Education** – playgroup, babies to 8ish, HE or considering it. Sheffield. Fi: [fhennessy81@gmail.com](mailto:fhennessy81@gmail.com)

**HENNEY (Home Education North North East Yorkshire)** Regular meet ups around Scarborough and East coast area.

Lisa: [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk) henney-owner@yahoogroups.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/> or Mandy: [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk) 01484 460026

**NYHEC (group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. Email: [nyhecowner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nyhecowner@yahoogroups.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/>  
Pauline: [collicandydog123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collicandydog123@yahoo.co.uk) 077764 06409

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

**SYHEC South Yorkshire Home Education Communication** – Email group for home educators in the South Yorkshire area.  
Contact: [inglefamily@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:inglefamily@hotmail.co.uk)

**Wildings** – Huddersfield. Drop-in group with Montessori resources, held in 10-week Seasons, for local HE families to meet others and support their children's interests through play

Penny: [pennyclarson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pennyclarson@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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

## Regional Groups (England)

**East Midlands – East Midlands HE Yahoo Group (EMHE)**

inform & support HE families in E.Midlands.  
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/emhe/info>  
Katya: [katalamb@aol.com](mailto:katalamb@aol.com)

**North East England – North East Home Educators** Thriving group with several activities in the region happening every day! We welcome new members. Treena: [treenafenwick@gmail.com](mailto:treenafenwick@gmail.com)

## South East England

**ActiveEO** – HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire [See Hampshire for details]

**Home-EASE (Home Education for all South East)** – Group of HE families in SE England. [homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk)  
0753 1677 083

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

## South West England

**Home Education Centre (Devon/Dorset/Somerset)** – <http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk> Parent run co-operative group for HE families in Somerset, Dorset and Devon.  
Julie: [julia@homeeducationcentre.org.uk](mailto:julia@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

**HELM** – home education group located mainly within the Birmingham, West Midlands area. Any and all HE families welcome. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM\\_home\\_ed/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM_home_ed/)

## Isle of Man

**Home Educating Network - Isle of Man** – informal group, Yvonne: [isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org)  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>

**Home Education on the Isle Of Man**, Dawn: [sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk)

## WALES

### South East Wales

**Abergavenny HE Group** – monthly meetings at Abergavenny on first Wednesday of each month. £3 per family. Ana: [mrs.ana.maxwell@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.ana.maxwell@gmail.com)

**Bridgend HE Community** – free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, John Muir Award, outside speakers, activities etc.  
Emma: [emmzr75@gmail.com](mailto:emmzr75@gmail.com)

**Cardiff HE Group** – Meets Mondays during term time, Pontcanna. Social group children all ages, all welcome. Sarah: [cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com)  
[www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com](http://www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com)

**Monmouth Home Educators** – Meet weekly for fun and friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports. All ages welcome. Check for dates and times. Local EO member Ann-Marie: [amchandler@btinternet.com](mailto:amchandler@btinternet.com)

**New Foundations** – HE group/ charity, social & educational activities and support, Cardiff/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 07913 955583

**Solid Foundations (Neath Port Talbot)** – Low cost or free activities, sessions and trips for all ages/abilities.  
Hayley: [hayleydraco@gmail.com](mailto:hayleydraco@gmail.com)

**Swansea Home Educators** – EHE families from Swansea and surrounding areas. Eleanor: [eleanoreva@aol.com](mailto:eleanoreva@aol.com)

**Usk Home Education (Monmouthshire)** – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HERs in the area for fun and games and cups of tea. Ann-Marie: [amchandler@btinternet.com](mailto:amchandler@btinternet.com)

**Valleys HE Community (Glamorgan)** – meet weekly, for games, free play and activities. Contact: [louisejherbert@googlemail.com](mailto:louisejherbert@googlemail.com)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HerefordshireHE/>

### South West Wales

**Carmarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown, Carmarthen. Email: [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.  
Sarah: [birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk)

## Mid Wales

**AbersHed (Aberystwyth Special Home Education)** Special needs group in Aberystwyth area. Anna: [annaandrich@googlemail.com](mailto:annaandrich@googlemail.com)  
**Cardiganshire** – Lampeter home-ed group meets one afternoon per week. Social with occasional activities.  
[thislittlelightofmine@phoncoop.coop](mailto:thislittlelightofmine@phoncoop.coop) Mia: 01570421529

**New Leaf HE Group (Newtown, Powys)** – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. Email: [siouxcatsy@yaho.co.uk](mailto:siouxcatsy@yaho.co.uk)  
**Shiny Happy Children** – Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie: [llanfyllinHE@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllinHE@gmail.com)

## North Wales

**Creative Learning and Support (Gwynedd)** – meet every Wed. pm in Bangor. Julie on 01286 678181 or Sarah on 01248 355182

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

**Flintshire Home Education** – Regular meet ups activities & support. Email: [flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Langower HE Group (Gwynedd)** – Weekly meetings. Email: [rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)

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

## Regional Groups (Wales)

**Cymru ALN - HE & EOTAS: (Wales, Special interest and SEN)** Wales-wide support group for Home Educators of children & young people with Additional Learning Needs, (SEN).  
Email: [cymrualn@gmail.com](mailto:cymrualn@gmail.com)

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

**Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester** – for information about group activities. Contact Ann-Marie: [amchandler@btinternet.com](mailto:amchandler@btinternet.com)  
**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.  
Jess: [homeeducationjersey@gmail.com](mailto:homeeducationjersey@gmail.com)

**Guernsey Home Educators** – Group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey.  
Email: [legguernsey@gmail.com](mailto:legguernsey@gmail.com)

## NORTHERN IRELAND

**HEdNI (Home Education Northern Ireland)**. Umbrella group for the whole of Northern Ireland; where a diverse community of smaller local groups and individual home educators can come together for peer support & information, to advertise and find events, and make connections. Sarah: [sarah@hedni.org](mailto:sarah@hedni.org)

## SCOTLAND

**Edinburgh & Beyond Home Educators** – <http://www.ebhe.org.uk>  
Large online network of families, wide variety of groups, many different social and educational activities in & around Edinburgh.  
Email: [@ebhe.org.uk](mailto:@ebhe.org.uk)

**Home Education/Schooling Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen** lots of educational meets. Email: [mykidshomeschool@yahoo.com](mailto:mykidshomeschool@yahoo.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> Facebook group (private, by invitation) by email to: [oakwellbarns@gmail.com](mailto:oakwellbarns@gmail.com)

## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

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

### Tom Crellin (Treasurer, Secretary)

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

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

### Graeme Evans (Membership Secretary)

[g.evans@educationotherwise.org](mailto:g.evans@educationotherwise.org)

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

### Fe Mukwamba-Sendall (Chair)

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

### Sarah Willans

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

N.B. Email to: [trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org) goes to all trustees

Address for general correspondence by letter:

**Education Otherwise** [insert Dept. If known]

2 Senlac Green

Uckfield

East Sussex

TN22 1NN

**WEBSITE:** [www.educationotherwise.org](http://www.educationotherwise.org)

**Webmaster:**

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

### Membership

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

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

or by post to:

**EO Membership**

2 Senlac Green

Uckfield

East Sussex

TN22 1NN

Other Useful Contacts

**Anti-Bullying Contact:** Kathleen Thompson  
01942 89 77 79

### Benefits & Work Guides:

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

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

GCSE/Exams email list:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-ExamsGCSE-](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-ExamsGCSE-A)

[A AS Levels-OU-Others/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-ExamsGCSE-A)

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

**Exam Centres list:** [http://he-](http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre)

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

### Concessions Co-ordinator:

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

### Dyslexia Contact:

Iris Harrison  
[Irisharrison6@aol.com](mailto:Irisharrison6@aol.com)

### EO Stalls:

Habiba Willow  
[habibawillow108@gmail.com](mailto:habibawillow108@gmail.com)

### Helpline Co-ordinator:

Beckie Griffiths  
[eoenquiries@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eoenquiries@educationotherwise.org)

### Local Contacts Co-ordinator:

Lorraine Carbert

### Local Group Insurance:

Anne Rix 01760 441810

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

### Local Groups Listings:

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

### Newsletter Coordinator:

New volunteer: Emma

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

### Special Needs:

Alisa: 01458 448286 / 07401 421903

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

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

### Volunteer Co-ordinator:

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

# EO SIGNED-UP MEMBER (SUM) FORM / GUARANTOR DECLARATION

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

### 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.

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

I (FULL NAME) ..... Membership Number\*.....

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

Postcode: .....

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 (please print clearly): .....

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

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, at EO's Registered Office Address (check current with website).

Please return this form as soon as possible to: **EO SUMs**, 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

*\* If known – N.B. Membership number is shown next to your name on NL address slip*

# 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 direct 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.

2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

Helpline 0845 4786 345

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120

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

Registered Office Address: 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

