



Renfrewshire
Council

Children's Services

Home education information for parents

Parents/guardians are within their rights to make a request to educate their child at home rather than have them taught at one of the local authority schools

Home education is a right conditional upon parents providing an efficient education suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of the child.

Renfrewshire Council will support parents who choose to home educate by providing advice and information. Parents are advised that the Council is required by law to make sure the education provided at home is appropriate to the child.

Withdrawing a child from school

If your child has attended a school run by Renfrewshire Council you must ask our consent before taking your child out of school. A request to home educate should be made in writing to:

Director of Children's Services
Renfrewshire House
Cotton Street
Paisley PA1 1LE

Any request should include the following:

- Child's name and date of birth
- Your home address
- Your child's present school and class
- It would be helpful if you could provide the reason you wish to home educate, although there is no obligation for you to tell us this

A local authority Children's Services Inclusion Support Officer will contact you to discuss your plans for your child's education. You can choose whether to submit a written outline of your educational plans or you have a home visit or a meeting to discuss your plans.

We may ask you for further information and we may gather information from other agencies. A part of the process will include asking your child how they feel about being educated at home.

You will receive a response in writing from Renfrewshire Council within six weeks of your initial application to inform you if we have granted consent for you to home educate.

If consent is not granted, the Council must be clear about why the request has been refused. The parents/guardians will be given the opportunity to address the grounds on which it has been refused and resubmit their request if they wish.

Guidance on a suitable home education

When you have started to home educate your child we will remain in contact with you on an annual basis in order that we can satisfy the requirement that the education being provided is efficient and suitable. We would expect your child's education to include:

- Recognition of your child's needs, aptitude and aspiration
- A range of learning experiences
- A broad spectrum of activities appropriate to your child's stage of development
- Access to appropriate resources
- Appropriate levels of physical activity
- The opportunity to interact with other children and adults

Where we have concerns about the education you are providing we will give details of the concerns and the reasons for them. We respect your right to home educate your child and will give every opportunity to resolve any issues.

Child protection issues

If you employ other people to educate your child then you are responsible for making sure they are suitable. We strongly advise you to take up references and ask for a PVG (protection of vulnerable groups) check.

Children with additional support needs

A parent's/guardian's right to educate their child at home is not changed if their child has additional support needs. However, it is reasonable for the Council to ask parents/guardians how they plan to cater for their child's needs at home.

We have no obligation to provide financial or other support for children with additional support needs who are educated at home.

Local authority support

Advice and support is available from our Children's Services Inclusion Support Officers once you have been granted consent to home educate. They will also be in touch with you annually for an update on progress.

Qualifications

There is no legal requirement for young people to take a particular set of qualifications. The internal assessment component of many qualifications can restrict the certification of external candidates. However opportunities are available to study for recognised qualifications if you home educate. Your child can study by:

Enrolling at college

Some colleges may accept children of school age on their courses. If accepted, you are responsible for payment of course fees. Contact the college for more details. The local college is West College Scotland's Paisley Campus, telephone 0300 600 60 60.

Self study

If you prefer to work independently towards qualifications you will need to meet the conditions of the exam board. If accepted, you are responsible for payment of the registration fee. To find out more information please contact the Scottish Qualifications Authority on 0845 279 1000 or at gca@sqa.org.uk

Other advice and support

Scottish Government guidance on home education
www.gov.scot/resource/doc/207380/0055026.pdf

School House Home School Association

www.schoolhouse.org.uk