

## Why do you home educate?



Gifted child (maths and english).School could not give him individual challenging work. He was bored.

Also National Curriculum is too restrictive. I want to be able to show him the world, traveling and visiting anything we are interested in

Inability to cope with school stresses and social/bullying problems

Because we do not like what is happening in schools with behaviour and the curriculum

Too narrow a curriculum at school, too much work too young, at home can follow own interests. Unwelcome behavioural examples at school, with bullying

Home better influence than school & learning comes from child not imposed or external motivation

Couldn't afford to keep up with private education, don't feel that state schooling will bring out the best - little opportunity for individual needs and interests to be addressed. Also feel that state school concentrates too much on exam figures and not on the love of learning and the ability to learn and think independently.

To offer us and our family more freedom from the confines of a timetable & terms...to give the kids freedom to learn what and when they want

Very bright child who needs more than the confines of the National Curriculum to stimulate intellect.

The system failed to provide suitable support/education for additional needs. It was not a choice but one that had to be done to ensure the wellbeing and growth of child.

Disagree with amount of testing in schools, son is AS and wouldn't suit school

Left school due to bullying and school phobia causing serious health problems, all cleared up quickly. 20 months on would never consider school as an option again

Schools poor in area we live. Not happy with the way other children are in schools. Didn't feel child 1 was ready for school at 4-found we liked Natural learning.

School education conflicts with our beliefs on the education front AND religious front

I want my daughters to learn at their own pace and learn what they want to learn for as long as they want in the depth that they want. I do not want them institutionalised and stuck indoors. I do not want them being told they are not good enough because someone else conforms better.

Prevalence of 'job culture' in local schools.

Initially due to child being bored to tears (literally) in first year at school.

Now, due to general distaste with school prescriptive curricula and anti-social behaviours.

## Why do you home educate?



You learn best when you do it at your own pace and follow what interests you most. Husband often away so when he's home we want to spend time together as a family. Everyone is different and should have the space and support to develop in a loving environment.

We found traditional schooling lowered our children's self-esteem, was very limiting, and made them 'frightened' of books etc. We decided to HE to offer a holistic education, that involves the entire family, based around their interests.

Believe children start formal education too young in this country and our twin's brief experience of reception confirmed this. I also want my children to unfold and blossom into who they truly are not what a school would want, expect and make them be.

Son had many problems at school - bullying (by pupils and staff). Also learning difficulties which the school failed to acknowledge and so failed to provide any support

Did not like the local schools, enjoy having the children at home. Researched before home ed and saw it as the most beneficial

Not satisfied with the level of educational provision in dd1's school. There was a total lack of individual learning and we feel it was detrimental to dd1's long term prospects.

State school education found to be insufficient, inadequate and detrimental to children's health and well-being

Because of health problems and special ed needs; also school phobia. I felt my child required one to one teaching and that I could provide it for him.

Originally because a place could not be found at a good decent school. My daughter seemed happier so we carried on with it.

I want to give my kids a solid foundation in teaching them about the Lord. Schools are just not safe anymore. Sexual abuse, drugs, peer pressure...

We moved to England 5 years ago. For first three years our daughter was verbally and emotionally bullied at school on and off. In year 8 she had a good year with close friends, which suddenly dropped off before end of school year. In year 9 she struggled from day one having no friends for support or company. They basically ignored her and she couldn't bear it anymore, therefore we deregistered her from school and started home edding in November 2003.

Older child initially because severe dyslexia caused him to find school intolerably stressful. Then younger child because (a) it worked so well with the old child, (b) he wanted to and (c) it was a logistical solution to the rushing around between school and home based education.

Rejection of product orientated, conformist mass schooling. Special needs of children.

Oldest child was bullied at school and contemplated suicide.

## Why do you home educate?



Lifestyle choice, not wanting to be bound by school timetable, holidays etc., feeling that school takes up too much of our children's childhood and is generally a waste of time because it's more crowd control than teaching

Don't like the school system. Think it fails most children and their families. Want my children to be individuals. Religious reasons. Like the freedom of HE

Child was being bullied at school which changed their personality to such an extent that it became worrying.

Because we feel that schools are simply herding large groups of children, forcing proscribed education down their throats. We don't believe this is a viable way to learn anything.

Had friends home educating whose children are amazingly well-adjusted and happy, because school starts too young, because child was summer birthday, because child had glue ear and would have found class noise hard to deal with, because I think schools are very inefficient, and because we love spending time together!!

We realised our child had a problem with reading and writing. There was no attempt by the school to diagnose the problem or offer extra help. At our own expense we had him assessed as having a specific language impairment (what an educational psychologist would call dyslexia). We discovered that it would take at least 2 years to get our child classified SEN and even then our LEA does not acknowledge Dyslexia as a condition. As our son was already being bullied and switched off education, we decided to withdraw both him and his younger brother from school.

Suits my child. Don't agree with school system & national curriculum. Child bored @ school & felt frustrated with national curriculum & staff attitude to learning. Was picked on for being Vegan.

Flexibility to move & travel; unhappy with much of education system; improvement in behaviour and happiness of older child once out of school.

I am not happy with the way schools teach. I also think the children are in school for too many hours each day

Feel it is best for our children, am not convinced the state system really works.

Children and adults prefer it to any other option. It offers child choice in their education. They can focus on the problems they wish to solve.

Depression in school, Bullying, Workload (Homework), Boredom, not wanting children's personalities dulled down by the system.

Their Humanity Not Have It Destroyed...To nurture the individual spiritually, intellectually and physically, so that they may in adulthood know their purpose in this life and be good citizens of the world. That they may keep their humanity, not have it destroyed by an institution, and stand up for justice when it calls.

## Why do you home educate?



One child with special needs, one child tried school but found it difficult socially. One left school as sibling was home ed and one has never been to school

We want our children to have a Christian education. We want them to be comfortable with and confident in themselves and not shaped by peer 'tyranny'. We want them to enjoy learning and not be constrained by a rigid system.

My son was mercilessly assaulted by his school teacher at the age of 5 - she made him profoundly deaf and he suffered 32 bruises at her sadistic hands

Mother home educated us. Thinks we have more support and resources more and more pro home-education all the time. In-laws support us but had reservations. They are beginning to see some of the advantages

Freedom to learn what we want, when we want, in the way we want

Don't trust strangers with my children and they all have special needs. We have tried 2 in school and it didn't work for us. We prefer having no restrictions on us as a family.

Child shows signs of giftedness and local school cannot or will not provide adequate education.

Our work means we travel.

I am unable to send the young children to school after the bad experience I had with my first son. I am not against school, I just do not like big schools, big classes, age separation, and SATS. If there was a small community school locally I would opt for that.

Our son doesn't want to go to school. He finds separation from us very difficult and we believe he will become more independent in his own good time. We also feel that at such a young age school would not suit him.

The alternative is unthinkable. This is a continuation of what I did when they were little.

Where we lived the schools were awful unless you chose a co-educational school and the only one locally was oversubscribed. Used to read the Natural Parent magazine and found out about home education. Starting exploring more and following gut instincts and decided it felt quite right!

My son has ADHD and is on the autistic spectrum - he was 1 percentile to intelligent to attend a special school and couldn't cope with main stream. Following a suicide attempt by my son - and repeated bullying I was advised by the police liaison officer to withdraw him and started teaching him from home

Schools can't follow our son's interests or needs - they are more about crowd control and trying to reach basic standards through pressure and testing. Our son is energetic and enthusiastic and we don't want him to lose this. DH is dyslexic and by being we can help our son if he has any similar problems, without him feeling badly about himself.

## Why do you home educate?



Our younger son was very unhappy at school from the start - a combination of not being stretched academically and feeling like an outsider socially, and we de-registered him at the end of the last academic year, so we're new to home education. Home ed didn't occur to us for ages as I'm from a family of teachers and our older (Asperger's) son is very happy at school. Now I just wish we'd done it sooner - he's blossoming!

We "fell" into it as a result of doing things with our first child (who wanted to read so we helped her learn); our younger child probably has Asperger Syndrome. We can flexibly adapt to use each child's individual styles to stimulate learning in a way which would be difficult in a classroom situation. Neither child has to sit standard tests which frankly would not reflect their abilities.

Learning to pass exams is not our idea of what education means, not do we think being stuck in a classroom for 7 hours a day with children at the same stage of development is the best way to maturity.

As we love our children we see no reason why we should delegate a large part of their upbringing to strangers in an institution. Furthermore, education based around the family offers the opportunity for a much more flexible education, and a more natural social environment.

Not satisfied with the ethics and teaching methods of the high school one of my children attended. Had constant battles with them. My child was not happy, not thriving, sleeping patterns were irregular, constantly ill.

Don't feel school system provides type of education I want for my family

Recognise the current system does more to hinder children's educational potential / self-esteem than actually be fully supportive. Also the prospect of spending the next ten+ years on weekly visits to the school to complain about this and that doesn't appeal to me ... Especially when it is akin to banging your head on a brick wall - nothing really changes except you are walking around with a constant headache :o( I would rather spend my time more constructively and get on with providing my children with a decent education (even in worst case scenario I can not possibly do any worse than the state would ;o) and enjoying a happy childhood :o)

Eldest children did not do well in school and youngest children going the same way. one of my daughters was still reading same books for a year when teacher was questioned she came out with a load of bull\*\*\*\* telling me it was ok to do this? Also i would not let my children be taken out of school on trips and i was being questioned constantly about this as though i did not have the right to refuse. etc etc.

Don't like the peer group mentality, like the choice and the freedom.

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Because of the schools near us do not appear to teach very well, standards have really slipped, teachers have no discipline these days. Also my brother took his 2 out to HE and the difference in them was amazing.

We dislike the current school system. We do not feel it is geared to education nor does it serve a child's interests. We feel that school would dispel our child's love of her world and thirst for knowledge. Peer pressure may instil in her the idea that a desire to learn was 'dorky'. This was something we wanted to nurture. Our opinion of our catchment school was that it was full of children who did not want to be there, did not want to learn and therefore prevented anyone else from learning. We do not want to put her in a situation which may harm her and, as a child very much in the minority, we understood that she may be bullied for being white, like many before her. We wanted to raise a child who would grow to become a valued member of society, and we do not see how she can find her place in society when effectively excluded from it in the name of 'education'.

Secondary school wasn't right for our older boy and after a year of home education the other two decided that they wished to try home education.

Experience of both parents in school - one in France, one in UK. Freedom - to learn what we find interesting/important to us. Lack of pressure to learn in any prescribed or rigid way. Enjoy being together. Lifestyle choice & being as independent as possible. Also feel schools are not respectful to individuality.

My son was bullied at school by children & not understood or appropriately cared for by the school & teachers.

My daughter did not enjoy her brief experience with school and I thought I could offer her something better at home. Also I don't like the testing in schools. Furthermore we have a much broader curriculum at home,

My child has some learning problems which the education authority failed to recognise. My child was also constantly bullied and the school failed to sort it out.

I am absolutely and totally against children being locked up in a school 5 days a week 7 hours a day, 35 hours in the week only to come home full of exhaustion, excluded from social activities at home with parents, relatives, friends and families. I think children's upbringing and care is the primary responsibility of parents, who are their main carers, not a compulsive babysitting prison such as a school or the LEA policing service. I am totally disgusted and dissatisfied with education in schools. I am sick of bullying, swearing, humiliation and intimidation from bullies and teachers, where children are forced to compete and follow the dictates of their teachers or peers. I don't want my kids turn out to be brainwashed zombies, depressed dudes, suicidal at a drop of a pin, drug addicts, criminals and slaves to this pathetic system...Surely there must be more than this in life ? I home-school because I love my children, because this is my legal parental right and because I want the best for my child

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Eldest has been bullied so much and had little confidence and lived at her Dad previously where home tutoring was finally offered, now back at her mothers and she either misses another school year till they offer her home tutoring, or i improve her education myself of which seems the only logical thing to do

Dislike of state system, particularly constant exams/tests and endemic bullying. Now also dislike the school environment in general

Due to bullying, and children not at all happy, feeling that school didn't cater for their individual needs.

Improved quality of family life. Opportunity to spend more time with children. Better, more flexible education. More free time and less pressure for children.

Appalled by state of schools in UK. Daughter bullied and bored when at school. Can do better myself!

For religious reasons, ie so our children can receive a good grounding in Islam without us having to explain all the Christian beliefs he was having pressed upon him at school. Also we feel they benefit for one to one attention.

A complete breakdown with our oldest sons school when a bullying issue was beyond what we believe to be acceptable

Freedom of choice, better communication, better subject coverage, no pressure on the children, ability to teach other languages (Arabic) and also religious beliefs (islamic-muslim)

Because THE MORAL VALUES OF HOME ARE CONFLICTING WITH THE PAGAN SCHOOL WORLD - WE ARE CATHOLICS.

I believe that "dumbing down the curriculum" has become an epidemic. I can provide an education that is superior to what they would get in school.

"To keep the children free from the narrow minded system and people in orthodox education. School frightens me - it's cruel, time wasting and will only give it's good things if you take the bad as well. I have not found a better alternative to HE anywhere we have lived. There are down sides to HE but none worth going to school to try and counter. As the children have grown and better understood their choices, neither have wanted to go to school"

We flexi-school with my son at a Montessori. He is responsible for his own education as he interacts with his environment. I believe we have to trust the child to know what he/she needs and there is no way that can happen in mainstream. I also believe that the way the education system is set up is damaging, not only to individual children but to society in general.

Ideological difficulties with school system confirmed by daughter's school stress. Positive passion for ideal of Home Education as an integral part of parenting.

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Refused accelerated transfer from primary to secondary due to only 10 years and 3 months at date of transfer - guidelines say 10 years 6 months required in Notts.

Josh, Jamie & Naomi all decided that they would rather be home ed as they were having problems at school. Also we are a Pagan family which is not included in the religious curriculum at school.

Because we feel we can do better ourselves plus we are moving abroad and we want to home educate then. Our daughters were learning to swear very fast, nits, my 13 year old son was on the verge of being expelled, the school felt he needed a psychologist because he would not conform to everyone.

Disillusioned with a school system unable/unwilling to look at children as individuals with individual needs. Ridiculous and unnecessary hierarchy and punishment policies.

Because we can! We like it, our children like it. Children learn what they want when they want. We didn't like conforming at school ourselves and would rather not put our children through it. Home ed allows freedom to follow a line of enquiry, no time restrictions. Can't explain briefly!

The structured system' not suitable to child's temperament & therefore progress. Bullying. Lack of communication. NB HE'd till 6yrs, then 6yrs9mths - 8yrs, then private yrs 8/9, then out age 14yrs! Now college 3days, Art, Radio & ECDL

To give my children a childhood, respect and care

But over the years it's changed to not allowing them to go to school. It's damaging! And allowing them to have control of their education.

Concerns about local schools, and formal schooling commencing too early, and pressure re. Testing

I think the state schools are unhealthy and reduce education to the lowest common denominator. Children are under strong peer group pressure to conform so lose their individuality. I disagree with early education, preferring to wait until children are ready to learn and assisting in that process.

We don't approve of the social conditioning going on in schools and believe that we can give our children a much broader and worthwhile education.

We move around a lot and by home educating can give some continuity. Don't like the school system and we cannot afford the school of our choice. Since we have made the choice we are happy with our child's education which is basically free range.

Bullying and school phobia, lack of discipline in schools and believe after starting HE that is the best way to help your kids.

Following a period of poor physical health it became apparent that our son had been subjected to psychological bullying at school. The combined effect was school phobia.

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Younger son bullied whilst at school for 2 years, to extent that he was extremely unhappy. Staff not helpful or interested.

On unhappy at school. Bored, frustrated. Had such a positive four years seemed terrible to stop the good times!

So that our children are treated with respect; have the freedom to pursue what interests them; learn how to think rather than reproduce other peoples' ideas; live 'outside the box'.

I wasn't happy with the way the school were teaching ds, too much emphasis on every child being taught the same way, at the same level.

Better for our children, better for their health, education and welfare. For political, social and ethical reasons.

Extreme dislike of all the trappings of school ie authoritarian framework, large classes, testing, etc.

Adopted children who lacked basic skills, made no progress at school, eldest bullied, bad language and aggression at school(other kids),excessive head lice problem where schools were not willing to tackle the known carriers. The children also had attachment problems and needed to be allowed to rest and regress.

Unhappy with school system (too narrow curriculum, peer pressure)..didn't want children growing up in this kind of system. Wanted them to be involved in family life.

BRIEFLY! To enable our children to learn in a low stress environment. To enable them to learn that learning is fun and to equip them for life beyond our home where they can be strong in their own personalities and beliefs.

Educational progress wasn't being made at school so it made sense to remove her from the declining moral environment

The coercion present in a school environment can be, I feel, detrimental to learning. So far my child has expressed no wish to go to school.

It is the only sensible option available.

All schools seem only to offer a rigid choice that would limit the children's individuality and ignore their individual needs and hopes. We have never seen a better way available to us of bringing up our children to interact ably within society.

1. To protect a healthy masculinity.

2. Initially horrified at conditions for small children in schools. 3. Problem with religious minority vulnerability to bullying and we know schools useless at support. 4. Later realised our own individual perceptions of school as destructive to actual learning is not unfounded opinion but well founded researched position.

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Our son is only partly home educated, he attends a small independent school for 3 days per week. We took him out of state school because: he was increasingly unhappy getting repeatedly ill was being bullied couldn't hear the teacher or learn for the classroom noise because he is mildly dyslexic the school brushed off anything we asked them regarding bullying, dyslexia, CAPD etc., we were just worriers to them, and irritations to their stats there's more but that's enough!

The first time because of bullying and violence , the second because it is such a natural and lovely thing to do.

Dyslexia not coped with at school. Insufficient support leading to lack of enthusiasm by son.

Son has Asperger Syndrome and is very bright, school caused severe behavioural problems and was not providing suitable education - 10 hrs a week learning support by untrained person, expected to just sit on a cushion the rest of the time!

Didn't want my children to be products of modern society. Moral and religious reasons. Freedom to be different.

Children unhappy at school.

Schooling system not working for our children.

Because it is legal- why wouldn't we, once we found out it was possible?

Believe that we can do a 'better' job than school,(that is provide an individual programme suited to each child and that their attainment will therefore be higher than if they were in school) that their personal development will be better than if they were in school and had their sociability channelled into perceived 'correct' routes. That they will remain 'themselves' and not moulded into a 'correct' version.

Initially disenchantment with state education (& private to some extent (can't afford it!)). He has huge advantages for maintaining a healthy family life & allowing children to be individuals.

I work from home and have HE'd since Craig was born. He responds well to me and has an insatiable desire to learn. He is happy and well-adjusted and I would not like anything to change that.

My eldest child tried two schools and had a bad experience and after looking at all the options we decided on home education as the only answer.

Son was never happy in school so had decided to home educate him, daughter (then aged 11) asked if we would do same with her

Lack of empathy with the school system for the two youngest children. Marked deterioration of school system since eldest children were in school. Bullying, lack of Christian ethics, lack of pride in being British. Other cultures are encouraged to be proud of

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their background and nationality while we are supposed to suppress ours in case we upset someone!

Originally related to bullying and low standards - has become a philosophical and ideological viewpoint related to autonomy

Long term bullying at school and failure of school to meet child's individual needs

Both children are on the autistic spectrum and are also very intelligent. On both counts, schooling was not working well for them.

We resent our children being told what to do and when to do it by non-family members and wish to assert our rights to educate autonomously.

Can't think of any good reasons to send them to school!

Can provide much better early education one-to-one at home. Do not agree socialising with 30 same age peers is beneficial. Dislike pressure and social influence of schools. Want to open pathways to learning through creativity. Could go on all day....

Makes sense on a one to one - read Casell's book

Became convinced. Can provide a more appropriate education relevant to the children esp. providing positive input so that they have a strong identity as to who they are in this society. I had problems at school - stereotyping etc. Also lots of things just aren't relevant if the background of the child is non-European e.g. when I was at school for RE all we learnt about was Christianity for 5 yrs and little about other religions. I would like to teach them British History in relation to their Empire where at least they can have an understanding of how we are linked to England etc. There is a vast possibility with home education that there simply isn't at school - I can teach the children written and spoken Urdu, as well as Arabic as a foreign language - read from not only western story books, but stories from their own culture and other cultures, moreover, because I know my own children, I can work on their individual levels and build up on that. No competition or having to compare.

Had very little faith in school. Repeatedly asking for something to be done but to no avail. Total misery for child and self in school attendance.

Unhappy children in school. Much happier at home- autonomous child led education suits the children much more. Each has problems with dyslexia/graphia/praxia to different degrees and the school system did not suit any of them.

Schools are inadequate. Classes are too big, there is no provision for children learning at different levels in the same age group until secondary school, by which time most children are disillusioned with the whole experience. Most schools have bully issues with both children and teachers. And many are not willing to accept responsibility for doing something about it. There is a shortage of qualified permanent teachers in many schools, too many lessons are taken by relief/temporary staff. There is not enough break time and dinner time supervision to prevent bullying happening.

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I home educate due to my son not getting on at school with his peers. As it has been established that the person in question is being investigated for discrimination to English children (we live in Wales).

The National Curriculum does not suit our child who is gifted. It's too restricted and too slow, resulting in boredom and a lack of respect for education.

I think schools are completely out-dated and merely 'prop up' and support a bullying culture. I am also extremely concerned about current changes and the interference of Politicians in the learning process.

Disillusioned, disgusted and appalled at the 'zoo' which was my child's school.

Children didn't like idea/actuality of school read Ivan Illich a long time ago fitted in with our feelings

Want my child to have the freedom to learn whatever she desires. Do not want child subjected to pressure to perform in tests to boost school league table presence. Nor do I want her subjected to other opinions and morals/ethics that I do not agree with.

Common preference of children and parents. Libertarian persuasion.

Child (a) was suffering huge distress as a direct result of school experience and SEN's not being recognised. Child (b) missed a terribly and asked to follow suit which was a happy decision all round as we have become increasingly optimistic about HE the more we have explored it and seen our children smiling again!!

No faith in the state education...experienced failure in private school education...simply like home educating

Initially because of appalling and devastating bullying, physical, emotional and sexual abuse of 1st child, now through choice with child 2. Also not to risk that situation again, and the cover-up and attempted blame by LEA.

Some do, some probably not but don't say. As we don't have a lot of contact. Anyway, they'd look foolish, as no.2 is doing so well, noticeably bright, settled and well-adjusted.

Initially because we couldn't get a secondary school we felt suitable for our child. However it proved to be the way forward for us and the other two children soon joined in HE.

Oldest child could read at two and a half, and local schools would have made her start again from A. School standards are also far lower than when we were at school. Final straw was visiting a school to discuss options - wandered in and around school, spoke to some children, was met by no adult, challenged by nobody, wandered out again. This was 6 days after Dunblane. So decided to HE her - but weren't planning to have six then! But one for all and all for one, so none of them went. And watching the fiasco that schools have turned into in the last ten years, now politically against school.

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Interest sparked by meeting home ed families through my job. Some research into it followed. We were very impressed with what we learned. When the bullying at my eldest child's school was handled incompetently, we saw it as an opportunity to Home educate, rather than a situation that was forced upon us.

Why not? We wanted to carry on as we had before they reached compulsory education age, they were learning well, no need to alter the arrangements. We had a child who was reading at 3 it seemed silly to send him to sit through pre-reading schemes, and as autonomous learning worked so well we carried on.

We don't like the dismissive and controlling attitude that schools have towards the children. The children went to school, until we found that there was an alternative. Before then I (she) tried, through being on governing bodies, helping out in school etc., to infiltrate the system and minimise the damage to our children.

To develop knowledge and learning skills primarily through experiential approaches. To develop confidence and a secure personality by avoiding the authority and power relationships which exist at school. Because school is deeply flawed, inefficient, non-personalised and coercive.

To provide our children with more opportunities for learning, more flexibility in when/what and how they learn.

As a family we wish to maintain the autonomy of our lives and education. We feel that home education gives the greatest chance for our children to choose their own interests and paths. We wouldn't want the children to have to compromise their life choices and we feel they would have to do this in the school system.

We believe that it provides a better environment for the learning of our children and ourselves. This is following our eldest's experience of 'education' within a small supportive environment; and my (mother's) experience of training to be a secondary level teacher; and of teaching/training within the FE sector.

1. Belief that the way that schools are currently run is inappropriate for any children, but most particularly for those children with difficulties which make it hard for them to fit into the mould dictated by schools. 2. Dislike of government imposed curriculums, especially in the 4-8 age group. It destroys the spontaneity of learning, and increasing paperwork associated with it leads to overworked, demoralised teachers - this MUST have an effect on teaching quality, and thus learning.

As parents, we feel it is our responsibility to ensure the utmost best education for our children. The only way this can be achieved is with home education, as this is the only way where the child can progress at her/his own pace and interest.

We don't believe that standardisation and testing is of any educational benefit to individual children. We don't think that schooling is synonymous with education. We think that home

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educating is the only way we can truly fulfil our responsibilities as outlined by the 1996 Education Act.

School was damaging for my children. They failed to learn in the coercive school environment. They only learn effectively when in full control of their own learning, which they can be at home.

Education excellence, to create enough time for childhood play, to maintain a close, happy family

Bullying, boredom, dissatisfaction with prescribed curricula, health

Hard to answer this one. Because it's natural. Normal. It is our responsibility to educate our children and care for them. Anything else would seem artificial.

Allow children to work at own pace and can ask for help when needed. Can explore their own areas of interest.

The school system was destroying both my son and me.

After school bullying, by teachers and pupils, a complete lack of support or consideration or even recognition for children having a hard time at school and an attitude of 'it must be the child/parents fault' despite all evidence to the contrary. Ridiculously punitive attitude made going to school more like going to a detention centre. Only they hadn't done anything wrong, so they came home, where they are treated like the important individuals that they are.

After school bullying, by teachers and pupils, a complete lack of support or consideration or even recognition for children having a hard time at school and an attitude of 'it must be the child/parents fault' despite all evidence to the contrary. Ridiculously punitive attitude made going to school more like going to a detention centre. Only they hadn't done anything wrong, so they came home, where they are treated like the important individuals that they are.

Children voiced school was damaging them, verbally and physically.

Lack of respect to both parents and children by staff.

Initially, school refusal by 5 yo because of acute boredom and school not meeting his needs. Now, because I don't like what I see in the state education system and I think my children get a much better deal by being home.

Yes - my sisters. One sister helps out with teaching, the other is supportive but wouldn't HE her own children. My parents still make enquiries about secondary school plans and exams!

It began when my son had difficulties in school, but if I had any more children I would now home educate through first choice

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Initially, a combination of boredom from bright older son and bullying. Also younger son youngest in year at school, and very unhappy with pressure to be 7 though only 6. Nowadays I home educate because I think it is better on all fronts than school education.

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