



COVID-19 ADDENDUM to Health and Safety Policy

Taunton Home Education has a duty of care to group members and others who may be affected by our activities which means we need to do what we can to protect people from harm.

Whilst the country continues to be in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic we will continue, as we have done to date, to:-

- abide by the protective, legal restrictions imposed at any given time;
- adhere to the relevant government and professional/sectoral guidance covering our activities that apply at any given time and
- take practical steps to minimise risk to members and the public from our activities

in order to help reduce the spread of the virus and keep people safe.

We will continue to:-

- Seek advice from the local authority and Department for Education (as we have done to date) to clarify how the law and guidance apply to us as a home education group.
- Risk assess any outdoor or indoor in-person activities we may be permitted to organise/undertake at any given time.
- Only commission activities from external providers who have robust COVID-19 safe policies and practices.
- Put a range of protective measures in place to ensure participants safety at any group activities we may be permitted to organise/undertake at a given time which conform to government and sectoral guidance including, but not limited to:-
 - a rule not to attend a Taunton Home Education group activity if you or a family member have COVID symptoms or are required to self-isolate or quarantine;
 - limits on numbers of participants and provisions for consistent small 'bubble' groups where appropriate;

- social distancing provisions;
- hygiene, sanitising and cleaning measures for premises;
- provisions as to the wearing of masks and other protective equipment
- appropriate record keeping measures and
- provision of clear guidelines for parents and children.

In addition we will seek to do whatever is practicable to enable members to remain in remote contact and benefit from online opportunities to learn and socialise whilst restrictions apply to in person meet ups and events.

The Management Committee is responsible for ensuring we comply with whatever COVID restrictions apply at a given time and for reviewing and updating practices and procedures accordingly.

There are times when no physical, in person meet ups are permitted and there are times when exemptions to gatherings apply which sometimes cover us – for example there was a period where we could and did run limited covid-safe group learning sessions even though no social activities were permitted. Different provisions have applied in the past regarding outdoor sports activities which have impacted us. It is very complicated and things can change very quickly! As stated above, guidance will be sought when the position is not clear.

