



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

EHE Approaches

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The 8 most common Home Education approaches are:-

1. Classical
2. Charlotte Mason
3. Moore Formula
4. Unit Studies
5. Montessori
6. Waldorf
7. Relaxed
8. Unschooling



The Classical Home Schooling (1)

Widely regarded as the most popular style, the Classical Method has been around for centuries dating back to the Ancient Roman and Greek lyceums. Generally broken down into three sections namely, Logic, Grammar, and Rhetoric.

The “trivium” model, with 3 main stages of learning:

- concrete learning (the grammar stage)
- critical learning (the logic stage), and
- abstract learning (the rhetoric stage)

It's a language-focused, literature-focused style of learning.



Classical Home Schooling (2)

PROS:

- Well proven to work (Time-Tested)
- Encourages reading
- Deals with real life situations
- A lot of material available due to its popularity
- Systematic and structured

CONS:

- The amount of reading required may take its toll on both students and parents.
- Students may lose interest in reading if not guided properly.
- Inflexible as compared to other home schooling methods.



Classical Home Schooling (3)- What does this look like?

The Grammar Stage – where children are building foundational knowledge in many educational arenas. Children in the early years most often think in concrete terms, hence the focus of learning in these years is on memorisation and repetition: ensuring learner has a core knowledge of maths, language arts, science, and social studies.

The Logic (or Dialectic) Stage – concrete thinking gives way to more analytical reasoning. Learners want to ask questions, compare and contrast, understand how knowledge relates to other knowledge. The word most apt for this stage is, “why?”.

The Rhetoric Stage – builds on the previous two stages. Learners combine their foundational knowledge with critical thinking skills to be able to articulate their reasoned opinions and conclusions via debates and persuasive writing. Children will learn about essay writing, public speaking, accounting, engineering, politics, economics.

Key questions and considerations?



Charlotte Mason Approach (1)

Emphasis on high-quality literature/ “living books,” . Education is “an atmosphere, a discipline, a life.”

“**Atmosphere,**” - surroundings in which the child grows up/ home environment-makes up a third of child’s education.

“**Discipline,**” - the discipline of good habits—and specifically habits of character- another third of his education.

“**Life,**” applies to academics- giving children living thoughts and ideas, not just dry facts. –another third

This style employs shorter periods of study, supplemented with external stimuli like walks, observations of natural occurrences, and methods to keep the child mentally challenged and most importantly, interested.

Combining observing, recording, processing, and implementing/planning excursions is a prime factor of this approach. Studying “living” books (where the characters in the book narrate their experiences or point of view) is also a key component.

This method works well for the learners who wants to develop an independent mind.



Charlotte Mason Approach (2)

PROS:

- Student-directed methodology
- Less expensive than School-At-Home or Classical
- More structured than Unschooling or Montessori
- A popular method among Christian conservative Home schoolers
- Nature walks encourage observation skills and critical thinking in an exploratory setting
- Time-Tested
- You don't need a professional degree to teach the Charlotte Mason methodology
- CM works well with Unit-Study and Classical, thematically connecting subject areas

CONS:

- For younger learners approach offers a wealth of resources but is often weaker for older learners
- Not appealing to non-Christian Home schoolers
- Lack of extensive resources in advanced areas of study for Mathematics and Science
- Old fashioned for contemporary Home schoolers



Charlotte Mason Approach(3)- What does this look like?

Activities include:

- Narration- retelling a story
- Copy work- transcribing/ handwriting, journalling, narration, dictation
- Nature study – outdoor exploration
- Narrative literature- living books
- Plenty of time spent outdoors exploring
- The development of an appreciation for [art](#), music, and nature

Key questions and considerations?



Moore Formula (1)

Raymond and Dorothy Moore established a home schooling program which propagated that formal schooling is better when started later rather than early and children have little to no formal schooling till the age of eight. This does not mean they receive no education at all.

It focuses on three areas

Study – promotion of self-teaching by using resources such as Math-It and Winston Grammar. The Formula believes parents are the best teachers and doesn't rely too much on workbooks and textbooks, though it does have a few. The few minutes or hours of study in the day keep head, hand, heart, and health in mind encouraging creativity and parental guidance in teachings.

Manual Work – part of character building as well as improving motor skills, constructive manual work is encouraged for a few hours a day. By allowing them to be part of the industrious tasks children build self-confidence and it has been seen to cure many behavioural problems. Start small and build the tasks around the house from preparing a small snack to tending the vegetable patch, and keeping their rooms and houses organised.

Community Service - To nurture future community leaders the approach recommends at least an hour of community service when the child is old enough. This encourages a selfless attitude amongst them from childhood, and prepares them for the future with a sense of giving back to their communities.



Moore Formula (2)

PROS:

- Children are not rushed into formal schooling
- They are allowed to explore their creative side and perform critical thinking exercises in real-life scenarios
- Advanced motor skills due to the manual work section of the formula
- A deeper understanding of the world around them
- Self-confidence and well-rounded personalities
- A better attitude when it comes to tackling formal education at the right age
- No strict structure, hence parents can create individual teaching possible according to their child's interests

CONS:

- Compared to other children their age, the child might feel 'left behind,' and this could cause a lack of confidence without the right guidance
- Not enough source material
- Heavily reliant on parents being the sole guide



Moore Formula (3)- What does this look like?

- The time devoted to study, work, or service should depend upon children's maturity and interests
- Workbooks can be used from different curriculums, but they are not the sole focus of their education.
- It is important to read and sing and play with children from birth and read to them several times a day
- When children seem ready, they should play oral games with phonics, numbers, etc but study pressures are avoided until they are at least 8 to 12.
- It is important to identify/ follow children's interests e.g. bugs, gardening, cooking or baking, astronomy, cars, sewing, cottage industries, economics, history or politics.
- Children combine household chores with home industries
- Children become well and positively socialized, and they build character as they work and serve.

Key questions and considerations?

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/parents/your-home-educated-child>



Unit study Approach (1)

Also known as thematic units or integrated studies refer to the idea of studying a subject as a whole rather than several subjects.

The idea is to take something as simple as water and explore the subject from the viewpoint of science, literature, history, social significance, and art. The Unit Studies home schooling style tends to pick a subject and live with it for a while, taking a deep dive into it till they have understood it completely as a whole.

A typical Unit Study approach to a subject would be to read books about it. For example, a unit on animals would include books like Charlotte's Web, and The Sheep-Pig for Literature; writing stories about animals for Creative Writing, Grammar, and Punctuation; the classifications of animals for Science; circling and understanding new words within the subject for Vocabulary, and finding where certain animals live in habitats on the globe for Geography.



Unit study Approach (2)

PROS:

- Unit Studies are best suited to families that are home schooling more than one child as each can study the same unit but at different levels of advancement
- Better information retention
- The program allows for different learning styles and abilities and can cater to individual needs well
- It is relatively inexpensive because parents get to design their unit study

CONS:

- Maths units are often taught as separate units because they aren't as easy to incorporate into everything being studied.
- Preparing units such as worksheets and lesson plans can be time consuming and hectic, especially if there is more than one child
- It is not as tidy as workbooks and textbooks and can seem all over the place if not planned properly

Unit Study Approach (3)- What does this look like?

- If parents have resources, materials, and links researched ahead of time it will make unit studies go much more smoothly.
- Planning helps incorporate a variety of subjects to ensure coverage
- Parents may list the personal/ academic goals they want their child to achieve with each study and create a rough outline of what they want to accomplish each day
- Keeping a record of unit based study isn't straightforward but a portfolio can be comprehensive
- Parents may write their units of study themselves or take advantage of online lessons to supplement their learning.



Unit Study Planner

Key questions and considerations?



Montessori Approach (1)

In the Montessori Method, the child dictates the learning. It doesn't require a lesson plan per se but focuses on a more hands-on, activity-based structure of learning, in which the child's interests are given centre stage, encouraging curiosity towards learning something new.

A lot of time is spent outdoors on exploratory walks and allowing children to make their own observations.

The aim is to provide children with a constant learning environment rather than breaking learning into semesters with intense study and then vacation time.

The Montessori Method happens all year round but delivers knowledge in small pieces throughout the day through interactive concept building.

The Montessori curriculum focuses on five main areas - Practical Life Skills, Mathematics, Sensory, Language, and Culture & Science.



Montessori Approach (2)

PROS:

- Children focus on independence
- Concepts are picked up faster because they are presented through subjects that interest the children
- Encourages a neat and tidy environment to learn
- Follows child's skill level not age milestone and can incorporate multiple levels in the same lesson for families with multiple children

CONS:

- Involves a lot of preplanning on the parents' part
- It is specifically designed for young children in mind and the resources will need to be sought for middle and high school.
- The approach to lessons is more intentional and can tend to lack imaginative play
- The Montessori Manipulatives (materials used to teach specific lessons) can be a little expensive
- Because there is no set curriculum it can be hard to determine which concepts should be covered by a specific age



Montessori Approach (3)- What does it look like?

Some of the characteristics of a Montessori education include:

- Mixed-age learning group with co-operation/ collaboration between learners
- Hands-on learning/ Active learning methods
- Teachers who model the behaviours and values that they want children to emulate- guidance on positive behaviour and conflict resolution
- Teachers who see themselves as a facilitators rather than instructors
- Respect for each child's individual learning style
- Freedom of children to choose between learning activities
- Helping learners see connections between traditional subjects such as maths, science, history, language, arts

Learning environment- displays of books, items from nature, educational toys within easy reach with materials for learning such as craft supplies, athletic equipment, imaginative playwear and building tools available. These invite children to experience learning in an active way in line with Montessori principles.

Key questions and considerations?



Waldorf-Steiner Approach (1)

The Waldorf Method was created by the Austrian Rudolf Steiner in 1919. He believed that education needed to involve the entire child, their heart, hands, and head, and focused on the arts, folklore, mythology, and the natural world.

Though based on spirituality and the awareness of the spiritual self, the Waldorf Method does not advocate any one faith. It focuses on a child's natural wonder and integrates it into everyday learning.

Reading is delayed till 7 or 8 and oral storytelling and understanding of letters and writing take precedence.

Art is intertwined with all subjects to make learning more visual and beautiful.



Waldorf Steiner Approach (2)

PROS:

- The inclusion of art in lessons makes the work memorable and fun
- Develops tolerance to listen to and accept different points of view looking at objects, subjects, and situations from multiple viewpoints.
- Develops a vivid imagination
- The learning approach encourages cooperation instead of competition
- All areas of learning are considered just as important as the rest

CONS:

- A lot of parents aren't comfortable with the faith-based learning
- Delayed academics are considered concerning by some parents
- Quality material can be expensive to procure
- Every child does not have the gift or the interest in arts and so might feel isolated by the method
- Doesn't have a lot to offer families that want to incorporate tech in their home schooling



Waldorf Steiner Approach (3)- What does this look like?

- Encourages nurture, creativity and imagination to develop without the pressures of early testing and the competition.
- During nursery or kindergarten years, children are encouraged to play – mainly using their own imaginations, as well as through activities like baking, drawing, artwork, creative dressing up.
- At primary school level, Steiner schools will normally involve a wide-ranging curriculum that includes aspects such as art, drama, movement, music and crafts as well as foreign language learning.
- Academic teaching is normally mixed with arts, music and movement rather than separated into “periods” or “lessons”

Key questions and considerations?



Relaxed Approach (1)

The Relaxed or Minimalist Home schooling Method gets rid of all the extra frills on education and just focuses on the important aspects.

While other methods tend to view home schooling as an array of activities and lesson plans, Relaxed home schooling is a cross between Unlearning and Formal learning and focuses on a few core subjects leaving a lot of free time for additional learning if the student chooses to do so.

The Relaxed method is very fluid. Families can pick and choose what they deem important and cut out the rest.

Some tend to stick to maths, reading and writing and omit extracurricular especially if they see their child has no interest in it. But, others create their own curriculum based on what they consider to be essential learning tools.



Relaxed Approach (2)

PROS:

- The method can easily be personalised to fit the child rather than the other way around.
- It is a much more relaxed environment and reduces levels of stress surrounding learning
- It works well in larger families
- It allows a lot of free time for children to explore their interests and maintain a routine

CONS:

- What you deem essential can be subjective, so the children might have major gaps in understanding of subjects considered unimportant
- Settling into a routine can take time and it can be easily disrupted
- It involves a lot of group learning which doesn't suit every family



Relaxed Approach (2)- What does this look like?

- Relaxed home schooling is parent-led.
- Parents choose what curriculum, activities, and goals to set for their children.
- Learners may only sit down at the table and do “schoolwork” for two hours a day and spend the rest of the day reading, pursuing hobbies, and spending time as a family.
- Learning experiences are guided by parental goals and the goals, interests, and personalities of the children.

Key questions and considerations?



Unschooling Approach (1)

The name Unschooling might sound like a whole lot of chaos, but it is a philosophy that embraces self-determination in learning. The onus of what to learn, how, and how much is completely on the student.

It is especially worth implementing in home schooling because it helps determine the child's areas of interest and provides them with relevant material.

The unschooling approach encourages self-motivated learning and establishes the idea that children learn and retain more when they are self-motivated to do so, rather than the carrot and stick approach of formal learning.



Unschooling Approach (2)

PROS:

- It encourages freedom of choice in children
- There is a synthesis of knowledge and children can learn to connect the dots between subject matters
- There is no griping about being bored because the subject is chosen by the child
- Children develop a good sense of self-worth and determination

CONS:

- There is a distinct lack of structure with Unschooling
- Because Unschooling doesn't determine systematic learning, there can be concerns of children learning things before an understanding of the subject develops or vice-versa
- There is the danger of scattered knowledge with a lot of factual knowledge being left at the wayside
- It is easier to teach abstract concepts in Formal schooling than it is Unlearning.



Unschooling Approach (3)- What does this look like?

- The focus of unschooling is on the choices made by the individual child, dictated by interests, learning style, and personality type.
- Families with an unschooling approach vary greatly with the amount of structured curriculum they use. Some families are vigorously opposed to curriculum in any form, preferring to let their child learn primarily from their natural interactions with the world around them.
- Other families use formal curriculum for specific subjects that they want to make sure their children have a grasp on, while allowing learning to come more organically in other subjects.
- Some learners transition to unschooling when they leave school to become home educated.

Key questions and considerations?



Other approaches to be aware of:-

- Traditional home schooling
- Eclectic home schooling
- Regio Emilia
- Road schooling
- World schooling

Key questions and considerations?



How many of your families do you recognise?

Not all families will follow a particular approach

Some families may incorporate two or more approaches and have a hybrid approach

LA Officers could use the phrase, it appears that you are following this home educating approach as you are

What is important is that LA Officers are aware of these approaches and can use their knowledge and awareness to ask questions.

LA Officers could highlight that parents are delivering a suitable and efficient education due to the following evidence..... which appears to be in line with.....approach.