

## **Education Other Than At School**

### **Information and Guidance for Parents**

The intention of this leaflet is to help families understand what may be involved if they are considering educating their child or children away from school. The information should clarify for you the policy of The Department for Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES).

If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact Inclusion and Early Intervention who have responsibility for Education other than at School:

Children, Young People, Education and Skills  
PO Box 142, Highlands Campus  
St Saviour  
JE4 8QJ  
Tel: +44 (0) 1534 445504  
[inclusion@gov.je](mailto:inclusion@gov.je)

There are a number of questions which families ask regularly when they are considering educating at home. The following examples are included to assist you in making an informed decision as to whether home education is an appropriate alternative to school for your child or children.

#### ***Do children have to go to school?***

Most children in Jersey attend school but the 1999 Education (Jersey) Law (revised 2007), Article 13 states that if you wish to educate your child other than at school “...the instruction to be received by the child is at least equal to the instruction that a child of the same age would receive in a provided school”.

#### ***What does this mean?***

It means that you must show that your child will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their individual needs and that they will progress academically and develop emotionally and socially. It does not mean that you have to offer the same as a provided school.

#### ***What if my child's needs cannot be met in mainstream school?***

There are a range of specialist provisions and schools where the CYPES may place your child in order to meet their needs.

### ***Do I need permission to educate at home?***

You must seek the approval of CYPES. In considering any proposal of this nature, CYPES may give you approval subject to conditions. If approval is given, your child's progress will be assessed from time to time, usually annually. If CYPES is dissatisfied with the arrangements in place, it may withdraw the approval.

### ***Do many other parents educate their children in Jersey?***

Parents usually prefer their children to be educated in a school because schools are generally successful in helping their pupils to develop academically whilst supporting their personal and social development. Occasionally, parents prefer to arrange their child's education otherwise than in a school, usually at home.

### ***What is the Jersey Curriculum and does it apply to me?***

The Jersey Curriculum does not apply to children educated at home but you may wish your child to enter or re-enter school at some point in the future. Reintegration will be easier if you take the requirements of the Jersey Curriculum into account.

The curriculum in schools must:

- be broad and balanced
- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society
- prepare pupils for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

The following subjects are taught in schools

- Art
- Design Technology
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Information and Communication Technology
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Religious Education
- Science

### ***What is full-time education?***

The length of time is not specified but full-time education in school means that children spend between 25-27 hours on work each week, plus homework according to their age. Children attending school attend for 38 weeks per year.

## ***What would be seen as a good curriculum?***

- Broad:** It should introduce the pupils to a wide range of knowledge, understanding and skills. It should include practical, creative and physical activities, as well as planned opportunities for social development.
- Balanced:** Each part should be allotted sufficient time to make its special contribution but not such that it squeezes out other essential parts of learning.
- Relevant:** Subjects should be taught so as to bring out their application to the pupil's own experience and to adult life and to give due emphasis to practical aspects.
- Differentiated:** What is taught and how it is taught needs to be matched to the pupil's abilities and aptitudes. It should also be sufficiently challenging so that a pupil can show that some progress is being made.

Schools employ a range of teaching and learning methods. These might include a variety of independent and group learning styles such as:

- Active learning
- Collaborative and cooperative work in groups
- Problem solving and decision making skills
- Teamwork skills

It is clear that young children acquire their learning in many different ways. In primary school the curriculum is not always taught as separate subjects but may be delivered through integrated and whole-curriculum activities. At all ages a strong emphasis is placed on collaborative and group work to develop skills and attributes to take throughout their lives. In secondary school it is more likely that the subjects will be taught separately. You may decide what to teach and the most appropriate methods, provided you can describe the ways in which the education is appropriate and effective.

Children learn in many ways, at different rates and from a range of people. Education does not always have to follow a set pattern of lessons or even a structured timetable. However, it is good to identify your weekly, termly and annual plans and the ways in which you intend to achieve them.

*Success is more likely if you consider the following suggestions:*

- the learning process should be as active, practical and participative as possible
- learning should be systematically planned with your child's needs paramount
- take full advantage of all the resources available around you
- reading for pleasure and information should be a high priority in your programme

- provide a programme of educational visits and make use of audiovisual resources
- provide opportunities which help with physical development, and ones which allow social interaction to take place in different contexts
- make learning more enjoyable by varying the style, and processes it involves
- give opportunities for independent study and research and provide a quiet area for sustained study/work
- regular testing is available to children in schools and colleges. In our view children educated at home should not be deprived of these opportunities to assess their progress. Therefore, children will undertake Jersey Screening assessments which may be in addition to those carried out on monitoring visits
- public examinations such as GCSE will be important for your child and you will need to discuss the available options. Many GCSEs are modular, involving ongoing teacher assessment, and may not be available to those who are educated other than at school. You are strongly advised to make yourself aware of your options and the implications of these before embarking on education other than at school
- consider progression beyond the age of 16. Careers guidance is readily available for young people who are being educated at home and the Education Department can provide you with advice on whom to contact

### ***How do I go about it?***

There are a number of steps that need to be taken

1. Contact the CYPES to discuss your intention Tel: 445504
2. If you decide you want to investigate further, please email ([inclusion@gov.je](mailto:inclusion@gov.je)) and you will be sent an application link outlining the requirements of the CYPES, to complete and return
- 3, 4 You may also use the link provided through school admissions [School admissions](#)  
Your application will be considered and you will be invited to meet with a Director of Inclusion and Intervention to discuss your intentions
5. If approval is given, an officer of the CYPES will contact you and arrange to visit in order to discuss your programme and meet and assess your child
6. Approval will normally be granted for one academic year or part thereof. An officer from CYPES will visit annually to ascertain the safeguarding of your child and that their progress is in line with their ability and age
7. In subsequent years, should you wish to continue educating at home, a further application will need to be made including proposed plans for the next academic year's educational programme

### ***What if I don't inform the department, just keep my child at home?***

By law, a child of statutory school age must be receiving an education. It is your responsibility to ensure your child continues to attend school until you have approval in writing from the CYPES that you can commence education at home.

The Education Department must satisfy itself that parents are fulfilling their duties. If you do not provide evidence of this in writing and in discussion with the officer of CYPES, they may conclude that your child's education is not effective. Further discussions around the appropriateness of home education will be necessary.

### ***Can I get financial assistance to educate my child at home?***

There is no funding available from the CYPES for you to educate your child at home, so consideration needs to be given to the financial impact on your family and how you will manage to provide the appropriate resources and opportunities.

#### ***Points to consider carefully:***

- Your decision to home educate needs very careful consideration. It is a major step which will need your commitment in terms of time and energy
- Carefully consider the financial implications, e.g. visits, books, resources
- Plan your educational programme and discuss it with your child before making a decision
- Reflect on the social side of growing up; the need to provide opportunities for your child to be involved in social activities, contact with other children, joint activities with other children and groups and the stimulus of seeing other children's work. The benefits from such activities may provide a source of motivation for your child to succeed and will equip them with the social and learning skills to succeed in life
- Keep your options open as your child's needs will change at different ages and stages. We will always be willing to work with you to find a suitable place for your child in a Jersey school
- It would not be in your child's best interests if you decide to home educate because of a disagreement with a teacher or a school. Discuss the problem, or refer to the CYPES for help in getting it resolved
- Home education should not be seen as a solution to the problem of getting a reluctant child to school. The Education Welfare Team would be very happy to help support your child if this is an issue

Parents who do decide to home educate often find it a happy and constructive experience but not in every case. It is, as you have read, an enormous challenge to undertake. If you decide to educate at home, CYPES will maintain a good working partnership with you whilst ensuring that an appropriate education is being provided.

Do remember if at any time you wish for your child to enter or re-enter the school system, CYPES will be happy to facilitate this.