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Elective Home Education (EHE) Information for Parents and Carers

What is Elective Home Education

Elective Home Education (EHE) is a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school full-time. Education is compulsory; registering with a school is not.

Special circumstances: If a young person is educated in a special school at the arrangement of the Local Authority (LA) or they are subject to a School Attendance Order, permission from the LA must be obtained to home educate.

Parental responsibility: Parents must ensure their child receives an efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude, and any special educational needs they might have.

The Local Authority's role: The Local Authority has a duty to ensure that a child is safe and being suitably educated. If it is not clear that this is the case, the authority will act within its legal powers to remedy the position.

How to Start Elective Home Education

Inform the school: If your child is on roll at a school, inform the school in **writing** of your decision to electively home educate. Schools must not encourage or pressurise a parent to de-register their child. This must be an informed choice made by you.

Notification: The school must notify the LA of children who are withdrawn from school for elective home education, but there is no duty (currently) on parents to inform the LA.

Voluntary registration: Buckinghamshire Council has a voluntary registration process, and we would be grateful if you could complete the form: [Buckinghamshire Council EHE Registration]

Support from EHE Team

Our EHE team can offer support with:

- Project ideas
- Resources
- College options
- Exams
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Referrals to appropriate agencies
- Support with a return to school if this is the wish of the family.

Financial responsibility: Parents take on the full financial responsibility for their children's home education.

This might include costs for:

- Private tutors
- Enrolment with online schools
- Online educational subscriptions
- Books and stationery
- Exam costs

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GCSEs: Cost approximately £300 to £400 each and must be booked in a private exam centre. There is no requirement to sit exams, but it is recommended to sit a minimum of Maths and English GCSE.

The Local Authority's approach: The LA takes a proportionate approach in making enquiries and in satisfying itself that a child is receiving a suitable education, including meeting the child's social, physical, and academic needs. This could be through emails, visits, phone calls, or plans/reports submitted by parents.

Annual contact: After initial contact from an EHE officer, if education is deemed suitable, they will make informal contact annually. The contact could be in person, a phone call, or in writing.

EHCP: If your child has an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP), this is a legal document and will be reviewed annually.

Returning to school: If you wish your child to return to school, please note there is no guarantee of your child returning to their previous school or a school place being available at your chosen school. You must apply either to the school directly or through the council. Details can be found on the admissions section of the council website.

Year 11 considerations: If your child is in year 11, we would recommend you discuss with the school about sitting exams at school before deregistering.

Useful links

Elective Home Education Government Guidance: Guide for Parents https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791528/EHE_guidance_for_parentsafterconsultationv2.2.pdf

Buckinghamshire Council EHE Guidance: EHE Guidance https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/elective-home-education/ehe-guidance/

Buckinghamshire Council EHE Resources: EHE Resources https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/elective-home-education/ehe-resources/

Buckinghamshire Council EHE Home Page: EHE Home Page https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/elective-home-education/

Buckinghamshire Council Admissions Home Page: School Admissions https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/

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EHE team contacts

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SEN contacts

General Enquiries email:
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EHC Needs Assessments email:
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For more information and support, contact your local home education officer or visit the relevant website.