



Home Education Newsletter November 2024

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This November issue of the home education newsletter brings you the history of the fight to home educate, the ongoing fight, the changes in the home education climate, winter activities and more.

It's November, which means we celebrated Joy Baker Day on the 15th. For those of you who don't know who Joy Baker is, she spent ten years campaigning for the right to home educate her children, and in doing so made it possible for us all to enjoy this right today.

As well as remembering all she did and feeling thankful that we are where we are today, it is also important to reflect on our own role in the shape of home education today and in the future. There has never been more of a need for this with current threats to all our rights through the proposed introduction of a register for home educated children. This, coupled with the increasing threat from Local Authorities overstepping their responsibilities and using threatening and coercive tactics, it has never been more important to make sure we know our responsibilities and the recommended guidelines towards meeting these, and that we follow them consistently as a community. So please, read the newsletter, visit the website and follow us on social media to make sure we can all maintain the rights that Joy Baker so bravely fought for.

Over the coming weeks and months you are going to see a lot of possibly scary information with what may appear to be attempts to undermine the right to home educate. We advise caution when reading these posts and articles, as they are often worded in a way to create panic, whilst yes, things could be changing, rest assured we will keep our website up to date with changes and what you can do.

The current issues include the proposal to require consent to home educate if you are subject to a child protection plan or investigation and the children not in school (CNIS) register to include home educated children. Keep reading as below we share what you can do,

Registers and consent to home educate

Neither sound like a positive move for home educators. We share some more details and ways you can be involved to prevent harm to the home education community.

[Click here to read more](#)

Looking for cheap indoor options for winter?

With the weather getting colder, you might be looking for cheaper ways to use indoor venues for days out. Head to our blog on Blue Peter Badges to learn how to gain free entry to over 200 attractions.

[Click here to read more](#)

Changing population, changing climate

With the home education population more than doubling in the last decade, and an ever increasing number of reasons for choosing to home educate, we explore what this means for the current climate and future of home education in a series of blogs. Click on the link to read more.

[Click here to read more](#)

What are the common pitfalls with home education?

Parents starting out with home education, as well as those more experienced, often fall into the same common pitfalls that can be avoided with the right information. As well as being clearly detailed in the website, we have put together some advice and information on the more common misconceptions that people have and the mistakes they make in a series of easily digestible social media posts. If you haven't already, then join nearly 20,000 members in our [FB group](#) and follow our public pages us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to learn all you need to know to make the home education journey a smooth and stress free one that can focus on enjoying the freedom to educate your child in the way that is best for them.

Some of the very useful topics covered include:

- Incorrectly calling it home schooling and believing you need to recreate school at home.
- Thinking you have to keep a diary or follow a timetable.
- Believing everything the professionals tell you.
- Staying at home during school hours.
- Getting scared and overwhelmed.

- Why you shouldn't accept LA visits.

As ever, we will also remind all newbies and experienced home edders that the [Educational Freedom website](#) was written by home educators to give you all the information you could ever need. So please do grab a cuppa (and a piece of cake), put your feet up and give it a read. Even if you think you know everything there is to know, we continually add new content so do check back in.

Home Education, Special Needs, Disability and the EHCP

Many home educators will have questions regarding additional support and access to services now that their child is not registered in school. They might wonder whether having an EHCP will affect the deregistration process or whether they can apply for one once home education starts. Additionally there might be concerns about accessing the school nurse and vaccinations, CAMHS or similar services. All of these questions are answered in our [blog on Home education, special needs, disability and the EHCP](https://educationalfreedom.org.uk/sen-and-home-education/).<https://educationalfreedom.org.uk/sen-and-home-education/>

What is your experience with groups?

For many starting home education, there is an assumption that there will be groups available, often during school hours, that will provide a range of skills, experiences and learning, often with peers. This allows for socialisation as well as time with other adults, access to resources they might not have at home and the chance to learn or consolidate information in a different setting. The benefits are many, including to mental health, self esteem, physical well-being and overall experience of home education. Indeed, for many, the time and ability to access certain activities is more available when home educating and there is often enthusiasm about being able to affordably participate in these.

As the population increases and demand grows higher, there should be a natural increase in the number and type of groups available as the market embraces the opportunities and growing customer base. Many home educators have started, or contribute to, groups. And new companies and small businesses are joining the community with a range of new ideas and approaches. This should be positive and welcome news. But does this assumption reflect the experience of joining groups?

We are asking people to share their experiences, positive and negative, of attending groups. Are you finding the market is keeping up with need, or is the demand for quality provision pushing up prices? Is the variety of groups sufficient to meet everybody's needs, or are you finding your children excluded repeatedly for the same reasons? Do you have any suggestions, or have you noticed changes during your time home educating, whether positive or negative. We'd love to understand your experiences a bit more. Respond to this email with your experience.

Educational Freedom now has a Bluesky Account

For those of you who don't know, Bluesky is a new social media platform that operates in a similar way to Twitter before all the changes. It is growing rapidly in popularity with over a million new users a day, many of whom are switching from X. Educational Freedom now uses this platform to provide updates and information. To follow us on Bluesky use the handle [educationalfreedom@bluesky.socials](https://bsky.app/org/educationalfreedom@bluesky.socials)



**Thanks
for your
support**

**Donate the cost of a
cuppa to help ensure we
can remain free to access**

And finally, do you have something to say? Do you want to share your home ed journey with others?

We are looking to add to our already existing admin team on our Facebook group, new contributors for our public FB page, Instagram, Bluesky and Tiktok, and content creation for our website and newsletters. If you're interested please get in touch.



Educational Freedom

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