

**Elective Home Education**

**What you need to know**

Elective Home Education is where parents or carers of a child decide to educate their child at home.

It is the legal duty of all parents and carers to ensure that their child receives an appropriate full-time education. The majority of children attend one of their local schools. However, we respect that for a number of different reasons, some parents decide to educate their children at home.

Deciding to educate your child at home is a major responsibility for you and your family as it invariably involves a significant amount of effort, time, energy and lots of patience. There are a number of common questions that families ask when they are considering educating their child at home. The frequently asked questions section will hopefully help you in making an in-formed decision as to whether Elective Home Education is a suitable alternative to a school for your child.

***Duties of Parents***

Parents have a responsibility to provide an education for their children. Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, states:

*‘The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable-*

*(a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and*

*(b) to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.’*

It is the duty of each parent:

* To ensure that your school age child is educated.
* To delegate that duty to a school, or carry it out your-self.
* To ensure the education provided is efficient and full time.

If your child has special education needs, the education must meet their needs.

There are many websites dedicated to elective home education and home schooling, ranging from those which provide online resources and courses of study to those giving details of national and local support groups.

For any particular age group, a good place to start is with BBC Bitesize. Details of the national curriculum can be found on the GOV.UK website. Age/level-appropriate work books and study guides can be purchased from high street stores.

***The duties of Local Authorities***

The law requires Local Authorities to act if it appears that a parent is not providing suitable education, which takes account of their age, ability and aptitude and any special needs that the child may have.

The Local Authority also has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children – including children who are home educated (section 175 Education Act 2002).

For further information, please either refer to our Frequently Asked Question section, or contact

EHE@cognus.org.uk

**Elective Home Education**

**Frequently asked questions**

**What is Elective Home Education?**

Elective Home Education is where parents or carers of a child decide to educate their child at home instead of sending them to a school. The parent or carer would have full responsibility for providing a full-time education suitable to the child’s age and ability and to any special educational needs they may have.

**Why do parents choose to home educate?**

Parents choose to home educate for many reasons, for example; cultural religious, philosophical, specific SEN needs.

If you are considering home educating to avoid prosecution for non-attendance at school or because of a disagreement with school we would advise you to contact the school directly or contact the EHE or education welfare service to discuss your options.

**Do I have to ask permission to educate my child at home?**

No, you do not have to ask permission to begin educating at home unless your child attends a special school. If your child does attend a special school then you must consult the LA before home educating.

**How do I de-register my child?**

You are required to inform the school in writing that you intend to home educate your child.

**Would I get any financial help?**

No, we would not be able to offer you any financial help towards educating your child at home. You will need to consider the cost of writing equipment, text books, paper, examination fees, college placements etc.

**Would I have to teach the National Curriculum?**

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

**Would my child still be able to take exams?**

Yes, but you would need to enrol with an examination board and find out where your local examination centres are. You also need to consider the cost of the examinations, if coursework is required and whether the education that you are going to provide would enable your child to achieve the qualification.

**Would I need to teach my child during school hours?**

No, you are able to teach your child on any day of the week and choose the hours that you feel are suitable. You should consider that children in schools receive around 25 hours education a week over 38 weeks a year, this is considered full time education.

**Is elective home education the same as home tuition?**

No, Local Authorities provide home tuition if a child is sick and cannot attend school. If your child is home educated the local authority does not provide tutors or keep a bank of tutors for you to contact.

**What if the education that I provide is not satisfactory?**

In the majority of cases, families who home educate provide their child with a great education. Occasionally a parent cannot meet the needs of their child. If it appears that the education that you are providing is unsatisfactory, the LA could issue a School Attendance Order which will require your child to be placed on a school roll.

**Can I change my mind once I have decided to educate my child at home?**

Yes, quite often, children or their parents find that home education is not for them. We can advise you on how to get your child back into a school.

**Can I speak to somebody if I have any further questions about Elective Home Education?**

Contact your local EHE Co-ordinator at EHE@cognus.org.uk