



Welcome to Home Education – here's some info to get you started!

If you have recently deregistered your child from school or are thinking about doing so, you might find it useful to get in touch with Taunton Home Education.

We are a group of families from Taunton and all across Somerset who home educate our children.

Our website, where you can find lots of information and the latest news is www.tauntonhomeeducation.com. We also have a **Facebook group** – to join, put “**Taunton Home Education**” in the search bar, click join and send a message to an admin. This is where we exchange information, plan meet ups, find out about activities and opportunities for our children and seek advice and support from each other. It is a safe space to ask questions, get advice, share experiences and pool ideas. We can also put you in touch with other local groups across Somerset too.

Another way to contact us is tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com or on 07473 119425. If you want to chat or meet up with someone to find out more we will be only too happy to help. We hope you find this info sheet helpful meanwhile X



Our craft stall at Fun in the Park !

We know it can feel a bit daunting at the beginning of your home education journey – particularly if you don't know anyone else who is doing it. Fear not because:-

- You don't need any special skills or qualifications or lots of money – being determined to do the best for your child is all you need.
- There are hundreds of us across Somerset – our children are all thriving outside the school system. We are from all different backgrounds and are friendly and supportive.
- There are many opportunities for you to make new friendships, learn new things and get inspired.

These are some of the activities available to home educators in Somerset:-

- Art History – children learn new techniques and are introduced to many different artists plus a selection of their work is exhibited.
- Drama – children learn performance skills, gain confidence and put on productions (most recently The Jungle Book).

- Forest School –bespoke sessions for HE families at Young Wood.
- Fun science – fortnightly hands-on science sessions, learning how to be scientists, conducting experiments.



Learning about electricity

- Hands on History
- Lego Club – in partnership with Taunton Library.
- Free themed activity days in Taunton with the opportunity to socialise and play plus a mix of art/craft, historical, science, cooking and physical activities.
- Regular social meets around the county
- Cookery Classes
- Swimming and Tennis for HE kids



We love the Vikings!

We also meet up for walks, picnics and visits to different places. There is a lot going on!

Every child is different and the beauty of home education is that you can provide an education entirely tailored to their needs and interests. Some of us take a semi-structured approach with set times to do Maths, English and whatever subjects our children are interested in and then lots of free time for them to play or do sports or visit places. Some of us give our children complete autonomy to decide how they spend their time and simply facilitate their interests and arrange whatever



Planting an Oak Tree for Earth Day

resources they need and everyone else is somewhere in between! There's not really such a thing as an 'average day' but one thing's for sure you may not spend much time at home!

The internet provides a vast array of learning opportunities and courses to suit every interest. Lots of us use free sites like Khan Academy, Future Learn and DuoLingo. Then there are subscription sites like Twinkl (which covers everything!), Reading Eggs and Conquer Maths for literacy and numeracy respectively. Locally there are amazing woodlands, nature reserves, historic buildings, animal parks plus lots of activities at the Library, Theatre and Museum with free films at the Odeon in November.

If your child wants to sit exams you can get advice from parents who've supported kids through IGCSEs or from parents whose kids have got qualifications at local colleges.

So do get in touch – we look forward to meeting you x

Useful weblinks:

<http://www.home-education.org.uk/>
<http://www.educationotherwise.net/>
<http://www.he-special.org.uk/>
<http://edyourself.org/>

Home Education : Quick Legal Facts

To deregister your child from a mainstream school you simply send the Head a standard letter (copies on our Facebook Group) and don't send your child in any more. The school must take their name off the roll and let the local authority know. (For special schools paid for by the LEA you need to make a request to the LEA but they cannot unreasonably refuse).

If you choose to take personal responsibility for your child's education that means you have to provide a full-time education which is efficient and suitable to your child's age, needs and aptitudes.

You are not expected to follow the National Curriculum, provide a broad and balanced curriculum, give formal lessons, test your children, mark their work or formally assess their progress, keep school hours, make plans in advance or match school-based age-specific standards.

Local authorities have **no** statutory duty to monitor the quality of home education on a routine basis and **no** right of entry to your home to see what you do. They can ask you for a brief outline of your provision once you've had a few months to adjust. If they have specific concerns they should outline them to you and give you a chance to respond.

(see the Government Guidelines on Elective Home Education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>)