

The MJK Educators Homeschooling Handbook

A concise guide for parents and teachers · Kenya edition · Updated October 2026

General information only, not legal advice. Kenya's rules are changing, so confirm the current position with an advocate or the Ministry of Education before you act.

1. Start here

Homeschooling means a parent, tutor or small group takes direct responsibility for a child's learning outside a conventional school. Families choose it for flexibility, personalised pacing, values, special learning needs, or dissatisfaction with available schools. Whatever your reason, three questions shape everything else: **What is the legal position? Which curriculum and exit exam fit your child's future? How will you prove learning is happening?** This handbook answers each briefly.

2. The legal picture in Kenya (October 2026)

- **Homeschooling is not explicitly addressed** in the Basic Education Act, 2013. Many families and advocates read the law as permitting it, but some officials have said it is illegal, so the position is unsettled.
- **The Basic Education Bill, 2026 is before Parliament.** It would place an explicit duty on parents to ensure children enrol and attend school regularly, and proposes penalties for keeping children out of school and for running unregistered institutions (up to Sh20 million, three years' imprisonment, or both). Reporting does not show a clear homeschooling provision, so watch how the final text treats home education.
- **Advocates want formal recognition.** In September 2026 the Home Education Reforms Initiative called for homeschooling to be defined and recognised alongside public, private and alternative providers. Parents have also gone to court seeking recognition, and a 2026 Kenyan study recommends amending the Act.
- **Do not confuse APBET with homeschooling.** The Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, 2025, passed by the National Assembly in August 2026, concerns Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training schools in informal settlements, not home education.

Practical protection while the law settles: keep thorough records (section 6), use a recognised curriculum and assessments, be able to show your child is learning every day, join a homeschool community such as East Africa Christian Home-educators (EACH), and follow the Bill's progress.

3. What the research says

- Reviews of homeschool research generally report **positive associations** with academic achievement and with social, emotional and psychological development.
- **Read these findings with care.** Homeschooling families are self-selected, often more educated and more involved, and a lot of the research comes from advocacy-aligned organisations. Large reviews, such as Kunzman and Gaither's survey of over 2,000 texts, stress that the evidence is uneven and many questions remain open. The honest summary: homeschooling *can* work well, and outcomes depend heavily on the quality of the teaching and support, not the setting itself.
- **Kenya-specific evidence is thin.** A 2026 interview-based study found families motivated by flexibility and personalisation, with the main obstacles being legal recognition and access to higher education. Estimates of how many Kenyan families homeschool are unreliable (HSLDA says unknown; another

source estimates 400+).

4. Choosing a curriculum and exit route

Start from where your child is heading, then work backwards.

Pathway	Suits families who	Watch out for
CBC (Kenyan)	plan to re-enter Kenyan schools or sit KNEC assessments	Assessments are registered through institutions, so confirm how a home learner enters
IGCSE / A-Level	want an international qualification, often via private candidate centres	Exam fees and centre availability
IB	want a broad international programme	Usually needs an authorised school or online provider
American or online programmes	want structured, self-paced options	Check university recognition in Kenya and abroad
Eclectic / mixed	want to blend resources by subject	Needs stronger planning and record keeping

KCSE as a private candidate: candidates register through the Sub-County Director of Education, with a KNEC form and an examination fee (reported as Ksh 7,200, so verify the current amount). Registration windows for 2026 national exams ran from February to March, so **plan registration at least a year ahead** and confirm all dates on the KNEC website.

5. A workable weekly rhythm

- **Daily core (1.5 to 3 hours for primary ages):** reading, writing and mathematics. These carry most of the learning.
- **Projects and subjects (2 to 3 times a week):** science, social studies, languages, art, and hands-on challenges.
- **Outdoors and movement every day.**
- **Learning habits that are well supported:** short frequent practice rather than cramming, revisiting old material regularly, reading aloud and discussing books, and asking children to explain ideas in their own words.
- **Review weekly:** what was learned, what needs repeating, what to drop. Adjust early.

6. Records that protect you and your child

Keep, in one folder or binder: a **learning plan** per term, an **attendance log**, **dated work samples** from each subject, a **reading list**, **assessment results** (tests, projects, exam registrations), and a **short termly progress note**. Good records help if you re-enrol your child in school, apply for exams or university, or ever need to demonstrate that your child is receiving an education. See the Record Keeping Template in our Legal Guides section.

7. Socialisation and wellbeing

Social development needs deliberate planning. Build in regular peer contact: homeschool co-ops, sports, church or community groups, music or art classes, and shared learning days. Watch for isolation, burnout (yours as well as your child's), and loss of motivation. Listen when your child says it is not working: some families do move back to conventional school, and that is a valid outcome, not a failure.

8. For teachers and tutors

- **Ask the family for the legal and exam plan first**, including which curriculum and which assessments the learner is working toward.
- **Agree on records:** you may be the person who produces the evidence of progress.
- **Teach for independence:** goal setting, note-taking, and self-checking help learners at home far more than lecturing.
- **Support parents' confidence** without taking over; the parent remains responsible for the child's education.

9. Your first 30 days

1. Read the current legal position and decide your approach to compliance.
2. Choose a curriculum and exit exam pathway.
3. Set up records and a weekly timetable.
4. Join one local or online homeschool community.
5. Review at day 30 and adjust.

10. Recommended Reading

The books below are grouped by teaching approach, so you can start with the style that fits your family. Each link opens a Goodreads search; check Amazon or a local bookshop for current editions and prices.

Approach	Book	Author	Best for	Find it
Structured / classical	<i>The Well-Trained Mind</i>	Susan Wise Bauer and Jessie Wise	A K-12 plan with clear stages	Goodreads
Structured / classical	<i>How to Read a Book</i>	Mortimer J. Adler	Teaching teens to read deeply	Goodreads
Charlotte Mason	<i>For the Children's Sake</i>	Susan Schaeffer Macaulay	Educating the whole child	Goodreads
Relaxed and joyful	<i>The Brave Learner</i>	Julie Bogart	Rekindling a love of learning	Goodreads
Relaxed and joyful	<i>Teaching from Rest</i>	Sarah Mackenzie	Calm routines for busy parents	Goodreads
Nature and creativity	<i>Wild and Free</i>	Ainsley Arment	Outdoor, creative learning	Goodreads
Child-led / unschooling	<i>How Children Learn</i>	John Holt	Understanding self-directed learning	Goodreads
Child-led / unschooling	<i>Dumbing Us Down</i>	John Taylor Gatto	A critique of compulsory schooling (opinion, not a how-to)	Goodreads
Resource guide	<i>The Complete Home Learning Source Book</i>	Rebecca Rupp	Subject-by-subject resource ideas (US-focused)	Goodreads
Regional (South Africa)	<i>Homeschooling the Primary Years</i>	Shirley Erwee	Practical guidance from a nearby African context	Goodreads
Regional (South Africa)	<i>Homeschooling High School</i>	Shirley Erwee	Planning the high school years	Goodreads
For teachers and tutors	<i>The Book Whisperer</i>	Donalyn Miller	Building independent readers	Goodreads
For teachers and tutors	<i>The First Days of School</i>	Harry K. Wong	Routines and classroom management	Goodreads
For teachers and tutors	<i>Make It Stick</i>	Peter Brown, Henry Roediger and Mark McDaniel	Study methods that last	Goodreads

Approach	Book	Author	Best for	Find it
For teachers and tutors	<i>Why Don't Students Like School?</i>	Daniel Willingham	How learning works in the brain	Goodreads
For teachers and tutors	<i>Mindset</i>	Carol Dweck	Encouraging effort and resilience	Goodreads

A note on the Kenyan gap. We found no published book on homeschooling in Kenya that covers the legal position, the CBC and KNEC exam pathways, record keeping and local support groups together. Most titles above come from US or Christian homeschooling traditions, so use them for teaching ideas, not for legal or exam guidance. A Kenya-specific guide would fill this gap, and MJK Educators is well placed to write one.

Until then, pair any book with the legal and exam sections of this handbook and with local support, such as the East Africa Christian Home-educators (EACH).

Sources

- Namuyemba, "Homeschooling in Kenya: Policy Implications for Educational Stakeholders" (2026), summarised on IntechOpen: [intechopen.com/online-first/1251702](https://www.intechopen.com/online-first/1251702)
- Capital FM, "Homeschooling advocates push for clearer legal recognition in Kenya" (7 September 2026): [capitalfm.africa](https://www.capitalfm.africa)
- Nation Africa and Education News, reporting on the Basic Education Bill, 2026: [nation.africa](https://www.nation.africa), [educationnews.co.ke](https://www.educationnews.co.ke)
- The Standard, report on the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (APBET): [standardmedia.co.ke](https://www.standardmedia.co.ke)
- HSLDA, Kenya country page: [hsllda.org/post/kenya](https://www.hsllda.org/post/kenya)
- Kunzman and Gaither, "Homeschooling: An Updated Comprehensive Survey of the Research" (2020); NHERI-affiliated review in *Educação e Pesquisa*
- KNEC registration notices (2026), via Capital FM and The Star; private candidate guidance via The Kenya Times