

HOME EDUCATING. ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION (EHE)

What is home educating?

Home education or Elective Home Education (EHE) are terms used to describe the choice made by parents to provide education for their children at home or somewhere else instead of sending them to school.

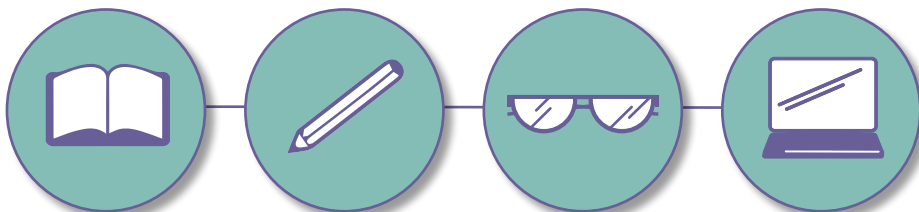
There are many reasons you may consider home educating your child or young person (personal choice, your child or young person is not coping in the school, they are being bullied, etc.), and it is a decision that should not be made lightly. Before you make the decision, speak to your child or young person's current school teacher or SENCO, the Local Authority (LA) SEN Team and the EHE team to see if there is anything that the school or LA can do for your child to remain in education or if they can move to a different school.

Does the Local Authority (LA) pay for anything if I home educate? E.g. books, subscriptions, exams, etc.

Home education is a lifestyle choice and requires a significant commitment in terms of time and resources. There is no funding available for home educators, and the council do not provide curriculum guides or resource packs. However, the LA EHE team are on hand to offer support and advice. Any additional costs to support your preferred learning style, such as books, paper, educational visits, examinations, equipment and subscriptions to online resources, will need to be provided by parents/ carers.

How do I take my child or young person out of school to home educate them?

For a school to remove a child from the school register (off-roll), you must inform the school formally in writing that your child is receiving home education or otherwise. If this does not happen and the child does not attend school, the school must report the child missing from education (CME) to the LA.



AN EXAMPLE LETTER TO SEND TO THE SCHOOL

Headteacher Name and address of the school

Dear name of Headteacher Child's name –

Child's date of birth

I am writing to let you know that from date, I will be making alternative arrangements for child's name education; this arrangement involves Elective Home Education.

I want to thank you and your staff for the help and support you have given to Child's name during his/her time at the school.

Yours sincerely

Your name and signature

It is also best to send a copy of the letter to your local authority at the same time (preferably by recorded delivery if sending by post). When you write your letter, it is a good idea to put the date on which you intend to withdraw your child from school.

Please send or email a copy of your letter to:

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Elective Home Education Department for People
Civic Centre
Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
SS2 6ER
Email: ehc@southend.gov.uk

For children attending a mainstream school, the school must delete the child's name from their register on the date advised in writing from the parents that the pupil will be receiving education at home or elsewhere, other than at school. For children attending a special school, permission must first be sought through the LA who oversees the child's EHCP.

Can the school force us to off-roll our child?

The decision to home educate should be taken solely by parents. Schools should not seek to influence parents to opt to educate their children at home as a way of avoiding an exclusion or because the child has a poor attendance record (S 3.12 EHE guidelines for LAs, DfE guidance 2007, 2013). Parents can contact the LA for support if a school is suggesting a parent home educate their child.

Can I send my child or young person back to school if we cannot home educate anymore?

If at any time you wish to return your child to school, the standard admissions procedure will apply, and the place your child receives will be based on available spaces in your preferred schools. Please get in touch with Southend Borough Council Admissions department on **01702 212 934**.

What happens once I've taken my child or young person out of school to home educate them?

Once you have written to the school requesting your child's name be removed from the school roll, the school is required to inform the LA of the deletion from the school roll. This will generate an initial contact from the Southend EHE team, who will contact you to discuss your plans for your child's education and provide you with an optional 'Expression of Interest' form, the EHE Parent Guidance (2021), and provide you with additional EHE information leaflets.

Completing the form will enable the EHE team to keep you informed of events in and around the borough that you may be interested in, access to free workshops & resources, send you regular electronic copies of the EHE ENews and be on hand to offer support and advice.

Each year the team will provide you with the opportunity to have an annual conversation with an EHE advisor to discuss and celebrate your child's progress. This can be face-to-face; virtually via WhatsApp, Skype, Teams or by completing a form providing an overview of the current provision, a snapshot of achievements or examples of their work.

The LA is duty-bound to ensure all children have access to a suitable education and aim to work with parents, carers and children to see examples of teaching and progress the child or young person is making. Where no evidence of education is provided or where it is deemed unsuitable, the LA will take necessary steps for formal action.

NOTE: By law, parents are not required to register or seek approval from the local authority to educate their children at home.

Do we have to follow the National Curriculum if we home educate?

Although home educators are not required to follow the National Curriculum, the education must be age-appropriate, enable the child to make progress according to their particular level of ability, and consider any specific difficulties. The teaching should enable the child to succeed in accessing further education, employment or training and function as an independent citizen in the UK.

You will be asked annually to provide evidence that shows your child is receiving an efficient and suitable education. This should show that the education being provided is appropriate and your child is making progress.

Although you are not required by law to respond to LA requests to provide evidence of suitable education, you should carefully consider your reasons for not doing so, what would be in the best interests of your child, and what is the most sensible approach.

If you do not provide sufficient evidence to satisfy the LA about the education provided at home, the LA will likely conclude that the teaching does not meet the requirement and will take formal action.

From when your child's name is removed from the school register you will be responsible for providing a full time, efficient education that is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude. The education you provide will vary between families and it is therefore unrealistic to expect too much too soon, both in terms of education and personal management but you should be working to clear and fulltime plan of provision.

Get in touch with other home educators!

If you are planning to use a tutor or alternative provision for some of your child's education, parents need to undertake safety checks to safeguard their children. You might want to use the LA's **Choosing a Tutor Checklist** as a guide and to help you ask the right questions to make the right decision for your child

What happens if the LA does not think my child is receiving a suitable education?

The EHE Team will make contact with the family to support re-engagement with education. This may involve a discussion and support strategies regarding suitable education, signposting to alternative educational provision within the local area open to home educating families, and supporting the child back into mainstream education, should this be the parent's desire. If a child's education remains unsatisfactory, the EHE Team will provide a formal notice that the education is deemed unsatisfactory and refer the family to the School Attendance Team, who may serve a notice (known as an s.437(1) notice). The notice requires parents to satisfy the LA that their child is receiving full-time and efficient education at home suitable to the child's needs. From the point of referral to School Attendance, your child will be recorded as a child missing education (CME) and no longer open to the EHE team unless you provide further information that evidences a suitable education.

Continued failure to satisfy the LA that the child is receiving a suitable education will result in parents being served with a School Attendance Order (SAO), requiring parents to register their child at the school named in the order. Failure to comply with an SAO is likely to initiate legal action and possible prosecution to ensure the child/young person has access to suitable education. Parents have the right to defend their decision to home educate in a Court of Law (please visit Southend on Sea EHE Policy and Procedures).

What if my child or young person has an EHCP?

Once your child is removed from the school register to be home educated, an immediate review of the EHCP is needed to change the name of the educational provision. Children with an EHCP who attend a specialist SEN provision cannot be removed from the school register until the LA agrees through an early annual review of the EHCP.

Families are encouraged to meet with SEN Officers on a termly basis to review progress towards the targets on their EHCP and provide support similar to reviews for children in maintained schools. The LA and parents must review the EHCP annually following the SEND Code of Practice. Due to the Special Education Needs Code of Practice, the LA are responsible for ensuring that the child's EHCP needs are met. An EHCP is a legal document, and all parties are legally bound to adhere to it. Where a child with an EHCP is educated at home, parents are still legally required to meet the provisions on the EHC plan.

The LA must conduct the Annual Review process to determine if parents can make suitable provisions for the child's special educational needs. If educating the child at home does not entirely meet the child's needs, then the parents would be seen as not making "suitable arrangements". The LA would then write to the parents, requesting that they provide evidence that the child is receiving suitable education within a time frame set in the letter.

If the parents cannot provide sufficient evidence, the SEND Coordinator will contact them to help support re-engagement with education. This will involve an early annual review of the child's EHCP and naming an alternative education provision within their plan.

Can my child be entered for GCSE and other recognised examinations?

For home educated children studying for a public exam, i.e. GCSEs, IGCSEs (International GCSE) or A levels, it is usually your responsibility to find an exam centre, register for the exam, find a qualified person to assess coursework and enter for examinations. You will need to pay for examinations and organise any qualifications for your child. You can find more information about taking GCSE and IGCSE exams as a private candidate on Oxford Open Learning at www.ool.co.uk and AQA at www.aqa.org.uk.

This year, the DfE are offering private candidate support grants; please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/private-candidate-support-grant-information-for-exam-centres/private-candidate-support-grant for more information.

Currently, only one Southend school and two colleges offer home educators to sit GCSEs as an external candidate (at a cost to the parent). In addition, Southend has acquired funding for those EHE students registered with the LA who are eligible for pupil premium to access up to 4 examination entries for free at Southend Adult Community College. Contact the EHE Team for details on those eligible and all exam centres in the local area

Within Southend, Alternative Providers and South Essex College offer free limited places on Year 10 & Year 11 courses.

For more information or support, please get in touch with the EHE team on:

EHE@southend.gov.uk or call 01702 215909

Useful websites:

Primaryresources.co.uk – Parents can access free lesson plans & activity ideas

bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles - The BBC Learning website with primary and secondary resources

Skymedia.co.uk/news/sky-launches-learning-from-home-collections-on-sky-kids

Tes.co.uk - A website where parents may access a variety of educational resources, including lesson plans or resources for specific topics of interest

Senteacher.org – A website dedicated to providing free printable resources for those responsible for teaching children and young people with special educational needs

Edyourself.org is a home education consultancy site that provides updates on key areas of practice and policy related to elective home education.

Uk.ixl.com – A website and app that teaches maths and English from Preschool to Year 13 that provides scores and rewards, as well as measuring your child or young person's skill levels.

Interhigh.co.uk - InterHigh allows pupils to study the British curriculum, in whole or in part, from home, anywhere in the world. Experienced and qualified teachers deliver live lessons, and parents can track their child's progress via the online school hub.

Myonlineschooling.co.uk - A variety of free resource pages by age group, as well as links for teachers and family health & wellbeing

Oxfordowl.co.uk – Various resources for home educating

learning.parliament.uk/en/home-education – Workshops and resources for homeschooling.

Useful educations Apps:

Teach Your Monster To Read – Phonics and reading

Endless Alphabet – Phonics and spelling

Endless Reader – Phonics, spelling and reading

Squeebles Spelling Test – Personalised spelling tests

Times Table Rock Stars – Single and multiplayer times tables games with a rock star theme

Khan Academy – Maths, science, and other subjects for years 1 to 12

Duolingo – Learn Spanish, French, German, Italian, English, and more languages for free.

DIY - The Learning Community – Science, tech, arts, building and engineering

Math – Math games & Learn math - mathematics for years 6 to 12

Ted – Ted talks

Southend EHE portal: www.yoursay.southend.gov.uk/elective-home-education-hub

Southend Local Offer can be found at www.livewellsouthend.com. **Please scroll down to SEND Local Offer.**

Southend Parent Guidance to Elective Home Education

Southend Home educating Groups

Southend Home Ed Meet-Ups - www.facebook.com/groups/750059275004201

