

Elective Home Education Frequently Asked Questions

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For full information about Electively Home Educating, please refer to the document titled **‘Guidance for parents and carers for Elective Home Education’**.

1. What is Elective Home Education?

Elective Home Education (also referred to as home education or home schooling) is where parents or carers of a child or young person (CYP) decide to educate their CYP at home instead of sending them to school. The parent or carer has full responsibility (including financial) for providing full-time education suitable to the CYP's age and ability and to any special educational needs they may have.

2. Why do parents choose to home educate?

Parents choose to home educate for many reasons, for example, cultural or philosophical reasons or specific SEN needs. Recently, parents have cited avoidance of prosecution for non-attendance, risk of exclusion or disagreements with schools as reasons for deciding to home educate. **Statutory guidance states that “schools must not seek to persuade parents to educate their children at home as a way of avoiding an exclusion or because the child has a poor attendance record” (DfE Guidance titled Elective Home Education (2019)).** The advice given under these circumstances to parents would be for them to contact the school directly to discuss any problems first. SENDIASS can provide information, advice and/or support for SEND issues (see <https://www.kids.org.uk/sendiaass/services/hull-sendiass/> or call on 01482 467541).

3. Do parents have to ask permission to educate their child at home?

No, parents do not have to ask permission to begin educating at home unless their child attends a special school and has an EHCP. In these circumstances parents must consult with the LA before home educating.

4. Who needs to be informed of the decision to home educate?

Parents/carers of compulsory school age children in a mainstream setting are required to inform the school in writing that they intend to home educate. The school will then remove the child from the school register from the date of the letter; from this date onwards, the parents assume full responsibility.

If your child attends a Special School, as the local authority will be required to give consent to remove from the roll, you must speak to the special educational needs department at the Local Authority and discuss with them how you will meet your child's needs.

If a child has never attended school, parents/carers do not need to tell anyone, but we do ask for details to be sent to us so that we know arrangements for the child's education is in place (as this is part of the local authority's legal duty). If parents do not tell us that child/ren are educated at home and we find out that, we will contact parent to ask how you they are educating their child as part of our Children Missing Education process.

5. Is Elective Home Education the same as Home Tuition?

Parents/carers of compulsory school age children in a mainstream setting are required to inform the school in writing that they intend to home educate. The school will then remove the child from the school register from the date of the letter; from this date onwards, the parents assume full responsibility.

If your child attends a Special School, as the local authority will be required to give consent to remove from the roll, you must speak to the special educational needs department at the Local Authority and discuss with them how you will meet your child's needs.

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No, LAs consider providing home tuition if a child is sick and cannot attend school and medical evidence has been provided by a medical practitioner. Local Authorities do not provide work or provide tutors to home educating families

6. Can children return back to the school they came out of if parents change their mind?

Children usually return to the school they came out of. Parents will be required to complete an In Year Transfer Form and the application will be processed by the Admissions Team. The application may be considered by the fair access panel.

7. Can the LA insist on a home visit to inspect the work parents are providing?

Parents are under no obligation to accept a home visit, nor can the LA insist on one or ask to see children. If parents are asked to provide evidence of work, they can either accept a visit or send in samples of work undertaken to the LA. It is difficult to determine if work being provided is 'suitable' when current legislation does not define what a 'suitable' education is. If concerns are shared with the LA which indicates that a child may not be in receipt of a suitable education, the LA will make informal enquiries to ascertain if these concerns are justified. Parents are under no duty to respond to such informal enquiries; however, the DfE advise that it would be sensible for them to do so.

8. Do parents receive any financial help?

No, LAs do not offer financial help. Parents will need to consider the cost of writing equipment, textbooks, examination fees, college placements etc.

9. Do parents have to teach the National Curriculum?

No, the National Curriculum only applies to state schools. Parents should consider the effects it may have on their child if the National Curriculum is not followed. It may cause the child to fall behind in terms of their social/academic achievement compared to other children of their own age who are attending school.

10. Can children who are being home educated still take exams?

Yes, but parents are responsible for enrolling their child with an examination board and find exam centres. They should also consider the cost of examinations, if course work is required and whether the education provided would enable the child to achieve a qualification.

11. Do children have to be taught during school hours?

No, children can be taught on any day of the week, and parents can choose the hours that they feel are suitable.

However, education is required to be full time. Statutory guidance states that education should occupy a significant proportion of a child's life and that parents/carers will be expected to demonstrate the amount of time education is being provided.

Consideration should be given to the fact that children in schools receive around 25 hours of education a week over 38 weeks a year, this is considered full-time education.

12. CONTACT DETAILS

Contact details for general queries about procedures and practice:

Locality SEWO's

EAST: Emma Davidson emma.davidson@hulcc.gov.uk

WEST: Charlene Wright Charlene.wright@hulcc.gov.uk

NORTH: Jackie Matthews jackie.matthews@hulcc.gov.uk

Regarding admission to school queries:

Alyson Joyce alyson.joyce@hulc.gov.uk (01482) 613348

The information in this document can be made available in other formats (large print, audio, digitally and Braille as appropriate) and different languages. Please telephone 01482 300 300. Textphone users please telephone 01482 300 349.