



## Elective Home Education (EHE) – Information for professionals

The Education Safeguarding Team – Attendance & Pupil Support - has responsibility for EHE in Kirklees. The number of parents in Kirklees opting to home educate their children is increasing which is in line with our neighbouring Local Authorities and is the trend nationally.

Home education is an option that any family may consider for their children. The legal responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory, but school is not. The reasons for parents deciding to EHE their children are many, as are the styles of education undertaken. For some families, it is a decision based on their philosophical, spiritual or religious outlook. For others, it is to meet the specific needs of a child or children. Some parents chose EHE for a temporary period whilst waiting for a school place to become available at their preferred school. If parents report that an issue at school has led to their decision to home educate, the Local Authority will support them in finding a resolution - which is often a return to a school setting.

The Local Authority offers to visit all EHE families at the point of commencement of EHE and then annually. However, there isn't a statutory duty in relation to monitoring the quality of home education. Parents are under no obligation to respond to this request and lack of response would not in itself trigger a concern. The Local Authority can intervene if it appears that an efficient, full-time and suitable education is not being provided. If a professional from any agency is working with a family, and they are unsure whether a child is receiving a suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (EHE), please contact Attendance & Pupil Support on 01484 221919 or by email [attendance.pupilsupport@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:attendance.pupilsupport@kirklees.gov.uk)

Kirklees Council Children's Scrutiny Panel are currently reviewing Kirklees EHE policy and protocols. There may potentially be changes to legislation in the future as there is a Home Education, (Duty of Local Authorities) Bill going through Parliament at present. In addition, new Local Government guidance is due to be issued.