

# Blaenau Gwent Elective Home Education Information



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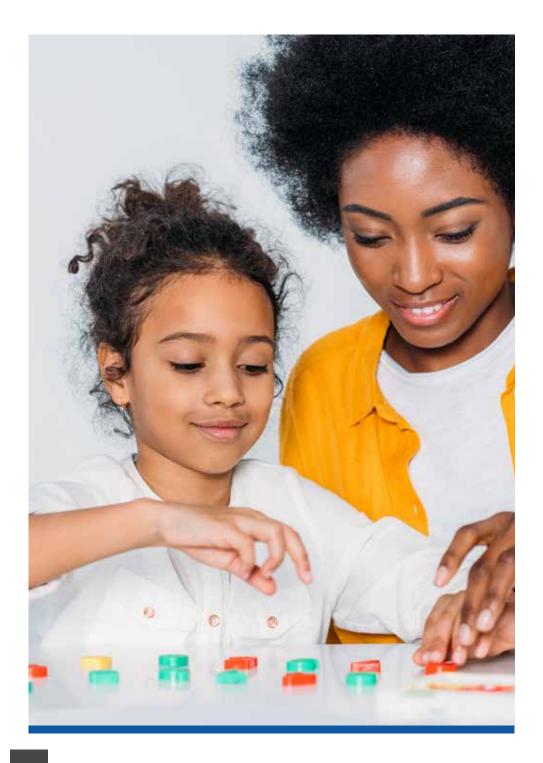
# Introduction

Home Education, home schooling or electively home educating are all terms that mean a family has elected to educate their child outside of the school system and without their local authority making provision for their child.

Home education is a term used to describe when parents/carers educate their children at home instead of sending them to school. In Wales, as with the rest of the UK, education is compulsory but school is not.

#### However:

Section 437(1) Education Act 1996 states that: If it appears to a local education authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring him to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice 7 that the child is receiving such education. This means if the local authority continues to have concerns, and therefore considers it necessary that the child should attend school, it must serve a School Attendance Order (SAO) on the parent/carer.



# Frequently asked questions

#### Is it legal?

Yes. Home-Education is legal in all parts of the UK. You do not need to be a teacher or have any other special qualifications.

#### How do I start?

If your child is pre-school age and has never been to school, there is no action for you to take prior to starting home education – though it would help us if you did inform us that you are intending to educate your child, together with your details. If your child is in school you must formally de-register by writing to the head teacher and say that you intend to teach your child at home.

#### What happens when I withdraw my child from school?

The LA will write to you to request evidence of the education you are providing for your child. You can be offered an informal visit by the Elective Home Education Adviser or if you would like to provide evidence in some other form than by a home visit then you are able to do so at this time. If you refuse to respond to their informal questions LAs are permitted under case law to assume that you are failing to provide any education and ultimately issue a School Attendance Order (which will force you to return your child to school). You may challenge the Order in court by providing evidence that proper educational provision is being made.

#### Can I home educate a child with a Special Needs Statement?

Yes. There is no law prohibiting the home education of statemented children provided they are not attending a special school, in which case you will need the consent of the LA. However, you need to be able to show that you can provide for these special needs should the LA enquire.

#### What if my child is in a special school?

If your child has special needs and attends a special school, you do need permission from the local education authority to de-register and ensure you can otherwise cater for his or her special needs.

If your child is the subject of a statement of special educational needs, you should contact **Gill Smith**, **ALN Manager**, **Anvil Court**, **Abertillery**, **NP13 1DB**.

# Frequently asked questions (continued)

#### How does compulsory school age affect home educators?

As a parent, you must provide an education for your child during "compulsory school age" (age 5 to 16). The law says that this can be at home. The statutory school leaving age is the last Friday in June in the school year in which a pupil reaches age 16 (Year 11).

#### What is the parent's actual duty?

The Education Act 1996 says that it is the parents' duty: To cause (the child) to receive efficient full time education suitable to his / her age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he / she may have either by regular attendance at school or "otherwise".

#### Will I be checked or monitored in any way?

The LA has a statutory duty to ensure that you are providing efficient and suitable education for your child.

However, Blaenau Gwent Council believes that positive relationships and mutual respect between the LA and parents are the best way of ensuring that the best interests of the child are safeguarded. As such, you will be offered regular visits, which are intended to be supportive in nature. You will also be given the opportunity to submit evidence, in some other form, that you are providing an education suitable to your child's 'age, ability and aptitude', and to any special educational needs he or she may have.

The Local Authority will not tell you how to educate your child. It is your responsibility to plan and carry out your child's educational experience.

#### Do I have to teach the National Curriculum?

The National Curriculum only applies to state schools. As a home educator it is up to you and your child what, how and when you study.

There is no one form of education; 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 timetable. However, it is good to identify your long term plans and the ways in which you intend to achieve them.

#### What is 'efficient' and 'suitable' education?

Education can be said to be "efficient" if it achieves what it sets out to achieve and "suitable" if it prepares a child for taking his / her place in society and also that opportunities provided enable them to achieve their full potential.

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

The length of time is not specified but "full-time" education in school means that children spend between 23 and 25 hours on work each week, according to age. Children attending LA schools do so for 38 weeks a year.

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

**Broad:** It should introduce the pupils to a wide range of knowledge, understanding and skills.

**Balanced**: Each part should be allotted sufficient time to make its special contribution but not such that it pushes out other essential parts of the 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 child's abilities and aptitude. It should also be sufficiently challenging so that a child can show that some progress is being made.

A good curriculum also includes other aspects at an appropriate level such as personal and social education, health education, outdoor and environmental education, citizenship, careers education, food technology and information and communication technology (ICT). Opportunities to mix and relate with other children and adults are considered to be important to a child's personal and social development.

Blaenau Gwent CBC encourages a range of teaching and learning methods, but these can be adapted to suit the individual needs of your child. These might include a variety of independent and group learning styles such as:

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

## **Further Information**

The National Curriculum, tests and assessment arrangements:

In Wales, information is available on the Welsh Government website at: http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/?lang=en and http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculuminwales/arevisedcurriculumforwales/?lang=en

Information on primary and secondary curriculum and assessment is available. You may also be interested in looking at GCSE information at: http://qualificationswales.org/qualifications/gcses/?lang=en or http://www.wjec.co.uk/

The Careers Wales Service is for all children and young people aged 13-19 living in Wales, and its services and responsibilities cover children and young people who are being educated at home. Information is available on their website at www.careerswales.com/

Parents with younger children may also find it helpful to access a website about "Digger and the Gang". http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/digger/

This website is for 5 - 11 year olds and aims to help children find out more about the ideas behind the National Curriculum, and how different parts of the National Curriculum work together to fit into the greater scheme of things.

Parents can also find other links on the BBC websites the addresses are www.bbc. co.uk/learning/index.shtml and www.bbc.co.uk/schools/index.shtml

Independent organisations that deal with issues surrounding Home Education

**Education Otherwise** is a UK-based membership organisation which provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside school, and for those who wish to uphold the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of their children. **Contact:** Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, PE34 3XW. **Website:** www.educationotherwise.net

There is a membership fee per year. It includes a quarterly newsletter with details of resources, get-togethers, updates on the legal and political situation and personal stories as well as the Education Otherwise Handbook.

Home Education Advisory Service is a national home education charity based in the United Kingdom. It is dedicated to the provision of advice and practical support for families who wish to educate their children at home in preference to sending them to school. Interest in home education is increasing and HEAS recognises that reliable information should be available for everyone. **Contact:** Home Education Advisory Service, PO Box 98, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6AN **Tel:** 01707 371854 **Website:** www.heas.org.uk

Support for children with special educational needs http://www.he-special.org.uk/index.php

# **Reading List: suggestions from Home Educators**

Free Range Education: How Home Education Works
Author: Terri Dowty | Published by: Hawthorn Press

**Educating Children at Home** 

**Author:** Alan Thomas | Published by: Continuum International Publishing

Home Learning Year by Year: How to Design a Home school Curriculum from

**Preschool through High School** 

**Author:** Rebecca Rupp

Teach Your Own - The John Holt Book of Home Schooling

Author: John Holt and Pat Farenga | Published by: Perseus Books

**Doing it their way - Home Based Education and Autonomous Learning Author:** Jan Fortune-Wood | **Published by:** Educational Heretics Press

One-to-One: A Practical Guide to Learning at Home (Age 0 – 11)
Author: Gareth Lewis (and family) | Published by: Nezert Books

Unqualified Education: A Practical Guide to Learning at Home (Age 11 - 18)

**Author:** Gareth Lewis (and family) | **Published by:** Nezert Books

**Learning all the Time** 

Author: John Holt | Published by: Perseus Publishing



## **Learning Resources**

The way that children learn is changing and the Internet provides a wealth of resources. This new kind of learning platform is ideally suited for the task of learning at home. There are literally hundreds of resources available to help a child learn, including 'YouTube' and Ted talks' and many of these are free.

Education Otherwise resources list for home educating parents.

Please note, that this list comprises all resources which home educating families have recommended to us and unless otherwise stated, Education Otherwise makes no recommendation as to their standard. Links current at 10th March 2020.

Subject	Cost?
MATHS	
Maths Factor https://www.themathsfactor.com/	
Absolute Maths http://home.absolutemathscourses.co.uk/	Yes
Beast Academy https://beastacademy.com/	Yes
Corbett Maths https://corbettmaths.com/	Free
Mathletics https://www.mathletics.com/uk/for-home/?gclid=Cj0K-CQiA4sjyBRC5ARIsAEHsELGGregShqYiC_B_gkleSXI6L5P5kuoydZ-0BRxXjHxYQZ6UYszUIMj0aAmleEALw_wcB	Yes
Mathseeds https://www.3plearning.com/mathseeds/	Yes
Conquer Maths https://www.conquermaths.com/	Yes
Maths Whizz https://www.whizz.com/	Yes
Mathswatch https://mathswatch.co.uk/	Yes
Mathsframe https://mathsframe.co.uk/	Yes
Life of Fred https://www.lifeoffred.uniquemath.com/	Yes
Maths: no problem! https://mathsnoproblem.com/	Yes
Doodle maths https://www.doodlemaths.com/	Yes
Number Shark https://www.wordshark.co.uk/numbershark/	Yes
Number Stacks https://www.numberstacks.co.uk/	Yes
Prodigy Maths https://www.prodigygame.com/referral.php?referralCode=01F631F5997D&referralName=Caroline%2BMukisa&referralOrigin=link	Free

Subject	Cost?
MATHS	
Mathsgenie https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/	Free
CIMT https://www.cimt.org.uk/projects/mep/index.htm?fbclid=I-wAR0YKMpm0gcSD1EuzVC16DXIGNItBjfrDHCNxTw6IIdMg-ZpZxgdzitdbbwo	Free
Geometry Junkyard https://www.ics.uci.edu/~eppstein/junkyard/	Free
Count On http://www.counton.org/	Free



Subject	Cost?
ENGLISH	
British Council, Learn English https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/	Yes
Word Shark https://www.wordshark.co.uk/	Yes
Letter Join https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/	Yes
Literacy Planet https://www.literacyplanet.com/uk/	Yes
Scribeasy https://www.scribeasy.com/	Yes
Reading eggs https://readingeggs.co.uk/	Yes
Dyslexia Gold https://dyslexiagold.co.uk/	Yes
Spellodrome https://uk.spellodrome.com/#/home	Yes
Wildkrats https://dm-ed.com/?fbclid=IwAR02wK9_hgMPpijxW-IO9dlkKJotTHw-5NUoCuSQoXUeDbIMTP5o9hBhP0	Yes
Skoolbo https://skoolbo.com/	Yes
Nessy https://www.nessy.com/uk/	Yes
Catherine Mooney https://www.catherinemooneytutoring.co.uk/	Yes
Wild Literacy https://wildliteracy.com/	Yes
Toe by Toe https://toe-by-toe.co.uk/	Yes
English for Everyone https://www.englishforeveryone.org/	Free
Teach your monster to read https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/	Free
Story Bots https://www.storybots.com/	Free

Subject	Cost?
IT	
Conquer computing https://www.conquercomputing.com/	Yes
Code Combat https://codecombat.com/	Yes
Little Miss Inventors Code Garden https://abcya.io/little-miss-inventor-code-garden	Free
Code Academy https://www.codecademy.com/	Free
Fluxtime https://www.fluxtime.com/about.php	Yes
Alice (coding) https://www.alice.org/about/	Free
Cyber Discovery https://joincyberdiscovery.com/	Free
Scratch https://scratch.mit.edu/	Free

Subject	Cost?
SCIENCE	
GameEdAcademy https://www.gamedacademy.com/	Yes
Mel Science https://melscience.com/US-en/ (kits by post)	Yes
NASA https://www.nasa.gov/	Free
Curiosity Box https://www.curiositybox.com/ (kits by post)	Yes
Subject	Cost?

GEOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND NATURE	
Humantees http://humanatees.co.uk/ (tutoring Service)	Yes
Odizzi https://www.oddizzi.com/	Yes
Little passports https://www.littlepassports.com/?gclid=CjwKCAi-Ahc7yBRAdEiwAplGxX9TNKaWy7y4SnHn_sC_H2ahsmZUo6Ne-syTr_roGFZzsYa_gR6QnlghoCC5cQAvD_BwE (kits by post)	Yes
National Geographic https://www.nationalgeographic.com/	Yes
Solar radiation Calculator http://www.solarelectricityhandbook.com/solar-irradiance.html	Free
3D Geography https://www.3dgeography.co.uk/	Free
Portal One http://portal.onegeology.org/OnegeologyGlobal/?f-bclid=lwAR2s-XJaCttP8ImGOnNJCoWes106oqF2yPD0BQ-4pEt_P-85oR1AT41tLSFM	Free
Smithsonian https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/travel-through-deep-time-interactive-earth-180952886/?fb-clid=lwAR3sUQlaFriAqHpc_KDOnNGyDdqFW5mL9fGmpSuyawY-JhrBWeZ5VrbANLMc	Free
Mining Matters https://miningmatters.ca/resources/education/mining-matters-publications	Free
Scale of the Universe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaGEjrADGPA	Free
Virtual Miocroscope https://www.virtualmicroscope.org/explore	Free
Global Biodiversity Information Facility https://www.gbif.org/	Free
Catalogue of Life http://www.catalogueoflife.org/col/	Free
Windpower Database http://www.wind-power-program.com/UK_wind_speed_database.htm	Free
RHI school gardening https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/resources	Free

Subject	Cost?
GEOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND NATURE	
Solar radiation Calculator http://www.solarelectricityhandbook.com/solar-irradiance.html	Free
Tectonic plate Movement http://students.open.ac.uk/science/s104/S104Software/PlateMotion.html	Free
Met Office Climate data https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/uk-climate-averages	Free
Daft Logic Height above sea level https://www.daftlogic.com/sand-box-google-maps-find-altitude.html	Free
USGS: Water Cycle https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/water-cycle?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects	Free
Current Wind Map https://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/surface/level/orthographic=91.52,-54.40,281/loc=1.658,10.551	Free

Subject	Cost?
HISTORY	
Humantees http://humanatees.co.uk/	Yes
School History https://schoolhistory.co.uk/	Yes
Squaducation https://www.squaducation.com/ (Videos)	Yes
Historical Association https://www.history.org.uk/student/categories/history-resources-for-students	Yes
Mysteries in time https://www.mysteriesintime.co.uk/ (Kits by post)	Yes
Teach It https://www.teachithistory.co.uk/resources	Yes
Active History https://www.activehistory.co.uk/	Yes
NatGeo https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/teacher-category/history/	Free
History Resources cupboard https://www.historyresourcecupboard.co.uk/	Free
Big History Project https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home	Free

Subject	Cost?
LANGUAGES	
Duolingo https://www.duolingo.com/	Yes
Dinolingo https://dinolingo.com/	Yes
Mango Languages https://mangolanguages.com/	Yes
BSL online https://www.british-sign.co.uk/learn-online-british-sign-language-course/	Yes
One Third Stories https://onethirdstories.com/	Free
Coffee Break https://radiolingua.com/	Free
Lingq https://www.lingq.com/en/	Free
Memrise https://www.memrise.com/	Free
Forvo https://forvo.com/	Free
BBC languages http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/	Free
uTalk https://www.utalk.com/en	Free
German Pod 101 https://www.germanpod101.com	Free
Yabla https://www.yabla.com/	Free
NHK (Japanese) https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/learnjapanese/	Free
Rocket Languages https://www.rocketlanguages.com/	Free
Slow Russian (other languages available) https://realrussianclub.com/slowrussianpodcast/	
Subject	Cost?
MUSIC AND ARTS	

Subject	Cost?
MUSIC AND ARTS	
Artventure https://artventure.com.au/	Yes
Prodigies Music https://prodigiesmusic.com/	Yes
Art Eye Deer https://arteyedeer.com.au/	Yes
Student Art guide https://www.studentartguide.com/resources/free-art-teacher-resources	Free
Artprojectsforkids https://artprojectsforkids.org/	Yes
Drawing Bootcamp https://diy.org/courses/6/drawing-bootcamp	Yes
How to Draw Cartoons http://www.how-to-draw-cartoons-online.com/	Free

Subject	Cost?
COOKING AND HEALTHY EATING	
Food, A fact of Life https://foodafactoflife.org.uk/?fbclid=lwAR3c-QFZZJvxVupKfFwTiBW3tSUY1GhN3yKRFMxncVW0-wSDki0G-9oihliog	Free
Grain Chain https://www.grainchain.com/	Free
BBC Kids cooking https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/occasions/recipes_for_kids	Free

BBC Kids cooking https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/occasions/recipes_for_kids	Free
Subject	Cost?
VARIOUS SUBJECTS	
Ed Place https://www.edplace.com/	Yes
Little Arthur https://www.homeeducationspecialists.org.uk/	Yes
Good and Beautiful https://www.goodandbeautiful.com/	Yes
Echo Education https://www.echo.education/	Yes
Oxford home schooling https://www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk/?g-clid=Cj0KCQiA4sjyBRC5ARIsAEHsELEw1s2N9hLJC9mPW-GRQq7IPYutWp4PYCYeihhcvzSEn2pEXONKmkIIaAqkvEALw_wcB	Yes
Wolsey Hall https://wolseyhalloxford.org.uk/	Yes
Outschool https://outschool.com/?fbclid=IwAR3cQFZZJvxVupKfF-wTiBW3tSUY1GhN3yKRFMxncVW0-wSDki0G9oihliog#abk6tx7xuh	Yes
Teaching packs https://www.teachingpacks.co.uk/	Yes
Animal jobs Direct https://www.animal-job.co.uk/animal-care-cours-es.html	Yes
Game Academy https://www.gamedacademy.com/?fbclid=I-wAR3J_kUyBL_G5K7m05MTzjR06XaZALY9aEHkSi5hkCxNyM5YX-bK-mAW4p9A	Yes
The School Run https://www.theschoolrun.com/	Yes
Twinkl https://www.twinkl.co.uk/	Yes
Doodle maths https://www.doodlemaths.com/	Yes
Oakadigital https://www.oakabooks.co.uk/pages/oaka-digital	Yes
Study Ladder https://www.studyladder.co.uk/about	Yes
IXL Maths and English https://uk.ixl.com/	Yes
Education Quizzes https://www.educationquizzes.com/	Yes

Subject	Cost?
VARIOUS SUBJECTS	
Hamilton trust https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/	Yes
Blossom and Root https://gumroad.com/blossomandroot	Yes
Good and Beautiful https://www.goodandbeautiful.com/	Yes
Kidskonnect https://kidskonnect.com/	Yes
Busy Things https://www.busythings.co.uk/	Yes
Scholastic resource bank https://resource-bank.scholastic.co.uk/	Yes
Teacher's Pet https://tpet.co.uk/	Yes
Plan Bee https://www.planbee.com/	Yes
Activity Village https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/	Yes
Thinkers Meet Up https://www.thinkersmeetup.com/?fbclid=I-wAR3wNacGZnL9d1PEH0VHi2dUIIdq56E9C4XHPQZTsH-5bu9jZaNcZh5QsGFw	Yes
K5 learning https://www.k5learning.com/	Yes
BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize	Free
TES https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources	Free
Quizlet https://quizlet.com/en-gb	Free
Kid World Citizen https://kidworldcitizen.org/	Free
Education.com https://www.education.com/	Free
EDX https://www.edx.org/	Free
Open University Open Learn https://www.open.edu/openlearn/	Free
Topmarks https://www.topmarks.co.uk/	Free
Easy Peasy Homeschool https://allinonehomeschool.com/	Free
Khan Academy https://www.khanacademy.org/	Free
Oxford Owl https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/	Free
Future Learn https://www.futurelearn.com/	Free
Gojimo http://www.gojimo.com/	Free
TED Talks https://www.ted.com/playlists/86/talks_to_watch_with_kids	Free

Subject	Cost?
EXAM BOARDS AND PAST PAPERS	
Natonal Curriculum https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum	Yes
Edexcel past papers and mark schemes https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html	Yes
Cambridge past papers https://www.igcsecentre.com/cambridge-igcse-past-exam-papers/	Yes
AQA past papers https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes	Yes
WJEC past papers https://www.wjec.co.uk/students/past-papers/	Yes

Subject	Cost?
ANIMALS	
WWF wwf.org.uk	Free
RSPCA Education https://education.rspca.org.uk/	Free
Born Free https://www.bornfree.org.uk/	Free
Blue Cross https://www.bluecross.org.uk	Free
National Animal Welfare Trust https://www.nawt.org.uk	Free
PETA https://www.peta.org.uk/misc/free-humane-education-materials/	Free
RSPB https://www.rspb.org.uk	Yes
PDSA https://www.pdsa.org.uk/what-we-do/education-centre	Free
Gwent Wildlife Trust https://www.gwentwildlife.org/home-education	Free

#### WELLBEING

Young Minds, mental health resources, support and advice for parents and young people. https://www.youngminds.org.uk

Anna Freud – mental help resources, help and advice for parents and young people. https://www.annafreud.org

Meic –mental health support line and text service for young people. https://www.meiccymru.org

CEOP – Advice for keeping your child safe online.

https://www.ceop.police.uk

Beat – Help and advice with eating disorders.

https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk

Umbrella Cymru - Gender and sexual diversity support.

https://www.umbrellacymru.co.uk

Childline – help and support for young people.

https://www.childline.org.uk

Platfform4YP- lots of excellent mental health and wellbeing article's for young people and practical support and groups. https://platfform4yp.org

### **Other Opportunities:**

GAVO – local volunteering opportunities for young people who are 14+. https://www.gavo.org.uk/volunteering

#### **Information**

#### Other Information:

Free swimming lessons are available to all EHE pupils within Blaenau Gwent. We can also arrange a discount card that entitles your child to free entry to techniquest. Please see contact details below for more information.

#### **Contact Information:**

Should you require any help or support please contact Charlotte Copik-Phillips the EHE Education Welfare Officer for Blaenau Gwent:

Tel: 07815 029295

Email: charlotte.copik@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

This document is also available in welsh.

