

CONTACT DETAILS

You can contact Canterbury Home Educators
at cheincnz@gmail.com
or through our website www.che.org.nz

Canterbury Home Educators Inc

HOME EDUCATION

HOW DO

I Get
Started?



GETTING STARTED

The law requires that all children attend an educational institution recognised by the State. We may ask the Ministry of Education for exemption from this compulsory attendance. The MoE will grant us this exemption provided they are satisfied that we teach our children “at least as regularly and as well as in a registered school”. In practice, at the moment that means:

- 1 Make application to the Ministry of Education
- 2 Twice a year the MoE sends you a Statutory Declaration to complete
- 3 The Education Review Office conducts reviews of your teaching methods on an as needed basis

HOW DO I GET AN EXEMPTION?

Download on Exemption Pack from the Ministry of Education website www.minedu.govt.nz/homeschooling

In the application you will be asked to describe in writing your understanding of the broad curriculum areas you intend to teach, your overall plan for your child's education, how you intend to assess your child's progress, what resources you intend to use etc.

Sometimes the MoE will ask for more information in reply to your application: this is not a refusal, they simply want you to clarify or expand on the information you have sent in. Provide the information asked for as long as the request is reasonable and your answers are in line with your ideas about how you will teach. Do not say you will teach something if you have no intention of doing so.

Once you have sent in your application, it can take up to 4-6 weeks for it to be processed and your exemption to arrive, although it may be less than this.

It is not usually recommended that you take your child out of school before you receive your exemption, as he or she may be considered truant. This does not apply to 5 year olds that have not yet been enrolled in a school. If they are already attending a school you will need to notify the school before withdrawing them from school.

IS THERE ANYONE WHO CAN HELP?

Yes. Canterbury Home Educators run Information Meetings where you can come to discuss issues concerning home education, receive help with your exemption application, find out about resources and support available for parents who home educate. See our website for more details about these meetings and to register.

www.che.org.nz

We strongly suggest that you attend a CHE Information Meeting before you send in your application. There may also be a home education consultant available who can give you one to one assistance if you require it. This may involve a cost. Or visit nchenz.org.nz for more information and assistance.

WHERE DO I GET CURRICULUM?

There is no standard or set curriculum you must use, the choice is entirely up to you. There are many companies who specialise in producing curriculum for home educators and many more who produce school resources that can be used by home educators. These can take the form of a complete prepackaged programme, some even have a correspondence service similar to Te Aho O Te Kura Pounamu/NZ Correspondence School, or you can put together a custom designed programme from a variety of sources.

Home educators can only apply to Te Kura - The NZ Correspondence School - if eligible under entrance criteria. You can, however, purchase subjects from Te Kura but it is very expensive unless your child is over

16 years old. This can be useful if your child particularly needs to gain a recognised qualification, but it is not the only way to do this.

Online sites, forums and stores can provide a wealth of resources, books, curricula and information all based around a variety of educational approaches. The Canterbury Home Educators Library stock a range of these to view before you purchase or to borrow for use at home. However, we do not promote or endorse any one particular curriculum over another as the choice is yours. You must experiment and find out what suits your child best. Use of the CHE Library is free to all CHE members.

IS THERE ANY STATE MONITORING?

Yes. At present the Education Review Office (ERO) may review home educators' programmes on an as needed basis. The review officer will be looking for evidence that the programme you have written about in your application is being implemented. This is why it is important that you do not say you will teach a subject unless you really intend to. For a more in depth look at ERO reviews, see the ERO page of the National Council of Home Education New Zealand (NCHENZ) website. We strongly suggest you get support from an experienced home educator before your review.

You are also required to sign a Statutory Declaration every six months. These are legally binding documents in which you confirm that you are still fulfilling your part of the agreement into which you entered when you received your exemption (ie, 'as regularly and as well'). Along with the Statutory Declaration you also indicate whether or not you wish to receive the Supervisory Allowance. This is a payment made for each child in the family who has an exemption and is paid out six monthly. This is a similar payment to that received by Te Kura families.

