**Definition:** Elective Home Education is the term used to describe a parent’s decision to provide education for their child/children in and around the home themselves or by others they appoint.

**Elective Home Education – Guidance**



An increasing number of children, whose parents choose elective home education (EHE), are seeking involvement in CU activities as the Children’s University *Passport to Learning* offers them a mechanism for providing evidence of the variety of activities which they involve themselves in and the opportunity to extend their participation in quality assured learning activities.

This interest in Children’s University learning forms a sizeable audience for CU involvement and for Children’s Universities which operate through a schools membership structure, requires a different structure of membership and data management, where local capacity allows. Note: This is very much a **local decision** for each Children’s University Centre.

**This CU Trust guidance has been prepared by CU Trust, in consultation with Children’s University Managers across the UK and with the guidance and support of an experienced National Home Educator.**

**Involving families who opt to educate at home in Children’s University**

**Key Points:**

* Individual membership of Children’s University, for all children, regardless of their circumstances, **must always** be managed through the local Children’s University.
* Our CU Trust brand and quality assurance guidance determines that a local CU, with dedicated CU Manager, must exist for a Child Membership to be created.
* There is no intention to create a Children’s University structure, accessible only to children educated at home, or other groups where there is no local CU presence.
* In choosing to home educate, parents must be prepared to assume full financial responsibility for educational activities, including voluntary membership of learning activities & initiatives.
* CU Trust believes that everybody who benefits from CU should contribute and recommends[[1]](#footnote-1) an annual Child Membership fee be set at £30, with the option for a locally determined discount for other children in the family, to include:
  + A CU *Passport to Learning*
  + Access to the *E-Passport*
  + Access to *Public Learning Destinations*
  + The opportunity for Validation of shared organised/structured learning, offered by Home Educator Groups, creating *Restricted CU Learning Destinations*
  + Participation in a *CU Graduation Ceremony[[2]](#footnote-2)*

**Eligible CU Learning Hours**

In line with CU Trust guidance, for all CU Learners, designed to encourage participation in a blend of learning experiences and activities, no more than 30 hours of any one individual *CU Learning Activity* can be recorded in a *Passport to Learning* as children work towards their *CU Awards.*

**Example:** Sarah is home educated and attends a Mad Science *Learning Destination Activity*, alongside other HE learners, for 2 hours each week. Whilst Sarah may participate, over the course of 30 weeks, in 60 hours of Mad Science activities, a maximum of 30 hours can be counted towards a CU Award in any one Membership year.

This guidance also applies to *Public Learning Destination* visits.

**Monitoring Participation**

* It **IS NOT** a legal requirement for HE parents to register with the Local Authority and it **IS NOT** the role of the local Children’s University to notify the LA of participation.
* The *E-Passport* should utilised by the child/family/CU Manager to support the CU Learner in recording their participation in Validated *Learning Activities.* It will provide the CU Manager with a mechanism with which to track participation and monitor eligibility for *CU Awards.*

Debbie Bird

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CU Trust

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1. CU Trust guidance with flexibility for local implementation [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The opportunity to attend a *CU Graduation Ceremony* is a core element of the CU Brand. If a child chooses not to participate in a *CU Graduation Ceremony* to receive their CU Awards, postage can be arranged. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)