

Hounslow Elective Home Education Guide for Professionals

This guidance has been prepared by the Hounslow Elective Home Education (EHE) Team to provide a guide to professionals about the legal rights and responsibilities of parents and local authorities and to explain the work we do with families.

What is Elective Home Education (EHE)?

Elective home education is a term used to describe where parents provide education for their children at home, or elsewhere, which does not involve them being registered on a school's roll.

This is different to home tuition provided by a Local Authority or Education provided by a Local Authority Other Than At a School (EOTAS).

Why do parents choose to home educate their children?

Families may choose home education for a variety of reasons:

- Lifestyle/culture/philosophical/religious beliefs
- Medical needs
- Bullying/fear of bullying
- Anxiety/School phobia/refusal
- Particular talent/activity (e.g. arts or sports)
- Not offered preferred school(s)
- Special Educational Needs where need is not being met at school

This list of reasons is not exhaustive.

Parental Rights and Responsibilities

Education is compulsory but school is not.

The Education Act 1996 Section 7 states that a parent must ensure their child receives education that is full-time, efficient, and suitable.

A parent must ensure that education is suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and takes account of any Special Educational Needs.

The education should equip the child for life within the community to which s/he is a member but should not limit the child's options in later years to adopt a different form of life.

Parents do not have to follow the National Curriculum or follow a strict timetable of learning and may use different means to educate their child/ren.

Our work with Families

The EHE team aims to support good practice in home education by carrying out its statutory responsibilities and offering support and guidance to our Hounslow families.

We meet with families in person or virtually. We look for evidence of the suitability of the education being provided, for example how much time is spent on learning, how literacy and numeracy skills are being developed, how any particular skills and aptitudes are being supported, if there are any SEND needs, are they being effectively supported?

The support we provide families include signposting them to resources and relevant

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services. We advise on education matters, such as taking GCSEs as a private candidate. We liaise with colleagues in other agencies such as Social Care, SEND Team and the SASS Team.

We also attend Annual Reviews for children with an EHCP, offer support with in-year school applications, run EHE drop-in sessions and send out a termly newsletter. We work hard to develop strong, positive relationships with our EHE families to support them to ensure that the education they provide at home is as successful as possible.

Your responsibility as a professional

The local authority is expected to identify and record children in its area who are being home educated or may be home educated and for whom the suitability of education being provided has not yet been firmly established or is due for review.

In many instances, families who choose to home educate do so by removing their child from their school setting. Under these circumstances, the school will make the local authority aware of the parental decision.

There are also some parents who choose to make the local authority aware themselves that they are providing elective home education.

However, there are some children which may not come to the local authority's attention in this way, for example when a family moves into the borough or when a child is electively home educated throughout their academic

career. In these circumstances, the local authority is dependent on partner agencies to alert them of children in receipt of elective home education.

If during an interaction with a child and/or their family you become aware they are receiving elective home education, it would be helpful for you to seek parents' consent to share their details with Hounslow's Elective Home Education Team for them to contact the family.

Safeguarding

Elective Home Education in itself is not a safeguarding concern. Many EHE children are safe, having their educational needs met and are thriving.

However, where there are apparent safeguarding concerns, it is important to acknowledge that in some circumstances a child who is EHE may have very limited or no contact at all with professionals compared to a child who is attending school.

If you are concerned the education being provided to a child is not suitable, efficient, or full time, you should contact Hounslow's Elective Home Education Team to discuss your concerns.

For further information please visit our webpage [Hounslow Elective Home Education](#).

Our email address is:

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This guide will be reviewed regularly, we are expecting changes in 2025 resulting from the passage of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools