

INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR PARENTS

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION 2024/2025

Information for parents of children enrolled in school



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

Educating your child at home is a big commitment and as parents you then have a responsibility to make sure that your child is being suitably educated.

We believe that well-informed parents will be in a better position to make positive decisions about their child's education provision. The purpose of this leaflet, therefore, is to ensure that parents are accessing the sources of information available and making decisions freely.

Making the decision to electively home educate your child

Home education should be a happy, fulfilling and successful experience for your child. This is achievable but we would strongly recommend, before making a final decision, that you:

- **Talk to your child's school.** They have in depth knowledge of your child and will be able to work with you if you have any concerns relating to your child's education provision or school life. For example, if you have concerns about your child's special educational needs, ask to speak with the SEN Coordinator (SENCo). If your concerns are around COVID, raise them with the school.
- **Research thoroughly.** The government does not expect a significant break between the end of schooling and the provision of good education at home.
 - Talk to other home educators, research online and find out as much as possible.
 - Identify how you will be able to ensure your child's educational needs will be met?
 - Plan how you can provide a safe and suitable learning environment for your child at home.
 - Identify your long term intentions for the education of your child so that they can be achieved, especially if this relates to public examinations or further education.
 - The Council website and our guidance document for parents under downloads:
[Home education downloads for families \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/downloads/home-education-downloads-for-families)
- **Consider the implications for both you and your child.**
 - Consider the costs involved. For some parents this may include examinations, equipment, educational visits, tutors, on-line subscriptions. Please be advised that standards cost as advertised on the exam board websites only apply up until November of the year prior to sitting the exam. Exams booked after this time might incur additional fees.
 - Discuss plans and expectations with your child and take their concerns and feelings into consideration.
 - Consider whether you have the time and energy required to ensure effective full-time provision is in place and what support you have from others.
 - Consider any specialist support your child receives in school that you may not be able to provide as part of home education.
 - Think about the social impact upon your child. Depending upon your circumstances and your child, this could be enhanced, or, home education could lead to social isolation.

Parents should also understand that should you later decide to re-enrol your child, they may not be able to return to their previous school, or a school of your choice. There is also no national or local funding available for EHE families therefore the local authority is unable to provide a tutor for your child, provide educational materials, a curriculum or any programmes of learning to follow, or provide financial assistance towards the cost of public examinations.

Local process – Schools:

- Must not pressurise parents into EHE, suggest home education to parents, write deregistration letters or provide template letters.

- Should attempt to hold a discussion with parents to ensure that there are no underlying issues that should be addressed. Local authority mediation is available if required and can be requested using the e-mail address below.
- Should encourage parents to complete an Overview of Home Education which will help the local authority to be satisfied that suitable full-time education is being planned.
- Must liaise with any professionals known to be working with the family.
- Should, if parents choose not to discuss their decision in school, attempt to make contact by phone to ensure off-rolling has not taken place and there are no issues that should be addressed.
- Should issue this leaflet to parents.
- Send an acknowledgement letter confirming when the pupil has been removed from roll.

Local process – Southampton City Council:

The local authority must establish whether a family is genuinely providing education, or whether parents may be avoiding engagement with the school system. In the latter case LA Officers must consider both educational and safeguarding issues and respond accordingly within the legal frameworks in place.

- If a completed Overview of Home Education has not been provided we will ask parents to complete one.
- We will offer visits to families with the objectives of:
 - Completing and providing parents with a ‘Record of Elective Home Education Visit’ form.
 - Helping us to understand why parents have chosen to EHE, so that we can be aware of any underlying issues that we should take steps to address.
 - Providing advice and support to ensure that education provision is suitable, which may include making recommendations which should be actioned to improve provision.
 - Fulfilling the local authority’s duty to establish whether a child is in receipt of suitable education.

When is elective home education not advisable?

We understand that children can thrive in a positive home education environment with parents who are committed to their child achieving their full potential, but we would not advise following this path in circumstances such as:

- When there has been a relationship breakdown with your child’s school. **Consider other options.**
- To avoid an attendance prosecution. **It could still go ahead.**
- To avoid intervention from Children’s Services. **Intervention would continue.**
- When your school of choice is full. **It’s impossible to predict when places will become available so it is not always the best option in such circumstances. Carry out further enquiries first about waiting list positions.**
- In response to bullying issues, if no mediation has taken place to try and resolve the issues. **Raise these issues with the school and, if necessary, follow the formal complaints procedure.**
- To avoid exclusion from school. **Work with your child’s school to try and address issues.**
- Where you have concerns about your child’s academic progress or achievement. **Discuss your concerns with the school in the first instance.**
- When your child has health needs, whether temporary or permanent, that you consider are not being met in school. **Raise your concerns with the school and, if necessary, follow the formal complaints procedure.**

Further resources

[Elective home education \(southampton.gov.uk\)](http://southampton.gov.uk)

[Elective home education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Resources Portal - Education Otherwise](#)

[Elective Home Education Southampton | Facebook](#)

[Southampton Home Ed’ - Facebook](#)

Please consider speaking to a Home Education Family Support Worker before withdrawing your child from school. They can be contacted by e-mail at: home.education@southampton.gov.uk or by telephone at 023 8083 4779. If you decide to proceed with elective home education you must write a letter to the school stating that you wish to de-register your child in order to take responsibility for their full-time education provision. Schools are unable to remove pupils from roll without written confirmation.