

# To ensure the best Children’s University experience for all children educated at home, it is **essential** that parents and/or carers read the guidance below before their child begins their CU learning journey

# This 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

**Elective Home Education – Guidance**

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**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.

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.

*CU Trust appreciates the different learning patterns of children who are educated at home.*

*To be eligible for Children’s University participation must be* ***voluntary*** *and* ***completed outside the hours of******the*** *‘****traditional’ learning day*** *at* ***CU validated Learning Destinations.***

Traditionally Children’s University is accessed and coordinated through a local school membership structure. For those children Educated at Home, a different structure of membership is required and is negotiated with the local/National CU office.

**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 an individual, as opposed to school based, 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. We recommend[[1]](#footnote-1) that the annual individual Child Membership fee should reflect the cost of additional administration normally carried out by schools. We recommend an annual fee of £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*  (in any one membershipyear) 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.

# CU Trust appreciate the different learning patterns of children who are educated at home.

# To be eligible for Children’s University, participation must be voluntary and completed outside the hours of the ‘traditional’ learning date at CU validated Learning Destinations.

# To be fair to all *CU Learners*, we have taken the decision to average the number of hours a Home Educated CU Learner could realistically participate in alongside their studies and no more than 10 hours of CU Learning Activity may be recorded in the *Passport to Learning* in any one week (Monday to Friday) following the notion of term time participation in CU. *Learning Activities* outside of the notional term time arrangements and at the weekend is not limited, but is subject to the guidance of no more than 30 hours for any one individual learning activity in any one membership year.

# **Children with additional or special needs**

# Where children have specifically identified additional or special needs, requiring specialist support or conditions to access Learning Activities, it may be possible to include time for activities which take place at times which would not normally be eligible. This **MUST BE AGREED** with the local/national team before activities are added to the *Passport to Learning*.

**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.*

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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)