

Myths vs facts

Setting the record straight on the things people get wrong about home education.

UK-wide

Reference

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MYTH	FACT
"You need permission to home educate."	For a mainstream pupil in England, Wales & NI, no — written notice is enough. Scotland needs council consent to withdraw.
"You must follow the National Curriculum."	No — it isn't required for home educators.
"You must do five hours a day and keep school terms."	There's no legal definition of full-time; you needn't mirror school.
"The LA can enter your home and demand to see your child."	No automatic right of entry; informal enquiries only, which you can answer in writing.
"You can pull any child out by letter — including from a special school."	Not an LA-arranged special school — that needs consent.
"Northern Ireland needs EA consent like Scotland."	No — NI does not require consent; only Scotland does.
"Registration is already compulsory."	A register is legislated (2026 Act) but not yet in force.