

Fact Sheet 6: Elective Home Education (EHE)

What is Elective Home Education (EHE)?

Parents have a responsibility for making sure that their child receives a suitable education (Section 7 of the Education Act 1996). A suitable education can be provided in a variety of ways, such as: sending them to a state school; sending them to a private school; or home educating their child/children.

Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school.

Home education does not have to be timetabled, completed in term times or school hours and can be flexibly taught in order to meet the needs of a child. However, the Local Authority do have to be satisfied that a child is receiving a suitable education.

What do I need to consider when deciding whether or not to Electively Home Educate?

Home educating your child can take a lot of time, affect your employment and involve extra financial costs. As a parent, you will be legally responsible for your child's education.

You may need to consider how you can access particular activities and resources, e.g. group activities or specialist scientific equipment. You may also need to consider whether you are able to meet all areas of learning, some parents find tutors for certain subject areas, or in preparing for exams.

However, EHE can fit flexibly around a family's life style and choices. Families do not have to stick to timetables or term dates and learning can take place in ways which suit the family. Some factors which determine a family's decision to EHE can include: cultural or religious beliefs; school refusals; a child's level of anxiety or mental health issues; a parents' choice to spend more time with their child; dissatisfaction with the current education system; family ideology.

Is there any funding available to support me in home educating my child?

A number of funding mechanisms are in place for pupils who attend school. These can include:

- AWPUP – the amount of funding per pupil that the Government put into schools.
- SEND budget – this is worked out for each school using a funding formula, which is used to support pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.
- Higher Needs Funding – some pupils will be eligible to access money from the higher needs funding block. This is for pupils with an exceptionally high level of need, who's Special Educational Provision cannot be met purely from the school's SEND budget.
- Pupil Premium – an amount of money paid individually to schools for pupils who meet certain criteria, such as: having been a Looked After Child; having a parent in the Armed Forces; having parents eligible for particular financial support, including free school meals.
- DAF – a one off payment into nurseries for pupils whose parents claim Disability living Allowance for them.

If parents choose to electively home educate, they assume the full financial responsibility to fund the education.

How do I go about Electively Home Educating my child?

Staffordshire Local Authority has a designated service to offer information, advice or guidance to families who are considering or choose to Electively Home Educate. This can found on the Staffordshire Local Offer:

www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/home.page

Parents do not have to inform the Local Authority directly, if they choose to home educate. However, they do have to de-register their child from the school roll. Parents must give a school 24 hours notice, in writing, that they wish to remove their child from school. On receiving notification from a parent/carers that a child is being de-registered, school must remove the child from the school roll, complete a school exit form and inform the LA that the child is no longer registered at the school.

For children in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan, the named setting is a legal agreement between parents/carers and the Local Authority. As a result of this, consent from the Local Authority is required to de-register a child, if your child is on the roll of a Special school. Then an Early Annual review should be called in order to make sure that the Education, Health and Plan reflects the fact that a child is going to be educated at home and the parents can explain how they are going to meet their child's needs as outlined on the EHCP.

Schools are not allowed to promote Elective Home Education as a solution to school attendance, as an alternative to exclusion, or because they are unable to meet a child's Special educational, Needs and/or Disabilities.

Can my child have an Education, Health and Care Plan if I home educate?

Yes, if your child meets the legal requirements for an Education, Health and Care needs assessment and the outcome of this is that is that an Education, Health and Care Plan is necessary, then the Plan will state that a child is receiving Elective Home Education, under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

Can my child still sit exams if they are Electively Home Educated?

There are different exam centres around Staffordshire where children can go to sit formal examinations. Parents should check with individual exam boards where their exam centres are and contact the centres directly.

The local Authority also hold a list on exam centres who will accept private exam candidates for GCSE examinations.