



WADHAM SCHOOL
ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION POLICY

Who is responsible?	Governing Body
Statutory Policy	No
Approval Date	July 2025
Next Review	July 2026

Signed:

Date:

Introduction

All school-aged children in the United Kingdom have the right to a full-time education that is appropriate to their age, development and level of need.

Although most children go to school, there are some parents who choose to home educate.

We are committed to supporting and working positively with families and will advise and direct them to sources of support should they choose this education pathway for their children.

If a parent decides to choose the elective home education pathway for their child and at a later date decides their child needs formal school education again, our door is open to discuss a return to Wadham School.

Parents and Carers' Rights and Responsibilities

Parents must inform Wadham in writing if they have made the decision to home educate their child.

Parents and carers do not need to be qualified teachers to home educate their children. There is also no requirement to follow the National Curriculum, though some find this helpful if they plan to make use of public examinations later.

Parents and carers must be able to provide their child with a suitable, full-time education or provide access to means through which this can be achieved. They

- can choose how, when and with whom learning takes place
- do not have to have formal learning plans, lessons, or assessments
- do not have to follow to the age-related learning expectations used in maintained schools

Somerset Council may contact parents and carers to discuss home education. They do not have to respond, but in cases where more information is needed about a child's learning or welfare, this communication is advised and can help stop statutory action from being taken.

You can find more information in the link below:

[Elective home education](#)

Wadham's Responsibilities if you Decide to Electively Home Educate Your Child.

We will send a letter to the parent to acknowledge the decision they have made to EHE their child. This will hold your child's place at Wadham open for 15 days in case there are any changes to the circumstances.

During this time, parents can have their child reinstated at Wadham School without question, or the need for an admissions application.

After the 15-day cooling off period, we will complete an Elective Home Education request to Somerset Council so that they are aware of your child's new Education status, and remove your child from the school roll, backdated to when the request was made.

Please note: The school has a legal duty to record any safeguarding concerns or other concerns around home educating on the form returned to Somerset ~~County~~ Council.

Somerset Council's Duties and Responsibilities

Local authorities have several duties to make sure that all children are kept safe and have access to suitable, full-time education, including those that are home educated.

You can find details of these duties in the document in the link below:

[Elective home education](#)

Home Education Process

Most home educated children enjoy a personalised and flexible way of learning that is in line with their learning style, needs and aspirations. Many also benefit from Somerset's network of support groups within its home educating communities that provide valued support, guidance and advice to parents and carers.

In the small number of cases where home education is found to be unsuitable, as a school and indeed Somerset Education Services must question and act to ensure adequate educational provision is put in place.

Accessing Exams

Home-educated children are not required to sit public exams, such as GCSEs and A Levels, but they can do so as private candidates.

Parents and carers who wish to have their child entered for a public exam must approach local exam centres (typically schools and colleges) that accept private candidates. An exam entry fee will be payable and children sitting exams as private candidates are required to do so under the exam conditions provided by the exam centre.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) holds [an interactive list of exam centres](#) that accept private candidates, which is searchable by postcode and examination type.

Independently registered exam centres can also be used, where available.

Returning to school after being home educated

If you want your child to return to school you can request a place at any time (after the 15 day-cooling off period) by following the [in-year school admissions process](#). For support and information, please email the School Admissions team at schooladmissions@somerset.gov.uk.