Can I Join?
Home-based learners from age 4+ years who are resident in Bedford Borough are eligible to join the PLACE Programme. To find out more, please visit our website www.PLACE-Programme.org; email a request for information to Info@PLACE-Programme.org or write to:-

June McDonald  
PLACE Programme Manager  
The Other Place  
190 Putnoe Street  
Bedford MK41 8HG  
Mobile 07988846124

We look forward to hearing from you!

For further information contact  
THE PLACE PROGRAMME  
The Other Place, 190 Putnoe Street, Bedford MK41 8HG  
www.PLACE-Programme.org  
Telephone: 01234 211884/07988846124

Support for Home-Based Learners and Their Families  
In partnership with Bedford Borough Council (BBC) and Biddenham International School and Sports College (BISSC)

Are Classes Compulsory?  
What Is Expected of Children and Parents?  
What Activities Are There?  
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Support for Home-Based Learners
**What is it?**
The PLACE Programme is a partnership between parents, Bedford Borough Council (BBC) and Biddenham International School and Sports College (BISSC). The PLACE Programme supports local home-based learners through:

- selected PLACE-library resources (some on loan, some to keep)
- subsidised and regular sporting, art, French, drama and music sessions
- educational outings and other events
- entry/preparation for public examinations
- signposting /advice re specialist support

Although PLACE children are registered with the Programme, they always continue to use home as the primary base for their learning.

**Is Attendance Compulsory?**
Although some GCSEs are obligatory, children can choose which sessions they want to attend. Once signed up for a GCSE or regular activity, they are required to attend well, as this minimises disruption to others in the class, and because their subsidised places are paid for in advance.

**Who’s In Charge?**
PLACE is administered by Programme Manager, June McDonald, who has been active in home ed for over 30 years. June educated three of her own children through home-based learning. She liaises directly with BISSC, the partner school.

**What Activities Are There?**
PLACE children can engage in weekly group sessions in gymnastics, trampoline, swimming, multisports, art, French, drama, music, etc. There are also regular day and theatre excursions and residential visits. In addition, specialist-led GCSE and other support classes are available in many subjects and disciplines.

**What Is Expected of Children and Parents?**
To continue to learn together, using whatever methods work best for you and your children! Additionally, children enrolled with the PLACE scheme must be:

- coded daily by parents as “present for learning” with each week’s codes submitted online on a Friday afternoon in keeping with the parental agreement
- Take relevant assessments and public exams (e.g., CATs, GCSEs - see PLACE Programme Code of Practice)

Parents or guardians are also required to fill in a detailed home-education learning/progress report every term for each registered child. These measures may replace any contact HE parents had previously directly with their LA.

**What About the Social Side?**
PLACE is a vibrant, busy group of some 130 children aged between 4 and 16, and their parents. PLACE home-based learners benefit from belonging to a community in which they can be sure of meeting the same children at each of their classes and at many group events, enabling them to build up secure friendships. Similarly, PLACE parents benefit from meeting with supportive, like-minded adults on a regular basis with whom they can share ideas, resources and home-education experience.