

A guide to Elective Home Education in Enfield



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If you are considering educating your child at home, the following information will be helpful in setting out Enfield's policies and practices in relation to Elective Home Education.

Home education is an extremely demanding and challenging undertaking and should not be embarked upon in response to a disagreement with a school or teacher. If you find yourself in dispute with school you should endeavour to discuss the issues with your child's head of year or the head teacher. If matters cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the Enfield Schools Admission Service will always be happy to advise you regarding school transfers. Officers are available to advise regarding vacancies, waiting lists and appeal procedures for alternative schools.

The Schools Admission Service can be contacted on esas@enfield.gov.uk

Many families find a period of Elective Home Education both rewarding and fulfilling. The EHE team hopes that parents will view home education as an opportunity to work in partnership with the Authority in order to bring about the best possible educational experience for their child. We hope that the visits and written reports will be helpful. We wish you well in your undertaking and will endeavour to do all that we can to maintain a close working relationship.

Do children have to go to school?

There is a duty on all parents to ensure that any children of compulsory school age receive an appropriate, full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, either by regular attendance at school or 'otherwise'. Some parents take a decision not to send their children to school but rather to educate them at home.

What is the procedure for Electively Home Educating?

If your child has been attending a maintained school, you should write to the head teacher informing them of your intention to educate your child at home. The letter should state that you wish the school to de-register your child and that you will be providing their education at home or 'otherwise'. It would be helpful if you could send a copy of your letter to the Local Authority, but there is no requirement for you to do so.

If your child has never attended school, there is no requirement for you to register with the Local Authority as a home educator. However, the Local Authority wishes to work in partnership with all EHE families and would encourage notification on a voluntary basis.

Once you formally notify the head teacher in writing of your intention then the school is obliged to remove your child's name from the school register. There can be no guarantee that a place would be available for your child at that school, or another school, should you, later, wish them to return. We therefore advise that you contact the Elective Home Education Team or the Enfield Schools Admission Service to discuss the implications of home education before you make your final decision.

What are the responsibilities of parents?

The Education Act 1996 requires parents to provide an 'efficient' full-time education for their child, suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and meeting any special educational needs they may have. When parents select to home educate, they assume full financial responsibility for resourcing the education, including bearing the cost of any public examinations.

Parents educating their children at home need not have any specific teaching qualifications, are not required to comply with the National Curriculum or cover the same syllabus as schools, and are not required to observe school hours, days or terms. The term 'full-time' refers to the hours spent on teaching in schools and is not relevant to home education, which generally takes place under very different conditions. It is, however, expected that the curriculum offered to children educated at home will meet the child's needs and allow them to broaden their learning experience. Parents should ensure that their child has access to a diverse range of subjects, which will develop their knowledge, understanding and skills. The education should be challenging, especially core subjects such as English, Maths and Science. Allowing the child to progress, and should incorporate physical and practical activities, such as sports, visits to museums, galleries etc., alongside academic subjects. Parents should also provide opportunities for their child to socialise and interact with other young people and adults.

Please note: If you decide to educate your child at home it is your responsibility to plan, provide and fund that education and it is the Local Authority's responsibility to assess and monitor whether the education is appropriate and effective.

What is the legal position of parents who wish to home educate their child?

1. As parents, you - not the state - are responsible for ensuring that your child, if he or she is of compulsory school age, is properly educated. Despite the term 'compulsory school age', education does not have to be undertaken through attendance at school, even though the parents of any child living in England can request a state-funded school place and the Local Authority is obliged to find one - or make alternative arrangements for education of your child.
2. There is no legislation that deals with home education as a specific approach. However, Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 provides that:
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. Elective home education is a form of 'education otherwise than at school' and this piece of legislation is the basis for the obligations of parents. It is also the starting point for Local authorities' involvement.
3. A child becomes of compulsory school age from the first of the following dates (31 August, 31 December or 31 March) which occurs after she or he becomes five years old (or if the fifth birthday falls on one of those dates, on that day). The child remains so until the last Friday of June in the academic year in which she or he becomes sixteen. Children may also be educated at home in order to participate in education and training until the age of 18.

4. You may also decide to exercise your right to educate your child at home from a very early stage, before he or she reaches compulsory school age. There are no requirements in that case as to the content of any home education provided - since there is no legal requirement for any education to take place at all, although state-funded places of between 15 and 30 hours a week would normally be available in early years settings for children of an appropriate age.

What is 'efficient' education?

There is no definition of this in statute law. However, it can be interpreted as meaning education which 'achieves what it is intended to achieve'. This is not the same as the education being 'suitable' - because it is possible to deliver efficiently an education which is definitely not suitable for the child. Conversely, it is possible to deliver a suitable education very inefficiently.

What is a 'full-time' education?

There is no legal definition of "full-time" in terms of education at home, or at school. Children attending school normally have about five hours tuition a day for 190 days a year, spread over about 38 weeks. However, home education does not have to mirror this. In any case, in elective home education there is often almost continuous one-to-one contact and education may sometimes take place outside normal "school hours".

Home-educating parents are not required to:

- have a timetable
- set hours during which education will take place
- observe school hours, days or terms

In practice, the question of whether education for a specific child is full-time will depend on the facts of each case; but you as parents should at least be able to quantify and demonstrate the amount of time for which your child is being educated. Education which clearly is not occupying a significant proportion of a child's life (making due allowance for holiday periods) will probably not meet the s.7 requirement.

What do the s.7 requirements mean?

Section 7 of the 1996 Act requires parents to provide an efficient, full-time education suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of the child and any special educational needs which the child may have

What are the responsibilities of the Local Authority?

The Local Authority will endeavour to establish positive and supportive relationships with home educating families, recognising that elective home education embraces a rich and diverse range of philosophies and methods.

Once we have been made aware of a child being home educated, the Local Authority will make informal enquiries regarding the education provision that is being put in place. You will be asked to complete an education plan outlining the programme of work you intend your child to follow.

The advisory teacher will then arrange to meet with you and your child to discuss the programme and your long-term education plans. Although the Local Authority has no automatic right of entry to a parent's home, it would always be our hope that the advisory teacher would meet with both parent and child, either in the home or at another mutually suitable and agreed venue. Evidence of a suitable education could be a written report, samples of the child's work demonstrating progress, discussions of their interests and activities and plans for the future.

After meeting with you the advisory teacher will write a report and send you a copy. There will normally be an annual visit, although under some circumstances this may be more frequent.

Timetable of events

Event	Timescale	Actions
Parent submits to the head teacher in writing they want to deregister their child from school and take full responsibility for their child's education.	Guidance states this happens immediately, and school informs the Local Authority (LA).	EHE Team will contact the family to confirm details. They will be added to the EHE register and asked to provide an Education Plan and provided Enfield's EHE guidance
The Education Plan will need to be completed and submitted to the LA for assessment.	Submitted within one month of registering as EHE and returned to ehe.team@enfield.gov.uk If help is needed contact the above.	If the LA do not receive this document within one month, the EHE team will follow up asking for it to be submitted.
The EHE Advisory Teacher will contact the family to confirm the suitability of the education being provided.	This will take place within the first 3 months of the child being registered as EHE.	If work is signed off as suitable. A date for a meeting/review for the next academic year is agreed. If the work is deemed as not suitable the LA will consider a School Attendance Order (SAO)
The EHE Advisory Teacher will conduct annual reviews.	Once a year - The parent will need to provide evidence that the work continues to be suitable.	If the work is deemed as not suitable the LA will consider a School Attendance Order (SAO)

What happens if the Advisory Teacher is not satisfied?

Local authorities have a legal duty under Section 437 of the Education Act 1996 to take action 'if it appears' that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education.

If, after careful consideration of the arrangements put in place for your child, the Local Authority feels that the provision is not suitable, the advisory teacher will discuss the concerns with you. You will then be given a reasonable period of time to improve the provision. If the provision is still deemed to be unsatisfactory, the Local Authority may serve a School Attendance Order. Such an Order would only be served after all reasonable steps had been taken to resolve the situation.

Enfield has a duty in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. If an officer or teacher becomes aware of any safeguarding concerns, this will be reported to the appropriate team or partner agency.

National Curriculum

The National Curriculum provides a framework of core subjects which helps to promote and develop a child's knowledge, understanding and skills. Although home educators are **NOT** required to follow the National Curriculum, most parents educating at home would wish to take account of it to ensure that their child has access to as full a range of learning as possible. Below is a chart showing the compulsory subjects studied at the various key stages.

The National Curriculum in England

Below is the link to the National Curriculum in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/overview>

	KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2	KEY STAGE 3	KEY STAGE 4
AGE	5 - 7	7 - 11	11 - 14	14 - 16
YEAR GROUPS	1 - 2	3 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 11
CORE SUBJECTS				
English	*	*	*	*
Mathematics	*	*	*	*
Science	*	*	*	*
FOUNDATION SUBJECTS				
Art and Design	*	*	*	
Citizenship			*	*
Computing	*	*	*	*
Design and Technology	*	*	*	
Languages		*	*	
Geography	*	*	*	
History	*	*	*	
Music	*	*	*	
Physical Education	*	*	*	*

All schools are also required to teach religious education at all key stages.

Secondary schools must also provide sex and relationship education.

What is the procedure for a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?

Parents of a child with special educational needs have an equal right to electively home educate if they so choose. This right is irrespective of whether the child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

If a parent wishes to withdraw a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) from a maintained school they should discuss this directly with the schools SENCO and the child's case worker in the SEN Team. You need to write to the head teacher of the school and ask for their child's name to be taken off the school roll. As with all children withdrawn from maintained schools, the letter should state that you wish the school to de-register your child and that you will be providing their education at home or 'otherwise'. The exception to this is if a child attends a special school. In these cases the agreement of the Local Authority must be obtained before the child's name can be removed from the school's roll. When a home educated child has an EHCP the Local Authority remains responsible for ensuring that the child's needs are met and for maintaining the EHCP and reviewing it annually. The Local Authority will, therefore, only agree to a child's name being removed from the roll of a special school when it has satisfied itself that the parents are able to meet the provision specified in the EHCP.

An officer/adviser with responsibility for special educational needs will make an initial visit to ensure that the education you are providing is appropriate and to give advice and guidance if required. Thereafter, you will be visited annually prior to the review of the EHCP. The EHCP will be reviewed at a meeting convened by the Local Authority, and a range of professionals involved with your child will be invited to attend. Following the review meeting a report will be prepared summarising the outcome and setting out any education targets for the following year. A copy of the report will be forwarded to you.

Parents who are home educating their child may ask the Local Authority to carry out a statutory assessment or reassessment of their child's special educational needs. In such situations the Local Authority must consider the request within the same statutory timescales and in the same way as for all other requests.

If you have any questions regarding Elective Home School please contact: ehe.team@enfield.gov.uk

Useful contacts / websites

Home Education Advisory Service (HEAS)

Website: www.heas.org.uk

Ed Yourself

Home Education Consultancy

www.edyourself.org

Education Otherwise

A UK charity offering information and support to Home Educating families.

www.educationotherwise.org

Coram Children's Legal Centre

CCLC provides free legal information, advice and representation to children, young people and their families.

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Child Law Advice Line – Freephone 0808 802 0008

BBC Bitesize

Educational material

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Coordination Group Publications Ltd CPG Books

Educational books from primary to A-Level – a large selection of revision and practice material.

www.cgpbooks.co.uk

Gov.uk

The facts and legal procedures regarding Home Education.

www.gov.uk/home-education

HE-Special

Home Educating children with special education needs. This site is run by families who have children with special education needs being home schooled full time or part time.

www.he-special.org.uk

For distance learning

National Extension College (NEC)

08003892839

www.nec.ac.uk

info@nec.ac.uk

Oxford Open Learning Trust Ltd

0800 9757575

www.ool.co.uk

A popular examination board with home educators:

01483 506506

www.aqa.org.uk

mailbox@aqa.org.uk

Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-for-you/students.html>

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