

Guidance for parents on choosing a private tutor

There are many reasons why a parent/carer may employ a tutor. It may be to help their child improve their exam grades, to assist with their school work, learn a musical instrument or to study religious texts.

This leaflet is designed to help you make an informed choice when choosing a tutor to work with your child.

It is important for parents/carers to know that there are no regulations that govern tutors.

While many tutors are skilled at developing a child's learning, they may not have the qualifications to work in this field. In fact, a person can/may be barred from teaching or commit an offence which makes them unsuitable to work with children yet still offer their services as a tutor.

Local authorities and schools cannot provide a list of approved professionals who work as tutors. Therefore, it is the parents/carers' responsibility to make sure the tutor is qualified and does not pose a risk to their child.

What to do if a child tells you if any inappropriate behavior has taken or is taking place by the tutor?

- As the tutor's employer, you have the right to terminate the employment at any time.
- Make sure your child knows that they should talk to you if anything happens which scares, upsets, makes them feel uncomfortable or worries them.
- Listen to your child if they state something inappropriate has taken place even if you feel angry and upset. Reassure them they have done the right thing to tell you and that what has happened isn't their fault.
- If the tutor has acted in a way that is harmful, abusive or inappropriate towards your child, it is really important that you contact the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO). The LADO manages allegations against individuals who work or volunteer with children. The LADO will discuss your concerns with you and decide what further action needs to be taken.

Slough LADO can be contacted:

LADO@slough.gscx.gov.uk | 01753 474053

In an emergency please contact the police on 101 or 999



Employing a private tutor

A guide for parents/carers



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Slough
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Help and guidance in choosing a private tutor



I am worried about my child's progress at school, what should I do?

Before embarking on your quest for the perfect tutor, look carefully at your child's academic strengths and weaknesses. Review their work to determine the areas that would benefit from a close focus, and speak to teachers – they have a familiarity with your child that provides invaluable insight for a tutor.

Talk to your child about tutoring so you can gauge the commitment and the attitude they're likely to show in lessons, as well as their level of interest and confidence in the subject.

What are tutoring options available?

You can consider 121 tuition, group tuition or online tuition.

How can I find a reputable tutor to work with my child?

- Local paper or online
- Some schools may have details or knowledge of local tutors
- Recommendations

What checks should I consider when considering a private tutor?

Reputable tutors will understand that you are taking steps to make sure your child is safe.

- Is the tutor suitably qualified in the subject?
- Do they have tutoring experience?
- Does the tutor have a current DBS check?
- You should seek references and testimonials from other clients who have used them
- Good qualified tutors may be already registered with other professional bodies and hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and work in schools or as examiners

What to consider when choosing a 'good' tutor?

- Meet the tutor ahead and check your child is comfortable with them. Observe their interactions.
- What are the exams results like?
- Agree goal and tracking progress over the period they are employed.
- Agree a payment plan in advance
- Ask about their teaching methods
- Ask about which examination boards they are familiar with so your child and the tutor are aligned.
- Are they happy to liaise with your child's school teacher if required?

Where should tuition take place?

Wherever tuition takes place you or another trusted adult should remain in the building and have access to the teaching area at all times.

- If you are choosing an online tutor for your child ensure you are able to hear the session and have appropriate settings on your child's system.
- If the tuition will take place in your home, ensure the session takes place in a quiet location away from distractions but in an open environment where you can see and hear them.
- Some tutors tutor from their home. In these instances ask about their lone working policy and go and visit the location before hand to make sure it is safe.
- Tuition should never happen in a bed room even it contains a study area.

Make sure your child knows where their tuition should take place and ask them to tell you immediately if the tutor tries to change the arrangements, even if that means interrupting the lesson.