

# Elective Home Education June 2019

## Information for parents and carers

Please read this leaflet alongside:

Department for Education

Elective home education: Developmental guidance for parents April 2019

Elective home education Developmental guidance for local authorities April 2019

Education and Early Intervention



London Borough  
of Hounslow

## **Deciding to educate your child at home**

Hounslow Local Authority [LA] believes in the value of school-based education, as such an education provides a broad and balanced curriculum and encourages social development. We do, however, also respect the right of parents to choose to educate their child at home.

Elective home education is a major undertaking and may take up a considerable amount of your time, energy and money. It is hoped that the information in this leaflet will help you to decide whether you can provide the best education for your child or whether your child would benefit from receiving their education at school, in partnership with you.

The LA recommends that you do not choose to educate your child at home just because:

- ) You are disappointed at not having gained a place at a particular school.
- ) You are having difficulty ensuring your child attends school.
- ) You have had a disagreement with the school or a teacher over your child

## **The law**

In England, education is compulsory, but school is not, the law allows you to educate your child at home instead of sending them to school. The responsibility of parents in elective home education is established in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996:

“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.”

A child is of compulsory school age when they reach the age of 5 and ceases to be so on the school leaving date in the school year in which they reach the age of 16. Although not defined in the Education Act, in case law the term ‘efficient and suitable education’ have been broadly described as follows:

- ) ‘efficient’ - ‘achieving that which it sets out to achieve’.
- ) ‘suitable’ - ‘primarily equipping a child for life within the community of which he is a member, rather than the way of life in the country as a whole, as long as it does not foreclose the child’s options in later years to adopt some other form of life if he wishes to do so’.

## **How much will it cost?**

You should think carefully before deciding to educate your child at home and plan ahead for the costs involved, especially in the longer term when your child may wish to take public examinations. Costs such as text books, private tutors, distance learning subscriptions and exam centre costs can mount up so need to be planned for.

If you choose to educate your child at home, you assume financial responsibility for their education, as Hounslow LA does not provide any financial support to home educators. A variety of educational information is however freely available and accessible via the Internet or the library.

The internal assessment component of many standard qualification courses such as National Qualifications and GCSEs can restrict the choice available to home educated students. On the other hand, the examining board Edexcel has made their International GCSEs – IGCSEs - (with

coursework-free option) available to home- educated children from Summer 2004 and there may be other options available through the local Connexions service and local colleges.

### **Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN):**

Children and young people with statements of special educational needs can be home educated. However, the name of a child attending a special school may not be removed from the school's register without the prior agreement of the LA.

### **What should I do next if I decide to educate my child at home?**

If your child has never been to school, you do not have to do anything before starting home education. Although there is no statutory requirement for home-educating parents to register their child with the LA if the child has never been to school, we do strongly encourage you to do so as this will enable the LA to support you in a helpful way and carry out its duties and responsibilities.

If your child is currently registered at a school you will need to notify the school in writing. The school will then remove your child from their register and inform the LA.

If your child attends a particular school because of a 'school attendance order', you must get the order revoked by the LA on the ground that arrangements have been made for the child to receive a suitable education otherwise than at school before your child can be deleted from the school's register and educated at home.

Once the LA has been made aware that you are educating at home, we (contact details are at the end of this booklet) will contact you to confirm your details and your child's name will be added to our database of children educated at home.

### **Local Authority Responsibilities:**

The LA has a moral and social obligation to ensure that each child is safe and being suitably educated at home. For the LA to be satisfied that this is happening, our elective home education teachers will ask to meet with the you to talk to you and to look at examples of work and learning. The LA have no automatic right of access to your home. However, you may wish to permit access or offer an alternative venue for a meeting. At the initial meeting, the nature and frequency of future contact would be agreed.

Where it appears to the LA that a child of compulsory school age is not receiving efficient or suitable full-time education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, the LA is under duty to serve a notice on you, the parent, requiring you to satisfy the LA that your child is receiving suitable education 'otherwise than at school'. If your reply is unsatisfactory, or if you fail to reply, the LA may issue a School Attendance Order (under section 437 (1) of the Education Act 1996). The LA may also apply to the Court for a child assessment under the Children Act 1989, if the LA has reasonable cause to do so.

### **Frequently Asked Questions about Elective Home Education**

#### **Is Home Education legal?**

Yes. Home-Education is legal in all parts of the UK. You do not need to be a teacher or have any other special qualifications to educate your child 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 say that you intend to teach your child at home. Parents are strongly encouraged to inform the LA under both circumstances (please see the end of the booklet for contact details).

Please refer to a guide below for writing a letter to the head teacher to inform him/her of your intention to home educate your child:

School address

Your address

Date

Dear Head Teacher

I am writing to inform you that I/we intend to withdraw my son/daughter ..... (name of your child) from ..... (name of school) to educate him/her at home, in accordance with my/our legal right under the Education Act 1996, Section 7.

Please remove my / our child's name from your school role.

Yours faithfully,

### **What happens when I withdraw my child from school?**

The LA will want to discuss the educational provision you have planned. The LA provide advice and helpful support for families who wish to home educate. If you refuse to respond to their informal questions the LA are permitted under law to assume that you are failing to provide any education and ultimately may issue a School Attendance Order (which will force you to return your child to school). You may challenge the order in court by providing evidence that proper educational provision is being made.

### **Can I home educate a child with a Special Needs Statement/ EHCP?**

Yes. There is no law prohibiting the home education of children with a Statement provided they are not attending a special school, in which case you will need the consent of the LA. However, you need to be able to show that you can provide for these special needs should the LA enquire and annual reviews of that statement continue to be held to assess the child's progress.

### **What if my child is in a special school?**

If your child has special needs and attends a special school, you need permission from the LA to de-register and ensure you can cater for his or her special needs.

### **How does compulsory school age affect home educators?**

As a parent, you must provide an education for your child during 'compulsory school age' (age 5 -16). The law says that this can be at home.

**Will I be checked or monitored in any way?**

The LA has a duty to ensure that you are providing efficient and suitable education for your child. Many parents whose children have never been to school or have moved home since leaving school are unknown to their LA and therefore have no form of monitoring. However, the department for education believes that positive relationships and mutual respect between the LA and parents is the best way of ensuring that the best interests of the child are safeguarded.

Parents are advised to ensure that all personal tutors supporting their children's education have an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS.)

**Will I have to arrange for SATs testing?**

SATs testing is only a requirement at state schools and is therefore not relevant to home education. The LA will not test your child.

**Can my child still take exams?**

Yes. You can arrange for children to take exams as external candidates at various exam centres such as colleges of further education. You will need to contact colleges and make Enquiries and talk to other home educators in your area. However, there are no grants available from the LA to cover the costs.

**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 where the child attends the school only 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 and, in most cases, the LA as well. 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](http://www.home-education.org.uk/flexischool.htm).

**Do I have to teach the National 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, although if your plans for your child include sitting public examinations, then following the National Curriculum is strongly advised.

The curriculum provided to educate your child might offer opportunities for him or her to develop his or her physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It should be broad (provide a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding), balanced (sufficient weightings to all aspects of learning) and relevant (meeting children's needs, aspirations, interests and experiences). Other aspects include Personal, Social, Health, Sex & Relationship Education and Citizenship.

The following subjects are currently compulsory in most schools up to the age of 14 (i.e. until the end of Key Stage 3):

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- Design and Technology (D&T)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Geography
- History
- A Modern Foreign Language
- Art
- Music
- Careers Education
- Sex Education

You can obtain information about the school for all Key Stages on [www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachinandlearning/curriculum](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachinandlearning/curriculum)

### **What if I change my mind?**

If you change your mind, for whatever reason the LA will always be willing to help you to find your child a suitable school place. This will depend on places available in schools.

### **Further Information:**

The Connexions Service ([www.connexions.gov.uk](http://www.connexions.gov.uk)) is for all children and young people aged 13-19 living in England, and its services and responsibilities cover children and young people who are being educated at home.

Parents with younger children may also find it helpful to access a website about 'Digger and the Gang' [www.bbc.co.uk/education/schools/digger](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/schools/digger). This website is for 5-11 year olds and aims to help children find out more about the ideas behind the National Curriculum, and how different parts of the National Curriculum work together to fit into the greater scheme of things.

Parents can also find other links on the BBC websites. The addresses are [www.bbc.co.uk/learning/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/index.shtml) and [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/index.shtml)

BBC Bitesize: [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)

Teacher net: [www.teachernet.gov.uk](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk)

### **Useful contacts:**

Hounslow School Nurse Service

Hounslow Parent Carers Forum  
[hounslowpcf@gmail.com](mailto:hounslowpcf@gmail.com)

A supportive network for parents and carers who are home educating their children in Hounslow.

The Department for Education [DfE] provides information on home education on their website.

Tel: 0370 000 2288

Website: [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

Education Otherwise is a UK-based membership organisation that provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside school, and for those

who wish to uphold the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of their children. Contact:

Education Otherwise, PO Box 7420, London N9 9SG Tel: 01283 532547 Website: [www.education-otherwise.org.uk](http://www.education-otherwise.org.uk)

Home Education Advisory Service is a national home education charity based in the United Kingdom. It is dedicated to the provision of advice and practical support for families who wish to educate their children at home in preference to sending them to school. Interest in home education is increasing and HEAS recognises that reliable information should be available for everyone. Contact:

Home Education Advisory Service PO Box 98, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL8 6AN Tel: 01707 371 854 Website: [www.heas.org.uk](http://www.heas.org.uk)

Home Provision for Gifted & Talented Pupils. Electively home educated children and their parents can register with YG&T at [www.dcsf.gov.uk/ygt](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ygt).

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children. Information relevant to these communities can be accessed at [www.gypsy-traveller.org/education](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/education).

Edyourself is a website which can provide you with information on elective home education practice and policy in England and Wales.

Website: <http://edyourself.org/>

#### Examination Boards:

OCR: Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations Board:

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

Tel: 01223 552552

AQA Examinations Board can facilitate entry for GCSEs as a private candidate

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

Tel: 0161 9531180

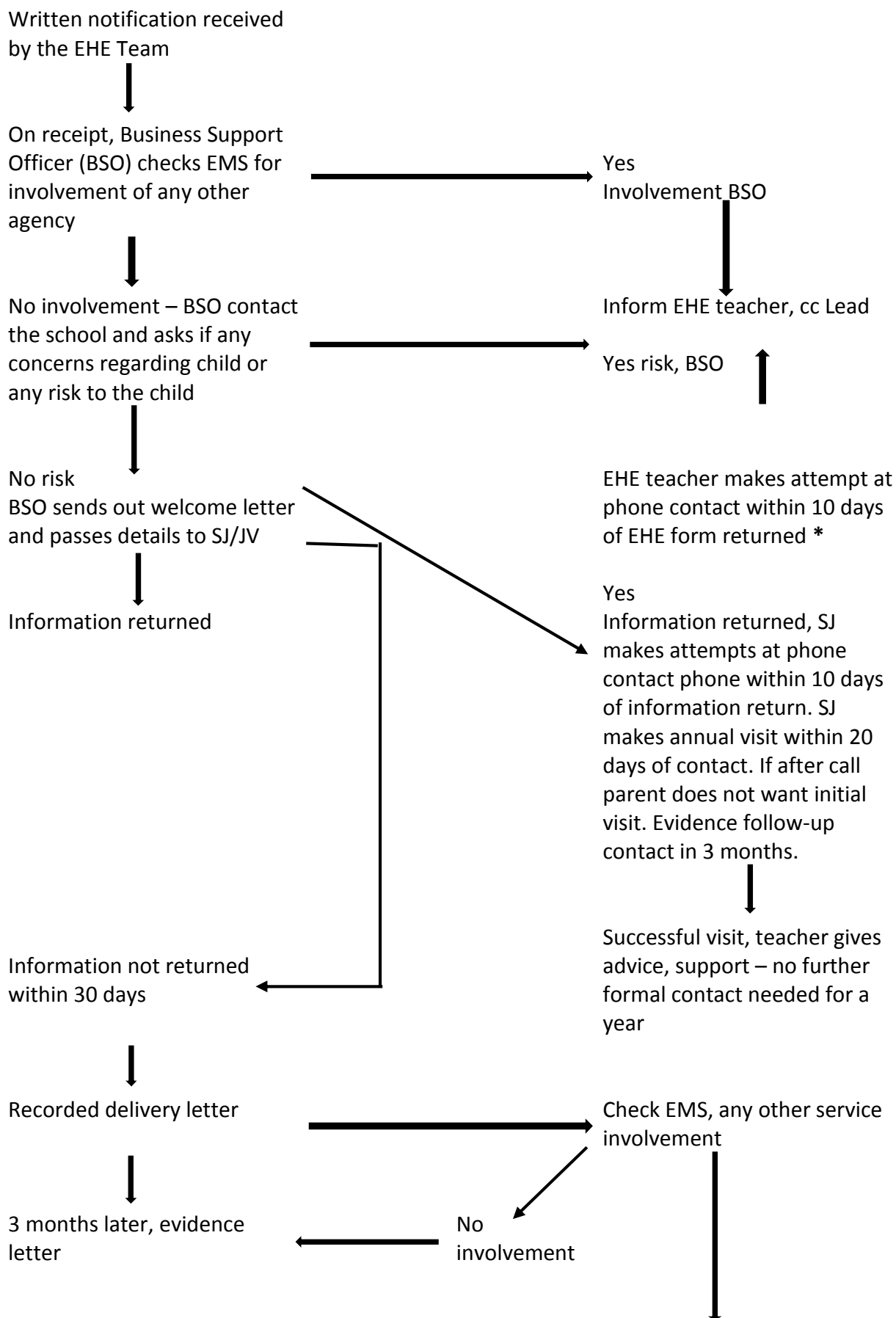
EdExcel Examinations can facilitate entry for GCSEs as a private candidate.

[www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

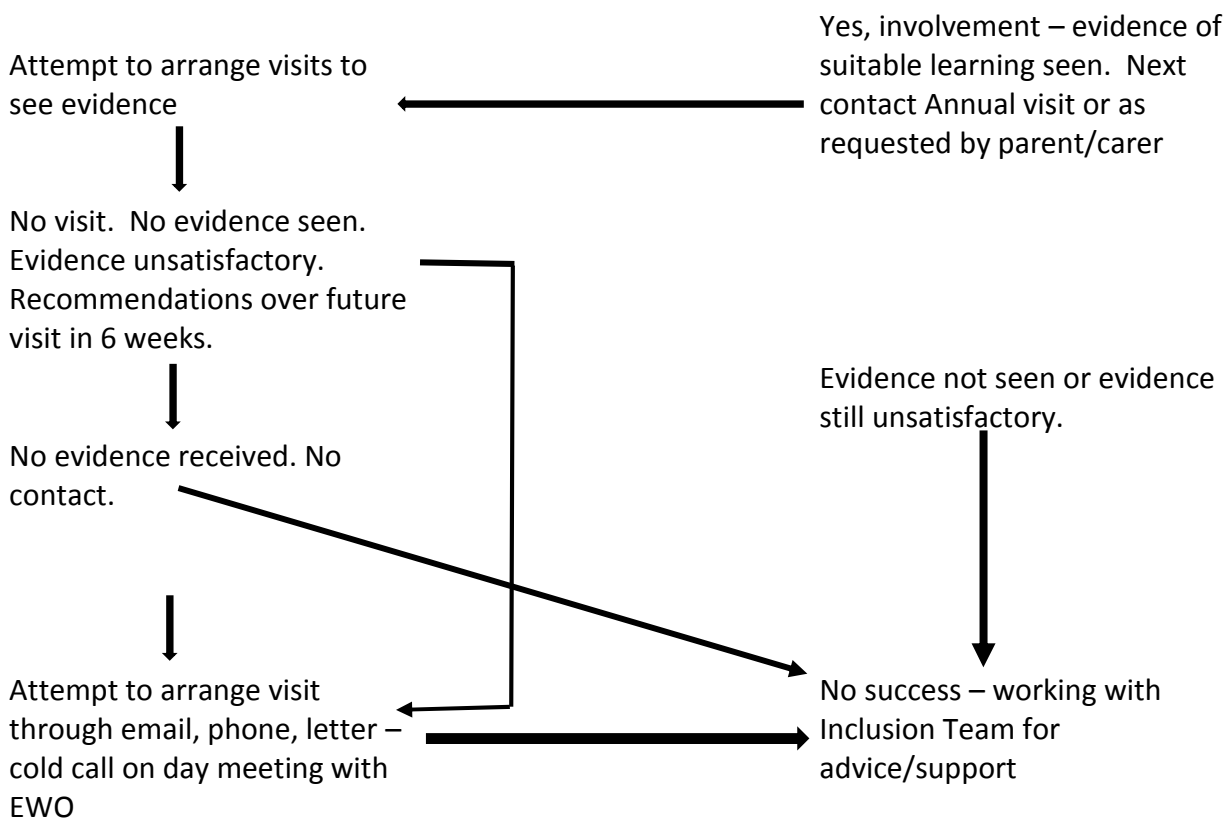
Edexcel Customer Service

Tel: 0845 6180440

## Understanding Elective Home Education in Hounslow







**\* If parent is happy for initial visit – visit made, otherwise follow-up visit in 3 months**

For any enquiries related to Elective Home Education (EHE) in Hounslow please contact the EHE team:

**EHE Admin Team**

Anahid Avakyan

ElectiveHomeEducation@hounslow.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8583 5419

**EHE Coordinators**

Andrea Cunningham

andrea.cunningham@hounslow.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8583 6868

Sue Jones

sue.jones@hounslow.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8583 5135

**Home Education Lead Officer**

Jatinder Virk

jatinder.virk@hounslow.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8583 2743

A copy of this document is available on London Borough of Hounslow’s website:

[www.hounslow.gov.uk](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk).

If you would like support in understanding the information in this leaflet in another language or format, please contact the Elective Home Education team.

Please read this booklet alongside guidance from the Department of Education.

**Translations and accessible formats:**

ترجمے کی مفت سہولت  
भाषांतरनी भइत सेवा  
अनुवाद की मुफ्त सेवा उरजमे ची भुढत सेवा



**020 8583 2299**