

HOME EDUCATION CARDS



education otherwise 'Supporting Home Educators since 1977'

NOTICE TO ORGANISERS OF ATTRACTIONS, PROVIDERS OF RESOURCES, ETC:

There is no particular 'HOME EDUCATION CARD' that 'proves' that a family is part of the Elective Home Education community. In theory, anyone could purchase one; whether or not they home educate their children. Read more

Education Otherwise is a well known and long-standing National Charity, organised and run by its members who are part of the overall, diverse and widespread 'home educating community'. We support all home educators through community, information, and promotion of knowledge, understanding and acceptance of education otherwise than at school in the world at large. Mutual support and friendship amongst home educating families is of primary concern to EO, which welcomes the diversity of lifestyles and approaches (both individual and through groups and organisations) of home educating families. Our members are provided with a membership card, as are members of several other home education organisations. Although not all may be actively home educating, it is likely that families holding one of these cards are genuine home educators. If in doubt, enquiries may be made via the contact details below.

For many years, Education Otherwise has arranged discounts and concessions with attractions, venues, educational service providers, etc. Along with other benefits of membership, these have been made available to EO members in various ways, according to the requirements of the provider (e.g. producing an EO membership card, or quoting a discount code notified to members). However, EO has never attempted to make any of these deals exclusive to itself, nor wished to do so. Many local home education groups and individual home educators have also arranged discounts and concessions on their own account, and EO has welcomed and encouraged this.

However, it now seems that some organisations are attempting to set up discounts that exclude anyone (home educator or not) who does not subscribe to their particular 'HOME EDUCATION CARD' - thus attempting to cash in on what seems to be an expanding market!

This has resulted in some discounts and concessions previously open to home educators being withdrawn (except for those in possession of a particular card) because of the terms and conditions negotiated by the card provider with the attraction or resource. In some cases, protests from other home educators at being excluded from benefits they have formerly enjoyed, have resulted in such concessions being entirely withdrawn.

Education Otherwise Trustees deplore this development, which seems to benefit neither home educators nor the providers of attractions and services. We would urge both home educators and organisations providing services, resources or attractions at a discount to home educating families, to avoid 'exclusive' deals and endeavour to maintain the spirit of co-operation, and respect for the variety of approaches to home education, that have been the norm for so many years.

Education Otherwise Trustees, October 2015

Education Otherwise Association Ltd, P.O. Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT

Web site: www.educationotherwise.net Email: trustees@educationotherwise.org

Helpline: 0845 478 6345 Media: 08445 867548

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Registered Office Address: Bridgend, Meadow Lane, Swaffham, PE37 8LE