

Elective Home Education

Information session for Hillingdon schools

14th March 2024

Elective Home Education Team, Hillingdon

Children's Services

EHE Team

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This EHE webinar for schools aims to cover

- ▶ Definition of EHE?
- ▶ Reasons parents choose to EHE
- ▶ EHE legal guidance from the DfE
- ▶ Is EHE the right decision?
- ▶ The assessing of education
- ▶ EHE Team responsibilities
- ▶ Schools process for making an EHE referral
- ▶ EHE statistics

What is Elective Home Education?

- ▶ Elective Home Education (EHE) is when a parent chooses not to send their child to school but assumes full responsibility for ensuring their child receives suitable education.
- ▶ "In England, education is compulsory, but - despite the phrase 'child of compulsory school age', going to school is not."
DfE guidance
- ▶ [Elective home education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- ▶ The DfE is currently reviewing EHE guidance and will be publishing a new one this year. Guidance consultation ended in January 2024.
- ▶ New guidance seeks to promote positive practice and clarity and to differentiate between initial (informal) enquiries and formal enquiries.

Reasons parents may choose to EHE?

- ▶ Mental health concerns
- ▶ Philosophical and preferential reasons
- ▶ Dissatisfaction with school
- ▶ Not preferred school
- ▶ As a short-term intervention
- ▶ Alleged bullying
- ▶ Risk of exclusion
- ▶ Religious or cultural reasons
- ▶ Parent feels SEN needs not being met
- ▶ Child's unwillingness or inability to go to school

What reasons have parents/guardians provided you for their decision to EHE?

Is EHE the right decision?

- ▶ The decision to EHE is up to the parent/guardian.
- ▶ EHE is a challenging undertaking - the parent must understand the scope and expectation of it.
- ▶ Many of our home educating families make different choices with the home education they choose to provide ranging from online resources and text books to paying for tutors and/or online schools.

DfE Guidance on EHE

EHE Guidance for Local Authorities - DfE

- ▶ 2.4 There are no specific legal requirements as to the content of home education, provided the parents are meeting their duty in s.7 of the Education Act 1996. This means that education does not need to include any particular subjects, and does not need to have any reference to the National Curriculum; and there is no requirement to enter children for public examinations. There is no obligation to follow the 'school day' or have holidays which mirror those observed by schools. Many home educating families do follow a clear academic and time structure but it should not be assumed that a different approach which rejects conventional schooling and its patterns is unsatisfactory, or constitutes 'unsuitable' education.

Efficient education

There is no definition of “efficient education” in legislation. However, it is often explained as meaning education which “achieves what it sets out to achieve.”

Full-time education

There is no legal definition of “full-time” in terms of education at home, or at school. As a benchmark, children attending school normally have about five hours of tuition a day for 190 days a year, spread over about 38 weeks.

Suitable education

There is no legal definition of “suitable” education, although, as stated in section 7 of the 1996 Act, it must be suitable to the age, ability and aptitudes of the child, and any SEN the child may have.

EHE Team responsibilities

- ▶ Make enquiries regarding the education that is being provided for EHE children of compulsory school age
- ▶ Assess the education being provided for EHE children of compulsory school age as to suitability
- ▶ Determine frequency of checks to be made with families - generally it is annually if the education has been assessed as suitable. It can be more often for disadvantaged families or CIN/CP children.
- ▶ Providing advice and support
- ▶ Maintaining an up-to-date database of EHE children in the borough

What we ask of parents

- ▶ An education outline plan or report that indicates:
- ▶ Subjects being studied (Literacy and numeracy are the main expectation)
- ▶ Resources used- Tutor/online resources/textbooks/online school
- ▶ Any SEN - how will the needs be met?
- ▶ Does the child have opportunities to socialise with other children of a similar age/extra-curricular activities?
- ▶ How does the child feel about EHE?
- ▶ Hopes and aspirations - qualifications / increased confidence / improved mental health
- ▶ Expected progress
- ▶ If nearing post-16, have parents explored options - further education/apprenticeship/training and employment

What if the education is unsuitable?

- ▶ We ask for more details, make further enquiries, offer advice and support where needed.
- ▶ Seek advice/support from other professionals working with the family such as Social Workers
- ▶ If there is no response to our contact and enquiries and there is concern, a referral to Children Missing Education is made, which can on occasion lead to a School Attendance Order (SAO).

Suitable education checklist

Child's name: dob: Years EHE:
Possible vulnerability: State which: **R A G** Date

- **Suitable:** put a cross next to any of the statements that have been met in a report
- The more that are crossed, the more suitable the report will be. Do you have enough information?
- **Unsuitable:** cross any from unsuitable list. This **MUST** be followed up with parents!
- If it needs following up, state clearly what your concerns are or what more information you need

Suitable	Unsuitable: needs to follow up with parents
Explains the educational philosophy, education goals or beliefs which shape the education of the child.	No information at all!
States progress the child is making toward the education a parent has designed, not just a statement of intent.	A statement of future intent to educate, rather than a description of progress, where the child has been in EHE for a few months.
Outline <u>similar to</u> a school with a clear structure, timetables, following existing schemes of work, national curriculum or other established curricula.	Very basic information which suggests there has been no planning or consistent delivery of learning.
States how the education meets the needs, <u>age</u> and <u>aptitude of the child</u> .	An explicit lack of recognition of a child's <u>needs, attitudes and aspiration</u> .
Explains the strengths and areas for development of the child.	Report does not or cannot set out what the education is meant to achieve (<u>efficient</u>).
Explains how the child's needs are addressed in the education.	Education provided is <u>in conflict with fundamental British values</u> .
For SEND and/or an EHC Plan, explains how identified needs are being met through education.	For SEND/EHCP, does not explain how identified needs are met.
Child 14+: Makes links with their current education to employment, <u>education</u> and training pathways from 16.	The education prevents interest or stimulation in new learning for the child.
Child's voice is included: their opinion about home education and its impact on them.	Evidence which suggests there is no consistent supervision from a parent, <u>carer</u> or other adult.
The report is personalised for each child.	Reports for multiple children that are copied or not personalised to each child.
A description of the education (either the initial stages of home education or work undertaken since the previous report).	A lack of information related to the development of age-appropriate speech, language, communication, <u>literacy</u> and numeracy skills.
Explains what subjects, <u>themes</u> or projects the child has studied or how the child learns.	The education listed is more like indoctrination or training (see suitable education guidance).
If the child is working towards any exams, certificates or other achievements and any information about those already achieved.	Expresses a right to a belief protected under the Equality Act 2010 (e.g. educated in Traveller culture or lifestyle), but insufficient evidence of other aspects of education enshrined in the UN Rights of the Child (e.g. right to be literate and numerate).
Provides some examples.	No education being provided
Education aligns to fundamental British values.	Information that suggests the child is unsafe.
Lists any supplementary schools, tutoring or online learning institutions the child is learning from.	Education in physical environments not conducive to learning.
Describes child's socialisation, <u>exercise</u> and wellbeing.	A lack of socialisation or exercise which may impair the physical or mental health and development of the child.
Education resources, including outdoor spaces and environments are listed.	
Suitable or unsuitable?	Initials of assessor:
	Follow up action

EHE Referrals and Referral forms

Hillingdon schools and EHE

- ▶ When a parent communicates their wish/intention to EHE, they must put this decision in writing to the school.
- ▶ The government recommends that schools should offer a meeting/discussion regarding parent's decision and inform the parent of their responsibilities/expectations should they proceed with EHE. The parent may decline a meeting but this should be offered by schools to ensure that parents are fully informed of their practical and financial responsibilities with EHE.
- ▶ There is an EHE webpage that parents can be directed to and lots of information online regarding EHE:

[Elective home education - Hillingdon Council](#)

- ▶ The Designated Safeguarding Lead at school should be informed.
- ▶ Please do check that they are Hillingdon residents otherwise the EHE notification needs to be sent to the right borough. Another borough may ask for other paperwork as they may have different protocols to Hillingdon.

What should schools try to advise parents/guardians?

- ▶ EHE means that the parent/guardian is taking full responsibility for their child's education including the financial cost of providing an education - purchasing of books, online subscriptions, exam booking, tutoring.
- ▶ Direct them to Hillingdon's EHE webpage to read more about EHE so that they are making an informed decision for themselves and their child/children: [Elective home education - Hillingdon Council](#)
- ▶ If parent is choosing EHE as a temporary measure: Yes, they can make in-year applications but being offered another school place is dependent on a school place being available. It may be a long time before another school place is found.
- ▶ KS4 pupils: the parent will have to find a place that accepts private candidates for exam bookings and pay for those exams.
- ▶ The LA will request evidence of the education that will be provided from families providing EHE.

If the parent confirms their decision to EHE...

- ▶ Schools to complete our EHE online referral form via LEAP:
- ▶ [EHE Referral Form - Leap \(hillington.gov.uk\)](https://hillington.gov.uk)
- ▶ Please include as much information as possible and ensure parent's contact details are correct.
- ▶ If child is CIN or CP, **please let us know**- please include the Social Worker's name.
- ▶ If the child has an EHCP, have you informed the child's SEND Caseworker? Has an interim review been held?
- ▶ Please send EHE@hillington.gov.uk the child's attendance and attainment records and a copy of the parent's written notification to EHE.

What happens next?

- ▶ As soon as we receive all of this, we make contact with the parent/guardian to confirm their EHE decision and ensure that they understand the scope and expectations.

Why do we do this?

- ▶ This gives the LA an opportunity to build positive relationships from the outset and that parents understand what is expected of them.
- ▶ If parent confirms EHE and all is well, we inform school immediately that the child can be off-rolled. This can be back-dated to when parent informed the school in writing of their decision.
- ▶ *It is important that we are informed on the EHE form if the child has a CIN or CP plan or an open referral and/or if any other agencies are involved with the family so that we can check the background of all these and open dialogue with the professionals involved with the family should we need to.*

We aim to do this within 5 working days. It takes longer when parents/guardians take longer to respond or are difficult to reach.

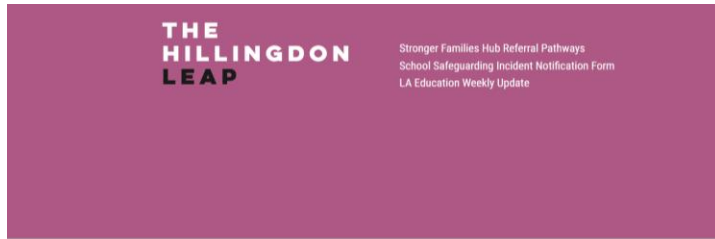
It can also take longer where the child has a CIN or CP plan or an EHCP and we are in dialogue with Social Workers and/or SEND Caseworkers.

EHE Referrals and Referral forms

EHE FORMS - EHE referrals

Hillingdon Schools

Accessed via Leap



Hillingdon LEAP > Our Services > Elective Home Education > EHE Referral Form

EHE Referral Form



- *In the main, EHE referrals are from schools within the borough.*
- *Out of borough referrals*
- *Referrals from parents*
- *Other professionals - medical profession/ CME Team / Admissions and others*

Parents/Carers

Hillingdon EHE Webpage currently being reviewed to access this link



Elective Home Education referral form for parents

Other Local Authorities, Health professionals, Police and Hillingdon staff

[Elective Home Education referral form for professionals](#)

Hillingdon EHE Webpage currently being reviewed to access this link

Children attending school out of borough

[Out of borough School's Elective Home Education referral form](#)

Hillingdon EHE Webpage currently being reviewed to access this link

EHE statistics

The current local picture - as at 1st March 2024

Total number of EHE children: 418	
Girls 215	Boys: 203
Primary school age: 140	Secondary school age: 278
Children with an EHCP: 17	SEN support: 65
Open to Social Care: 3 CP 7 CIN	

How many children have returned to schools from being EHE since September 2022?

- 49 22/23
- 48 23/24 (data as of 1 January 2024)

EHE Collaboration

- ▶ Children with a Social Worker (CWSW)

Meetings, dialogue to share and discuss concerns and next steps/support

- ▶ Gypsy, Roma, Traveller families (GRT) -

Meetings, dialogue to discuss individuals and families who may need advice and support

- ▶ Children Missing Education (CME) -

Meetings and discussion of families that are not responding or not providing educational plans or have moved abroad/out of borough but have not provided evidence to confirm this

- ▶ SEND - Children with Educational and Health Care Plans

Dialogue with SEND Caseworker who may sometimes receive evidence of education and are responsible for annual reviews and updating the child's EHCP.

Thank you for joining us today...