

Elective Home Education Guidance for Parents



Every parent has a right to home educate their school-age child(ren), including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This means that, rather than attending school, parents take full responsibility for providing education to their child(ren) outside the school environment, which could be at home or elsewhere. We ask families to think very carefully about this and this document aims to provide you with all you need to know to make an informed decision.

What's the difference between Elective Home Education and home-schooling?

During the period when schools were closed to all but vulnerable children and children of key workers, most pupils were educated at home. This is known as home-schooling. While being home-schooled, children remained on their school roll and received a combination of support from schools and online learning resources.

Elective Home Education (EHE) is when a parent chooses not to send their child to school full-time but assumes full responsibility for making sure their child receives a full-time education other than at school.

How can parents understand what Elective Home Education looks like?

- A good starting point is our website: London Borough of Hillingdon - Elective Home Education
- Look at Department for Education Elective Home Education Guidance for Parents

What should schools do if parents wish to Electively Home Educate?

1. Your child's school could offer you an Exit discussion to discuss EHE- this is optional. If your child has an EHCP (Educational, Health and Care Plan), it may be beneficial to hold an early review meeting at school with your child's SEND Caseworker to discuss the decision before the EHCP is amended to reflect EHE.
2. If you wish to proceed with your decision to EHE, you need to inform the school in writing stating your wishes.
3. The Local Authority Elective Home Education Officer will make contact with you.
4. The following can also be found on our Elective Home Education Webpage
 - Links to useful websites
 - A list of educational resources
 - Elective Home Education Newsletter registration



What exactly are parents responsible for?

Education

You are fully responsible for providing your child's education ensuring it is suitable to the child's age & ability. You have full financial responsibility for your child's education, including IT equipment, study materials, textbooks, tuition fees, etc.

Safeguarding

If you wish to employ a tutor you are responsible for finding one and ensuring their suitability, e.g. DBS check, quality of teaching, etc.

Additional support

Your child will not be entitled to Free School Meals or LA transport if attending college as part of their EHE provision.

There will no longer be state funded access to services such as Educational Psychology or the Advisory Teaching Service (except in some cases where a child has an Education Health Care Plan, which may be agreed and commissioned by the local authority on an individual basis)

Arranging exams

If you would like your child to achieve qualifications you are responsible for finding an exam centre, willing to accept external candidates, for the appropriate exam board.

You will have to meet the costs of the examination which can be in the region of £40 per subject.

You need to be aware that at Key Stage 4 it will be difficult to access examinations of a practical nature such as Art, IT, Science, Design and Technology and Science. There are equivalent qualifications available, for example Arts Award & Association Board of Music.

College placements and apprenticeships

The Departmental guidance for parents April 2019 (6.4) states 'It is also possible for children aged 14-16 who are educated at home for most of the time to attend state-funded FE colleges or sixth form colleges on a part-time basis, to receive tuition in specific subjects. If you are interested in this you should ask the college concerned if it has any such arrangements. Again, however, the college is under no obligation to make such provision'.

Apprenticeships are not available to a child of compulsory school age.

Any employment that your child takes part in will require a work permit issued by the LA and will be restricted in terms of nature and amount as would be the case for all children of compulsory school age.

Work Experience placements organised by school, with the necessary checks, are not available.