



CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Elective Home Education – Year 11 & Post 16 Information

As your child is moving into the last year of their statutory education (Year 11) in September, we thought it was important that you are made aware of the following information and signposting in respect of Year 11 and Post 16.

Important Information about Year 11

Exam Information (GCSEs & Functional Skills)

If your child wishes to sit exams (i.e. GCSEs, Functional Skills) you will need to enter them as a private candidate at an exam centre for the required exam board and pay for any exam fees well in advance of when the exam will be sat, especially if they will require access arrangements and reasonable adjustments to be put in place in view of any special educational needs.

Further information regarding entry dates and fees can be found on the main exam board web sites:

AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/>

Pearson Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

OCR <https://www.ocr.org.uk/>

City & Guilds <https://www.cityandguilds.com/>

Please note other exam boards are available.

There are also a number of online companies who offer IGCSEs such as Kings InterHigh, Oxford Home Schooling etc.

Functional Skills exams could be taken instead of GCSEs and are practical qualifications in Maths, English, and Digital Skills designed to equip learners with the essential skills required for work, daily life, and further education. Level 2 qualifications are widely accepted as equivalents to a GCSE Grade 4 (C). Qualifications range from Entry Level 1 up to Level 2, meaning you can learn and take exams at your current capability.

In Solihull, you may be able to access functional skills via educational learning centres, however, we advise you contact them to discuss this further. There may also be some online providers who offer Functional Skills qualifications.

Exam Centre Information

Most secondary schools are exam centres, but not all will accept private candidates, although independent schools may be more accommodating. There are some independent exam centres not in schools, but these tend to be in the bigger towns and cities. The nearest one to Solihull is Birmingham or Coventry:

<https://www.tutorsandexams.uk/>

For further details of exams centres, please visit [https://he-exams.fandom.com/wiki/Midlands Exam Centres](https://he-exams.fandom.com/wiki/Midlands_Exam_Centres)

If you haven't made any decisions and would appreciate a discussion or any advice for next steps, please email the team at ehe@solihull.gov.uk or call us on 0121 704 6191.

College & Sixth Form Open Days

Please be aware that these generally take place in September and October. Please refer to individual sixth form and college websites for further information on open days and course entry requirements. Colleges/sixth forms will consider your application based on the information provided and this will determine the level of course they offer. College/sixth form applications can be made at the open days or online and should be done well in advance. For more information and links to colleges please see below.

It is worth bearing in mind that there can be a high level of interest for the more popular courses, and it is important to ensure that you have a robust portfolio of home education learning evidence to support your college/sixth form application. While colleges/sixth forms are happy to offer places to home educated young people with or without formal qualifications, they still require evidence of a commitment to learning.

Important Information for Post 16

Post 16, your home educated young person could choose one of the following pathways:

- **Pathway A: Further Education (FE) College:** Students can apply for practical, vocational courses (like BTECs, T-Levels, or City & Guilds trades) or academic A-Levels. Colleges are generally very welcoming to home-educated teens, and many offer courses starting at Level 1 or 2 if the student lacks formal GCSEs. To support any college course applications, especially if no formal exams are being taken, it is important to provide evidence of home education and this may be in the form of a portfolio, evidencing your learning.

- **Pathway B: Apprenticeships or Traineeships:** This allows the young person to enter work-based learning, splitting time between a real workplace and a training provider. More information around apprenticeships is detailed below.
- **Pathway C: Continuing Elective Home Education (EHE):** Young people can legally continue to be home-educated until 18. This route is perfect for students self-studying for A-Levels or other qualifications, using online providers or pursuing independent study portfolios.

Post-16 Advice via the Local Authority:

This can be found on the Solihull website at <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/employment-and-skills/jobseekers/jobseekers-support>

Skills for Success Team email: employmentteam@solihull.gov.uk

Post 16 Tracking team email: post16tracking@solihull.gov.uk

Local Colleges:

For further information on Sixth Forms and Colleges, please see <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/Sixth-forms>

Solihull College & University Centre including the Woodlands Campus: <https://www.solihull.ac.uk/>

Careers & Skills Resources:

Solihull Council Employment & Skills <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/employment-and-skills> (see leaflet attached)

Career Seekers Direct: <https://www.careerseekersdirect.co.uk/careerandskillsresources>

National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Skills Assessment – Careers that might be right for you - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>

The Skills Toolkit: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course/the-skills-toolkit>

Apprenticeships

For further information about apprenticeships, please explore the following link: <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices>

You also have the opportunity to explore any apprenticeships that are available and the following Government link may help <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Apprenticeship Resources

Within the link below there are some resource presentations to help young people and parents understand what apprenticeships are, how to find them, and how to apply.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/continuous-professional-development-resources>

Solihull College & University Centre also offer apprenticeship courses, for further information on this please visit their website:

<https://www.solihull.ac.uk/category/apprenticeships/>

Other services that are available for Post 16 support are:

King's Trust - <https://www.kingstrust.org.uk/how-we-can-help/explore-all-support>

King's Trust offer a wide range of services to Post 16 students including team building skills, work experience, community projects, fundraising, mock interviews, CV writing, building confidence. Their support is free of charge and courses are based in either Digbeth or Solihull. Please contact them for further details.

Barnados – <https://www.barnados.org.uk/get-support/support-for-young-people/employment-training-skills>

Barnados support young people to gain skills they need to enter the world of work. They run Employment Training and Skills (ETS) courses. They provide specific qualifications, employability skills, career advice and guidance and apprenticeships.

Further Support:

Solihull Council Family Information Service <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-families> is a one-stop shop for all your family advice, guidance and support.

Solihull Council Early Help Family Helpline <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-help> you can contact our Family Helpline and speak to an experienced Family Support Worker from Monday to Friday on **0121 788 4327** and discuss a range of issues, concerns or ask for advice, guidance and signposting.

Our **Post 16 Tracking Team** will be in contact in the early part of next year to offer advice, support and guidance, if required. However, as your child is reaching the end of their statutory education, they will close to the Home Education Team in June 2027.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can be of any help and may we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all the very best of luck in the future.

Best wishes,

**Solihull Council EHE Team
Attendance & EHE Advisory Team
Education Participation Advisory Service**

Enc: Employment & Skills Leaflet