

Elective Home Education

Information and advice
if you are thinking
about educating your
child at home (EHE)



In this guidance you will find out about:

- Parental responsibilities
- Local Authority responsibilities
- Help available if you are considering EHE

Find out more:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homeeducation



What is Elective Home Education?

The government definition:

‘Elective home education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time.’

Home education does not have to follow a curriculum or a time-table but you do have to ensure that your child is in receipt of a full-time education suitable to their age, ability and any special educational needs they may have. You may choose to do this without any assistance from others or you may wish to use:

- **private tutors**
- **tuition centres**
- **other adults or settings**
- **flexi-schooling (a mixture of school-based and home-based)**
- **part-time college (for Key Stage 4, those aged 14 to 16)**

It is important to understand that schools may not always agree to flexi-schooling and college places are limited with agreed criteria for enrolment.

Other educational providers may not be inspected and regulated in the same way that schools and learning providers are. Parents using other adults and settings need to be satisfied that their children are safe.



Parental responsibilities - What does the law say?

You are responsible for making sure that your child is properly educated between the ages of 5 to 16 years old. Although the majority of children receive their education by attending school, you can make the decision for your child to receive their education at home or by another means. Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 says:

'The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause them 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'.

Therefore, if you choose to educate your child outside of a mainstream school through Elective Home Education you are still meeting your legal requirements as a parent or carer.

When can I start Elective Home Education?

As parents, you are your child's first educator and will be supporting their learning and development from birth onwards even if you decide to educate through a school.

Some parents will decide that they do not want their children to access school as a lifestyle choice and will notify the Local Authority of this at the point at which they would normally start school. However, you can choose to register your intention to educate your child at home at any point after they are born.

Sometimes, children will start their education in school and parents will decide that this isn't the best option and may decide to Home Educate instead. If this is the case, we ask that you notify the school your child is attending as soon as possible. The school will require your intention to home educate provided to them in writing (email or letter) to allow them to remove your child from their school roll. The school will then have a duty to notify the Local Authority which will allow us to record your child as home educated.

Things to think about

There are some things you need to consider when deciding whether home education is right for you and your child:

- **Time:** Home education requires a commitment from both you and your child, with dedicated time needed to do this successfully. However, home education will allow you to spend more time with your child often strengthening family relationships, and you can have a direct impact on their learning.
- **Exams:** For children in Year 10 or 11, thought should be given around exams and how your child will access these if needed. The Local Authority can signpost to exam centres and exam boards to support you. You would need to enter them as a private candidate and pay for the exams.
- **Money:** There is no funding for home education. You will need to fund all equipment, resources, courses and activities for your child. There are also free resources, groups and activities that you can join. If you are giving up work to home educate, reach out to the Family Information Service for financial support and guidance that you may need.
- **Education:** You need to know the type of education you plan to deliver and what the outcomes for your child are going to be. Home education can be tailored to your child's learning styles and needs, and you don't have to follow a set curriculum. The Local Authority can offer ideas around what this could look like, but we will not be able to provide the resources to do this.
- **Friendships:** You will need to offer your child opportunities for social interactions with others. This can be undertaken at a pace to suit your child and take the form of more structured groups and clubs or more informally like a trip to the park.
- **Space:** Questions to consider - Is your home suitable for your child to learn in? Do you have a busy house which may make focusing on learning difficult? Does your child have a space to work in uninterrupted if needed?
- **Support:** What support do you have from others? What would happen if you were unable, perhaps through illness, to provide teaching for your child for a period of time?



School concerns

If your child is experiencing difficulties within school, we would always recommend that you talk to the school first to discuss your concerns and find out what support is available. This may not need to be the Head Teacher but could also be the Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator, member of the pastoral team, Head of Year or any other staff member that you feel comfortable in talking to.

If your concern is specifically around SEND within the education setting and you are still dissatisfied, you can also seek advice from SENDIAS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information and Advice Service) or IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Education Advice). Some children also have barriers to attending school, such as mental health or anxiety. We would always recommend discussing support available with your doctor and school before making any decision to remove them completely from mainstream education for home education.

You are also able to apply for a new school place, although you may not be offered a place at a school you want. We strongly advise you consider all alternatives before making any final decisions.

What does your child think?

It's important to talk to your child about the options available and make sure they're involved in deciding what is best for them. Have you asked your child what they think about being home educated? Although home education must be a parental decision, it is most successful if a child is onboard with this too.



Local Authority responsibilities

Every Local Authority has a duty under Section 436A of the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to find out so far as possible whether home educated children are receiving suitable full-time education.

We aim to work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure home educated families receive the correct support and guidance to ensure the statutory duties for parents and the local authority are met.

Help may include:

- Initial support and advice on the requirements of home education either via phone, email, letter, virtual visit or home visit.
- A Facebook page where we share home education community events, updates and competitions shared with us.
- Annual contact to ensure that home education is still working well for your child.
- Opportunities to meet other home educating families through community events we run.

- When it is felt that education is not suitable, we will offer recommendations on how this should be improved and provide you with the opportunity to implement these.
- Updates on new government guidelines.
- Signposting to additional support services and support groups if needed.

The Local Authority will always work with you to find a school place for your child if we cannot be satisfied that home education is suitable, or that we cannot be satisfied that home education is right for your children. On some occasions, if it is considered that your child is not in receipt of a suitable education, it may be necessary to serve a School Attendance Order (SAO) in which case you will have to register your child at a school, however this would always be a last resort.

Can my child return to school?

Your child can go back to school at any point but you will need to apply for a school place via the Warwickshire School Admission Service.

For more information please visit:
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions



What if my child has Special Educational Needs?

Your right to educate your child at home is the same if your child has special educational needs or a disability (SEND) or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

If your child has an EHCP and is attending a specialist setting, the Local Authority must agree to home education before you can remove them for this purpose. To start this process, you must contact your local SENDAR team to initiate an annual review.

If your child has an EHCP and is attending a mainstream setting, you are able to remove for home education

as per any other child. However, your local SENDAR team may then undertake an annual review to ensure that the home education being provided is suitable and to ensure that the educational provision specified in the EHCP is made available to the child.

If you are educating a child at home already and come to believe that they have special educational needs, you may be able to get support from

SENDIAS

www.warwickshiresendiass.co.uk/

Still unsure about home education being the right option for your child?

If you are still considering home education as an option, and have further questions to be explored, please do reach out to the Home Education Team within Warwickshire or other services who can help you further with your decision.



Useful information and contact details

Warwickshire County Council contacts

Support for parents and carers

- [Support for parent/carers](#)
SEND Local offer
- [Home Education Team](#)
Telephone: **01926 736323**
- [School Admissions](#) -
Telephone: **01926 414143**
- [Family Information Service](#)
Telephone: **0800 408 1558**
or **01926 742 274**
- [SENDAR](#) (for those with an EHCP)
Telephone: **01926 742160**

Home education organisations

- [Education Otherwise](#)
- [Home Education Advisory Service](#)

Careers guidance

- [Careers Guidance Information Resources](#) (PDF, 86 KB)
- [Prospects](#)
Telephone: **01926 461600**
- [National Careers Service](#) -
Telephone: **0800 100 900**

- [Barnardos - Warwickshire Sendiass](#)
- [Princes Trust](#)

You can also find information online about local home school groups in your area. The home education community have many active local social media groups you can join that will be able to offer more practical advice and may even have opportunities for you to meet other home educating families.

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