



## Elective Home Education (EHE)

Parents have a responsibility to make sure that their child is educated. Most children attend school for their education, but parents have the right to educate their child at home and this is called elective home education (EHE). It is recognised that parents may choose home education for a variety of reasons. However, the decision to home educate should not be taken lightly and it is important that this is right for a child and should be discussed with them. Advice and guidance is also available from the local authority's Elective Home Education team who can explain what home education entails.

Elective home education requires a serious time commitment, patience, energy and the ability to provide appropriate motivation, resources and equipment. Parents must be able to provide a suitable, full time and efficient education - in respect of their child's age, ability, aptitude and any special needs they may have; They will also need to decide if they have the skills and ability to educate their child or if they need to purchase services to help them do this e.g. online learning packages or tutors. However, these can be costly, and there is no financial support available for elective home educating families.

Consideration must also be given to:

- Opportunities to socialise with other children and build friendships. This could be done through social activities or clubs, possibly based on a child's hobbies and interests.
- A space at home where learning can take place
- The time involved. Parents in employment should consider whether they can provide an effective full time education for their child as well as accommodating their work commitments.
- Understanding their child's aspirations— will home education support these?
- Sitting examinations. This can be done but is can be costly to arrange as a private pupil.

Elective home education should never be considered to avoid sending a child to school or to avoid exclusions or attendance fines.

Electing to home educate will not stop these processes.

It is also important to appreciate that, when a child is removed from a school roll to home educate, there may not always places available at their previous or preferred school, should they wish to return to school.

Under Section 175 of the Children Act 2002 the Local Authority has a general duty to



safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Local Authority has powers to enable it to insist on seeing children to enquire about their welfare where there are grounds for concern. Such powers, however, DO NOT give the Local Authority the ability to see and question children who are being home educated in order to establish whether they are receiving a suitable education. The Local Authority will, nevertheless, aim to discharge its safeguarding functions in relation to home educated children by attempting to engage proactively with all home educating parents and will always seek to see, speak with and ascertain the views of children who are home educated.

Whilst the Local Authority recognises that children who are home educated are no more likely to be the subject of abuse or neglect than are children who attend school the Local Authority nevertheless notes the particular circumstances of home educated children.

Should any safeguarding concerns emerge in the course of engagement with home educating families, or as a consequence of a lack of engagement, these concerns must be progressed in accordance with local safeguarding procedures. Whilst a failure to respond to the informal enquiries of the Local Authority will not in itself be seen as evidence of safeguarding concerns, a repeated and persistent failure to respond, together with other contextual information, may in certain circumstances cause the Local Authority to consider the need for further action.

Educating children at home works well when it is a positive, informed and dedicated choice. However, in recent years there has been a very significant increase in the number of children being educated at home, with considerable evidence that many are not receiving a suitable education. There is a less well evidenced but increasing concern that some children educated at home may not be in safe environments.

If the parents of a child who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) declare an intention to home educate, the Local Authority will review the CPP to ensure that it can be demonstrated that home education will be in the child's best interests and will not prejudice the effective implementation of the child's CP plan.

Additional Resources include:

[Gov.UK Elective Home Education](#)

[Home Education and Special Needs England](#)

[Elective Home Education Service](#)

[Kirklees – Safeguarding in Education](#)