

Child Benefits

England



Child Benefit is administered by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC). Child Benefit decision makers use a series of guides to determine eligibility for Child Benefit. The main guide is DMG 11094. Although other guides are used (see below) for specific issues.

Both Child Tax Credits and Child Benefit normally stop on the **31 August** on or after your child's 16th birthday if they leave education or training. It will continue however, if they stay in approved education or training providing the education does not exceed level 3 (A level equivalent) and it is full time (12 Hours) (defined in DMG11095). Level 4 education is regarded as higher education and does not qualify.

Home Education (Education otherwise – as under section 7 of the Education act 1996) qualifies as 'approved' education.

You will receive a letter from the Child Benefit office sometime between January and June in the year your child turns 16 asking if the child is continuing in full time education. To continue to receive Child Benefit you must confirm that your child will continue to be home educated.

In the same way that a home educated child under 16 is regarded to be in full time education, a home educated child over 16 is also regarded as being educated full time. There is no requirement for your child to be preparing for an examination to qualify for the benefit.

Under guidance contained in the Decision Makers Guide 11093, 'Education' may include unsupervised study due to the differing nature of home education to that of education within an institutional setting. And the guide 11100 states that

“Where the education is not at a recognised educational establishment (for example at home), the decision maker must recognise the education for the student to be regarded as a young person.”

According to the HMRC website “If your child is 19 and goes back into qualifying education or training, you can make another claim for Child Benefit as long as they were enrolled or accepted for the education or training before their 19th birthday”.