

Elective Home Education

Guidance Booklet



What is Elective Home Education?

Elective Home Education is the term used to describe the education provided by parents or carers at home, rather than providing education for their children by sending them to school. This is different to home tuition provided by a local authority or education provided by a local authority other than in school. The law allows parents to educate their children at home instead of sending them to school.

Home Education is legal in all parts of the United Kingdom. You do not need to be a teacher or have any other specialist qualifications. As a parent, you must provide suitable education for your child during “compulsory school age” (age five to sixteen). Some parents/carers may choose to engage private tutors or other adults to assist them in providing a suitable education, but there is no requirement for them to do so. If a tutor is employed parents should ensure they have a current DBS check. Learning may take place in a variety of locations not just in the family home, and may take a variety of forms. Parents will find the following guidelines useful when considering educating their children at home.



How do I start?

If your child has never been to school, there is no action for you to take prior to starting home education. However, if your child is in school you must formally de-register by writing to the head teacher and stating your intention to teach your child at home.

What if my child is in a special school?

Local Authority (LA) “consent” is required to de-register a child from a special school and permission cannot unreasonably be withheld. Parents must however continue to send their child to school until formal notice has been received that the child has been deleted from the register.

What if my child has a statement of SEN?

“Where a child has a statement of special educational needs and is educated at home by the parents, the statement does not automatically cease. While the statement is maintained it must be reviewed annually, following the procedures set out in Chapter Nine of the SEN Code of Practice for Wales.”



What are the costs of home educating?

You are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and think carefully about the costs associated with educating children at home (especially in the long term when they may wish to take public examinations as there are major costs involved in sitting exams as a private candidate).

There are no funds directly available for parents who decide to home-educate their children. Neither do Local Authorities have a legal duty to provide financial support to parents who choose to home educate their children.

Can my child still take GCSEs and other exams?

It is possible for young people to take examinations as external candidates at various examination centres. As the parent/carer, you will need to find a registered centre for the candidate to take the examination. It would be advisable for you to also contact individual examination boards (see Useful Contacts List) to discuss the arrangements for private candidates. You will have to pay for any examination registration fees, examination centre fees and assessment of coursework by an accredited body. Once a pupil reaches sixteen years of age, they can enrol in a wide range of adult courses including AS/A2 level examinations. The Open University is a good source for a range of study. Details of examination bodies are included in the Useful Contacts List.

Do I have to teach the National Curriculum or any other Curriculum?

The National Curriculum only applies to state schools. As a home educator it is up to you and your child what, how and when you study.

What is the LA's role?

The LA recognises every parent's right to choose to home educate. Their responsibility is to make sure that all children are receiving a suitable education, and this is the job of the EHE liaison. Every parent chooses different ways to home educate, so the EHE liaison will look at each child's "programme" individually.

What is the parent's role?

The EHE liaison cannot undertake to direct your child's learning or provide learning resources. It is the parent's responsibility to plan their child's learning experiences.

In order to carry out its duty, the Local Authority may ask you to provide evidence that your child is receiving a suitable education at home. This may be done in a number of ways.

For example, parents might:

- Accept a visit from the EHE Liaison with or without the child being present
- Write a report
- Provide samples of work
- Meet the EHE Liaison elsewhere, with or without the child being present
- Have the education provision endorsed by a recognised third party
- Provide evidence in any other appropriate form

Where possible, the EHE Liaison will discuss any concerns that you might have.

What is flexi-schooling?

This is an arrangement between the parent and the school where the child is registered at school in the normal way but, the child only attends school part time - the rest of the time the child is home-educated.

“Flexi-schooling” is a legal option but you will need the agreement of the Headteacher at the school concerned. Some of the advantages and disadvantages of “flexi-schooling” are referred to on the Home Education UK’s website at:

www.home-education.org.uk/flexischool.htm

Will my child be entitled to careers advice?

Yes, careers advice is offered through Careers Wales for all thirteen to nineteen year olds. If your child is over thirteen years old, you can contact Careers Wales (See Useful Contacts List) who will explain the ways in which they can help.

Will my child be entitled to the School Nursing Service?

The Authority has been advised by the Health service that children who are educated under Elective Home Education arrangements will not be receiving an input from the School Nursing Service and, therefore will probably miss out on childhood immunisations. The NHS website:

www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/DoltYourself/vaccinations

has up to date information

Please contact your GP for further advice.

Can I change my mind about elective home education?

Yes, if at any time you wish your child to return to school full time, then you can seek a place in a school by contacting Learner Support Services (See Contacts List). Parents/Carers need to be aware that the normal admissions procedures will apply and will be subject to a place becoming available in the appropriate year group at any particular school. In addition, it may be very difficult to find a place in Year 10 or Year 11 as schools are part-way through GCSE courses.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE CHOOSING TO ELECTIVELY HOME EDUCATE

- **Think carefully about your decision:** It is a great responsibility demanding a lot of commitment, energy and time.
- **Consider how you will ensure your child's learning before making a decision:** Research a range of topic areas e.g. what else does mathematics involve apart from number work? Explore local sports facilities etc and consider arranging opportunities for social contact with other children.
- **Look at potential costs involved:** There is no funding available for those who wish to Electively Home Educate. There are costs for books, stationary, resources, ICT, educational visits etc. You will also be responsible for

arranging and funding public examinations (such as GCSEs) if appropriate. Although the internet is a good source of free learning resources.

- **Keep your options open:** Your child needs change at different ages and stages. The Local Authority will always be happy to help you find a school place. Make the most of all support and information available.
- **Consider carefully any decision to remove your child's name from the schools register:** Should you change your mind, the Local Authority could not guarantee that your child could return to the same school. Bear in mind the pressure on school places in your area, local schools may not have places available.
- **If you have a difficulty or disagreement with the school, teachers or Headteacher:** Do contact the governing body. If you think it necessary, contact the Education Welfare Service and consider other local schools as a further option. See Contacts List for Education Welfare.

Where can I find out more about Elective Home Education?

Inclusion and Pupil Support

National Assembly for Wales Circular 47/2006

Section 6-Elective Home Education for full documents visit:

<http://cymru.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/pupilssupport/inclusionpupilsupportguidance/section6/lang=en>

National Curriculum information can be found at:

www.wales.gov.uk

- Elective Home Education Wales

<http://www.ehew.co.uk/>

Tel: 07952435963

- Education Otherwise:

www.educationotherwise.org

Tel: 0300 1245690

Useful Contacts:

- Bridgend Home Educators
Rachel Milgate:
<http://bhe.community/>
Tel: 07565 415608
Email: emmzr75@gmail.com
- New Foundations-(Cardiff) EHE group:
<http://cardiffhomeeducation.co.uk/>
Jayne Palmer 07913955583
jayne.palmer@newfoundationshe.com
- Zone 7 (Neath) EHE group:
<http://www.zoneseven.co.uk/>
- Careers Wales –
www.careerswales.com

Merthyr Tydfil Local Authority:

- Inclusion Manager -EHE Liaison
Sarah Bowen
Tel: 01685 725082
- Senior Education Welfare Officer
Adele Stacey
Tel: 01685 724681
- School Support Officer (Admissions)
Helen Griffiths
Tel: 01685 724640

Exam Boards:

- ✓ WJEC www.wjec.co.uk 029 20265000
- ✓ AQA www.aqa.org.uk 0161 9531180
- ✓ Edexcel www.edexcel.com 0845 6180440
- ✓ OCR www.ocr.org.uk 01223 553998
- ✓ <http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk/>

Other:

Open University
www.openuniversity.co.uk
Tel: 0845 4505486

<http://www.revisionworld.co.uk/>

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/maths>

<http://www.gcse.com/maths/>

<http://www.gcseguide.co.uk/>

<http://www.muddlepuddle.co.uk/mpblog/>

Parents can also find other links on the BBC websites the addresses are:

www.bbc.co.uk/learning/index.shtml and

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/index.shtml