

Elective Home Education (EHE) Information for Parents



What is Elective Home Education?

Elective home education is the parent or carer's choice to take legal and financial responsibility for ensuring their child receives a suitable, efficient and full-time education out of a school setting (at home or otherwise).

Home education is a huge commitment, but can be very rewarding and exciting for you and your child. You are never alone. There is always plenty of help and support available to you from the local authority, the local EHE community and a variety of organisations.

Before you decide to start EHE, we recommend that you read this leaflet, conduct your own research and arrange a meeting or phone call with your child's head teacher or the Attendance & EHE Advisory Team.

Do I have to tell the Council that I'm home educating?



You do not need to tell the Council when you have decided to home educate. Where your child is enrolled at a school, Solihull Council asks that you inform the school that you are going to home educate in writing and request their name be removed from the school roll. It is the school's duty to inform the Council of your decision.

What are my parental responsibilities?

- To take full financial responsibility of your child's education
- To provide a **full-time** education which takes up a significant proportion of the week
- To provide an education that is **efficient** - works towards and achieves **your aims**
- To provide an education that is **suitable** for the **age, ability and any SEND needs** of your child and equips them for life within the community
- To provide a basic level of **literacy and numeracy** learning and development
- To provide **opportunities for your child to socialise** with other children
- **To be responsible** for your child's education, even if a tutor teaches them
- To safeguard your child e.g. teach safe internet practices and check anyone working with them (e.g. a tutor) has an **up-to-date DBS check**
- **To pay and source exam or qualification providers** should you wish for your child to take qualifications (e.g. FSQ/GCSEs/IGCSEs)
- To provide a **suitable environment** for learning

What should we know?



- You do not have to have any qualifications
- You do not have to use the National Curriculum or make formal plans
- Children learn best when they are happy, interested and engaged

- There are different approaches to education. *Please read the 'Information about Learning' document on our website to find out more*
- It can take a while to find the approach or approaches that work for you and your family
- The transition from school to home education can be challenging at first but there are ways to manage this
- The Council will not be able to provide tuition or educational resources
- There is no funding for home education
- Your child will not be entitled to free school meals or transport to out of school providers
- You can contact admissions to apply for a school place at any time
- It is not guaranteed that your child will get a school place immediately or get into their last or your preferred school
- Gaining evidence to support an application for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) can be difficult
- Apprenticeships are not available to children of compulsory school age

When is EHE not recommended?



- If you feel pressured by school to home educate. EHE should always be a positive choice without pressure. *(Please contact the Attendance & EHE Advisory Team if this is not the case)*
- To avoid prosecution for poor attendance
- To avoid intervention from children's services (intervention would continue)
- To avoid permanent exclusion
- To avoid addressing a problem with a school, staff member or head teacher
- To avoid attendance at a school which is not your first choice

What should we expect when we begin?

- Your child's school will inform Solihull Council of your choice to home educate
- We will be in touch to welcome you to the EHE community
- Further contact shall be made to informally discuss your child's education, offering support and advice

What will EHE Team do?



- We will offer support- we can provide you with a list of relevant resources and ideas.
- We will informally ask you about the education being provided at home. This is to satisfy us that the education you are providing is suitable- this is usually by requesting a written overview, but we will also offer a meeting or a phone call.
- You do not have to meet or discuss your child's education with us, or provide information but, should you choose not to, the team could have no choice but to deem the education unsuitable.

What if my home education is unsuitable?

- Most families provide a suitable education at home for their child.
- If unsuitable, we will provide support and suggestions to help you improve the education. Ongoing support is usually successful.
- On rare occasions where the education is unsuitable for a **sustained period**, the Council may have to consider action to ensure that your child is placed at a school in Solihull.

Can my child be EHE with an EHCP?

Your right to home educate your child remains the same for all children, irrespective of whether your child has an EHCP. It is important to note that although the EHCP Team will maintain an EHCP and undertaken an annual review, most provisions will not continue if a child becomes home educated. This is often not a problem as provisions in EHCPs are mostly to support learning in formal settings, however EHCPs can be adapted for EHE.

If your child attends a special school, which has been arranged by the local authority, you must seek the local authority's permission before starting your EHE journey.

How can I contact the Attendance & EHE Advisory Team?

Address:

Education Participation Advisory Service,
5th Floor- Council House,
Manor Square,
Solihull,
West Midlands,
B91 3QB

Phone number:

0121 704 6191

Email address:

ehe@solihull.gov.uk

Website:

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/Home-education>

Please contact us with any queries or questions you have. We are happy to help.

Ideas to consider (by yourself or with your child):

Research home education online and talk to other home educators (please ask us for contact details)	
Read the DfE guidance for parents https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education	
Identify an approach to education that you could try	
Speak to your child about the decision to check they are happy with it	
Think about how to support the transition from school to home education	
Understand your child's abilities and identify how to cater for them so progress can be made	
Identify how to start progressing your child's literacy and numeracy skills	
Identify what your child will begin learning and how	
Identify an environment conducive to learning where your child can focus	
Think about other practical learning opportunities inside and outside the home (e.g. baking, gardening, board games, ice-skating, etc.)	
Identify opportunities for your child to socialise with other children	
Understand that if you want your child to take examinations, they are your responsibility to source and pay for. (Please contact the EHE community for a wealth of information about examinations. We can provide contact details.)	