Hickling Hacks Home Ed Hub

Terms & Conditions – Academic Year 2026/27

Effective from September 2026

These Terms & Conditions apply to face-to-face sessions provided through the Hickling Hacks Home Ed Hub. They are designed to keep arrangements clear and straightforward for everyone. If you have any questions before booking, please contact Kirsty at Hickling Hacks.

At a glance

Session	Academic-year option	Flexible option
Family Science Club	£35/month for 10 months, per family (up to 3 children)	5 sessions £50 / 10 sessions £100
Science Explorer Pathway	£35/month for 10 months, per learner	5 sessions £50 / 10 sessions £100
GCSE/iGCSE Science Hub	£60/month, paid in advance	£20 per session PAYG

Family Science Club and Science Explorer academic-year membership covers 35 scheduled sessions across the academic year. Flexible 5- and 10-session blocks are valid for the current academic year only. Sessions are booked through TutorBird using session credits, as explained below.

1. About the Home Ed Hub

The Hickling Hacks Home Ed Hub provides science learning opportunities for home-educated children and young people.

Sessions may include Family Science Club, Science Explorer Pathway, GCSE/iGCSE Science Hub and the Parent Hub.

Hickling Hacks provides science education and tuition. The Home Ed Hub is not a school, and parents/carers remain responsible for decisions about their child's wider home education programme and qualification choices.

2. Session dates

The Home Ed Hub operates on published session dates during the academic year and does not necessarily follow local school term dates exactly.

Family Science Club and Science Explorer academic-year membership covers 35 scheduled sessions across the academic year. Planned breaks will be built into the published calendar.

Additional workshops or holiday activities may occasionally be offered. These are separate from the regular programme unless specifically stated otherwise.

3. Family Science Club

Family Science Club is priced at £10 per session per family, covering one participating adult and up to three children.

Academic Year Membership: the 35-session programme costs £350 for the academic year, spread evenly across 10 monthly payments of £35, paid in advance. The number of sessions in an individual calendar month may vary because of planned breaks. The monthly payment relates to the overall academic-year programme rather than purchasing a fixed number of sessions each month.

Additional children are charged at £5 per child per session. For families on monthly membership, this additional charge will be added to the relevant monthly payment.

Membership can be cancelled by giving one month's notice.

Flexible Block Booking: families who prefer greater flexibility may purchase 5 sessions for £50 or 10 sessions for £100. These purchases provide session credits in TutorBird, which can be used to reserve individual Home Ed Hub dates. Purchasing a block does not automatically reserve a place on every Hub date, and individual sessions remain subject to availability until booked. Blocks are valid for the current academic year only and are non-refundable.

Once a session credit has been used to book a particular session, non-attendance will normally still use that credit because a place, materials and resources have been allocated in advance.

4. Science Explorer Pathway

Science Explorer follows the same payment structure as Family Science Club, but prices are per learner rather than per family.

Academic Year Membership: £350 for the 35-session academic-year programme, paid as 10 monthly payments of £35 in advance. Academic-year membership is intended to provide a regular place within the programme. Session credits and TutorBird booking will be used to manage individual dates, while membership retains the agreed priority/regular-place arrangement.

Flexible Block Booking: 5 sessions for £50 or 10 sessions for £100. These purchases provide session credits in TutorBird for booking individual dates. Purchasing a block does not automatically reserve a place on every Hub date. Individual sessions remain subject to availability until booked. Blocks are non-refundable and valid for the current academic year only.

Science Explorer activities may contribute towards a learner's own portfolio or record of learning. Hickling Hacks cannot guarantee that particular activities or portfolios will satisfy the requirements of a Local Authority or other organisation. Parents/carers remain responsible for maintaining any educational records they are required to provide.

5. GCSE/iGCSE Science Hub

The GCSE/iGCSE Science Hub can be booked through either Monthly Membership or flexible PAYG.

Monthly Membership: £60 per month, paid in advance. This reserves the learner's ongoing regular place and includes access to the associated Google Classroom support. Membership can be cancelled with one month's notice.

Flexible PAYG: £20 per session. This is intended for families who prefer greater flexibility and do not wish to commit to monthly membership. PAYG places are subject to availability.

6. TutorBird session credits and booking

Home Ed Hub bookings will be managed through TutorBird. Once the appropriate membership or session package has been purchased, session credits will be available in TutorBird and can be used to reserve individual Home Ed Hub dates.

Flexible 5- and 10-session blocks provide credits only; purchasing a block does not automatically reserve a place on every Hub date. Individual sessions remain subject to availability until a credit has been used to make a booking.

Academic-year membership is different from flexible block booking: it is intended to provide a regular place within the 35-session programme and retains the agreed priority/regular-place arrangement. TutorBird credits are used to manage the individual session bookings within that membership.

Once a credit has been used to reserve a session, non-attendance will normally still use that credit because a place and the relevant resources/materials have been allocated.

7. Joining part-way through the year

Families are welcome to join during the academic year where places are available.

For Family Science Club and Science Explorer, families joining part-way through the academic year will only pay for the remaining part of the programme. The amount and payment schedule will be calculated according to the remaining scheduled sessions at the agreed start date and confirmed before membership begins.

Flexible block bookings purchased part-way through the year remain valid only until the end of that academic year. Any unused sessions/session credits expire at the end of the academic year and cannot be transferred or carried forward into the following year.

8. Missed sessions and refunds

Resources, equipment and printed materials are often purchased or prepared before sessions take place.

For this reason, monthly membership payments and flexible block bookings are non-refundable for sessions missed by the learner or family. Where a session credit has already been used to reserve a place, non-attendance will normally still use that credit.

Where possible, please let Kirsty know if you will be unable to attend. This is particularly helpful when practical activities have been prepared for individual learners.

The £20 GCSE/iGCSE PAYG option is available for families who need greater flexibility around attendance.

9. Cancellation by Hickling Hacks

If Hickling Hacks has to cancel one of the 35 scheduled Family Science Club or Science Explorer sessions, a replacement session will be offered where reasonably possible. If a replacement cannot be provided, an appropriate credit or refund will be given.

For GCSE/iGCSE sessions cancelled by Hickling Hacks, an alternative session, credit or refund will be offered as appropriate.

Occasionally changes may be necessary because of illness, severe weather, venue availability or other circumstances outside reasonable control. Families will be given as much notice as reasonably possible.

10. Parent/carer attendance

For Family Science Club and Science Explorer, a responsible adult aged 18 or over must remain on site or within the immediate vicinity of Elston Village Hall throughout the learner's session. For these Terms & Conditions, 'immediate vicinity' means within Elston Village Hall, the Village Hall car park, or the adjacent outdoor/play area.

Adults are welcome to remain in the session where appropriate, use the Parent Hub inside the hall, remain in the Village Hall car park, or use the adjacent outdoor/play area with younger siblings. The responsible adult must remain contactable and able to return promptly if required.

For the GCSE/iGCSE Science Hub, learners aged 15 or under must have a responsible adult aged 18 or over within Elston Village Hall, the Village Hall car park, or the adjacent outdoor/play area. Learners aged 16 or over may attend independently.

The Home Ed Hub is an educational provision and is not a drop-off childcare service.

11. Siblings and the Parent Hub

The Parent Hub provides a relaxed space for accompanying adults to meet and connect while sessions are running.

Younger siblings are welcome where appropriate, but parents/carers remain responsible for supervising children who are not participating in a Hickling Hacks session. The Parent Hub itself is not a supervised childcare area.

12. Practical science and safety

Sessions may include practical activities using everyday materials, laboratory equipment and appropriate chemicals. Activities will be selected and managed with safety in mind.

Learners are expected to listen to safety instructions, use equipment appropriately, behave in a way that does not put themselves or others at risk, and stop an activity immediately if asked to do so.

Hickling Hacks reserves the right to prevent or stop a learner taking part in a particular practical activity if continuing would create a safety concern. Where appropriate, an alternative way to participate will be offered.

13. Registration and onboarding

Families joining the face-to-face Home Ed Hub will complete the dedicated registration process on the Hickling Hacks website. This provides the information needed to onboard the family into TutorBird and to run sessions safely.

The registration process includes parent/carer and learner details, relevant medical/allergy/accessibility/additional-needs information, appropriate emergency/contact information, agreement to these Home Ed Hub Terms & Conditions, and a separate photography/video consent choice.

Families are responsible for providing accurate information and letting Hickling Hacks know if relevant details change.

14. Medical information, allergies and additional needs

Relevant medical, allergy, accessibility and additional-needs information will be collected during Home Ed Hub registration. Parents/carers should keep Hickling Hacks informed of any changes that are relevant to safe participation in sessions.

Please contact Kirsty before attending if you are unsure whether an activity or environment will be suitable. Hickling Hacks welcomes conversations about reasonable adjustments that may help a learner participate.

15. Illness

Please do not bring a child or young person to the Home Ed Hub when they are unwell with an illness that could reasonably pose an infection risk to other families.

If a learner cannot attend because of illness, the normal missed-session and refund rules still apply. Please let Kirsty know as soon as reasonably possible if you will not be attending.

16. Behaviour and respect

The Home Ed Hub is intended to be a friendly and welcoming environment for learners and their families. Everyone attending is expected to treat other learners, families, Hickling Hacks and the venue with respect.

Different learners may participate, communicate and engage in different ways, and this is welcomed. Behaviour that creates a significant or ongoing safety issue, deliberately damages property, or seriously disrupts other learners may result in participation being paused while the situation is discussed with the responsible adult.

Where there are ongoing concerns, Hickling Hacks reserves the right to end a family's membership. Wherever reasonably possible, this would only happen after discussing the situation with the family first.

A parent/carer may be asked to meet the reasonable cost of deliberate or reckless damage caused to Hickling Hacks equipment or venue property. This does not apply to genuine accidents or ordinary wear and tear arising during normal participation in science activities.

17. Safeguarding

Hickling Hacks is committed to providing a safe environment for children and young people. Any safeguarding concern will be dealt with in line with Hickling Hacks safeguarding procedures.

Where necessary to protect a child or young person, relevant information may be shared with appropriate safeguarding professionals or statutory agencies.

18. Photography and sharing children's work

Photography and video consent is separate from acceptance of these Terms & Conditions. During Home Ed Hub registration, parents/carers will be given a separate choice to actively consent to or decline photography/video. A family can still attend the Hub if consent is declined.

Where photography/video permission has been given, images or recordings will only be used in accordance with the consent provided, for example within the private Home Ed Hub community or on public Hickling Hacks channels.

Parents/carers are asked to be mindful of other families' privacy when taking their own photographs during sessions.

19. Google Classroom

Some programmes, particularly the GCSE/iGCSE Science Hub, may include access to Google Classroom.

Google Classroom may be used to share resources, activities, assignments and additional learning support between sessions. It is intended as wrap-around learning support and does not provide unlimited or immediate access to the tutor between sessions.

20. Qualifications and examinations

Hickling Hacks can provide tuition and guidance relating to science qualifications, including GCSE and iGCSE Science.

Unless specifically agreed otherwise, parents/carers are responsible for choosing the qualification, registering the learner as a private candidate, meeting entry deadlines and paying examination centre and entry fees.

Hickling Hacks can provide information and signposting where appropriate but cannot guarantee the availability of examination places at external centres.

21. Facebook community

The Hickling Hacks Home Ed Hub Facebook group is a separate community space for home-educating families.

Families do not need to attend paid face-to-face sessions to join the Facebook group, and attending face-to-face sessions does not require active participation in the Facebook group. Separate community rules apply within the Facebook group.

22. Payments and outstanding balances

Payments must be made by the stated due date. Hickling Hacks does not charge punitive late-payment fees.

If a payment fails or remains outstanding, future bookings or attendance may be temporarily paused until the account is brought up to date. If there is a problem with a payment, please contact Kirsty so it can be discussed.

23. Ending membership

Academic-year and monthly memberships can be ended by giving one month's notice. Payments due during the notice period remain payable and the learner/family may continue attending scheduled sessions during that period.

Pre-purchased flexible block bookings are non-refundable. Any unused sessions/session credits expire at the end of the academic year and cannot be transferred or carried forward into the following academic year.

Hickling Hacks reserves the right to end or pause membership/attendance where continuing attendance would create significant safety, safeguarding or behavioural concerns, or where fees remain unpaid.

24. Changes to the programme or Terms & Conditions

As the Home Ed Hub develops, activities, themes, session formats and timetables may occasionally change in response to learner interests, family feedback, venue arrangements and practical considerations.

Any significant change affecting existing bookings, fees or these Terms & Conditions will be communicated to families in advance wherever reasonably possible.

25. Contact

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