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Growing Roots Academy

INDEPENDENT ONLINE ACADEMY · YEARS 1–11

[Date]

Elective Home Education Support Officer
Redbridge Council
255-259 High Road
Ilford IG1 1NN
By email: EHE@redbridge.gov.uk

Dear Elective Home Education Team,

Re: Introduction of Growing Roots Academy — online support for home-educated children in Redbridge

I am writing to introduce Growing Roots Academy, an independent online school based a short distance away at 161 Plashet Road, E13 0QZ, and to ask how we can best liaise with your team to support home-educating families in the borough.

Who we are

Growing Roots Academy provides live, small-group online lessons for children in Years 1 to 11, covering Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 through to GCSE. Our subjects include English, Maths, Science and Humanities, taught by teachers who follow the British curriculum. Families receive a personalised weekly learning plan for each child, regular tutor feedback, and progress tracking through our online platform.

Because our lessons are delivered online, Redbridge families do not need to travel — a child in Ilford, Gants Hill, Wanstead or Chingford joins the same small-group class as a child anywhere else in the country. We know that many families in Redbridge choose elective home education, and that some find it difficult to access structured teaching, particularly as their children approach GCSE. We established the academy to give those families an affordable, flexible option that complements — rather than replaces — the education they provide at home.

How we can work together

We would welcome the opportunity to:

- **Introduce ourselves properly.** We would be glad to meet your team, in person or online, to explain our provision, safeguarding arrangements and curriculum in detail.

- **Be listed as a resource.** If your team signposts families to local support services, we would be grateful to be included in any information you share with home-educating parents, and to be considered for your Family Services Directory.
- **Support private candidates.** Many home-educated children sit GCSEs as private candidates. We can advise families on subject choices and preparation, and we would value any guidance your team can offer on local exam centre arrangements.
- **Share information.** We are happy to provide literature, attend home education community events in the borough, or run an online information session for Redbridge parents.

Safeguarding and standards

Safeguarding is central to how we operate. We have a full suite of safeguarding policies, including child protection, online safety, safer recruitment and staff vetting, and a named Designated Safeguarding Lead. All lessons take place on approved, moderated platforms, and parents have full visibility of their child's lessons, messages and progress. We would be pleased to share our policies with your team on request.

Next steps

Please let us know the best way to liaise with your team going forward. We would be delighted to arrange a call or meeting at your convenience, and to provide any further information that would be helpful.

Thank you for the work your team does to support home-educating families in Redbridge. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Rushna Sulyman

Founder and Principal, Growing Roots Academy