

Elective Home Education (EHE) Information for Parents

What is EHE?

Elective Home Education is when a parent/carer takes responsibility to educate their child outside the standard school setting.

By law a child will need to be educated until the last Friday in June if they will be 16 years old by the end of the summer holidays, but this education does not need to be in a school setting.

Section 7 of the 1996 Education Act states that:
“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive full-time education suitable -

- (a) to his/her age, ability and aptitude, and;*
- (b) to any special educational needs he/she may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”*

The phrase “**or otherwise**” allows education outside a standard school setting as long as the parent/carer can meet the child's needs.

Is educating my child at home the correct choice?

There will be many reasons why you may wish to educate your child at home including religious/cultural beliefs, your child's needs not being met, distance to school etc. It may feel difficult to make this decision but there are people who can support you make the right decision for your child.

Step 1 - Have a discussion with your child first so you both understand the decision being made.

Step 2 - Speak to your child's school who may be able to help and offer different ways for your child's education to continue at school. The City of Wolverhampton Council encourages schools to arrange a 3-way meeting with the Head Teacher at the school, you as a parent/carer and the EHE Officer from the Council to ensure that you are making the right decision and are aware of your legal and financial responsibilities.

Step 3 - If you still wish to consider Elective Home Education, the school may give you details of other people who can support you such as the Education Welfare Officer or an EHE Officer at the Council, their contact details are at the end of this information leaflet, and you can contact them yourself.

Step 4 – Whilst Elective Home Education can be very rewarding, please do think about the following,

- Are you able to give time to educate your child to the minimum standards for subjects such as English and Maths and provide evidence of this if it is requested?
- Will the education you provide allow your child to live independently and beyond the community in which they were brought up in should they wish to?
- Are you able to provide the right environment, motivation, resources and finances for things like exams etc?
- Are you aware that you will lose benefits such as free school meals? (Please note, there is no financial support available for families who opt to home educate)
- An application can be made should your child wish to return to school however this does not guarantee a place at your preferred school.
- Can you provide opportunities to socialise with other children and build friendships?
- Can you encourage careers advice from the Connexions Service and opportunities for a safe work experience placement should you wish your child to undertake one?
- Are you able to provide education that includes the understanding of Fundamental British Values which encourages society being together and respecting each other regardless of our differences?

When is EHE not recommended?

You should not consider home education to avoid

- sending your child to school
- You are unhappy with the choice of secondary school given in year 6
- exclusions
- attendance fines
- If you feel the school cannot meet your child's needs – we can work with you and the school where you feel this may be the case.

Can we electively home educate if my child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)?

An EHCP is a document written by the local authority. It describes the special educational needs that a child or young person has and what is required to meet those needs.

By law children who have an EHCP can be home educated like any other child. Each year, the child will continue to have an annual review to ensure that their special educational needs are met and considered. It is important that you can give information on your child's progress.

If your child is at a special school, SENSTART will need to give permission for your child to be home educated. They will share your child's plan with you, and you will need to ensure you can meet the outcomes of it. You will need to contact your child's school directly.

How can my child gain qualifications?

Your child can register and study through an online course or study at home and sit examinations, they will be referred to as a private candidate. This is the most expensive route, and you will need to think about the expenses involved.

OR

Your child can also register at a college that offers courses for young people aged 14 to 16.

OR

You may wish to consider returning to a local school in preparation for examinations in year 11.

What are my parental responsibilities if I do choose to educate my child at home?

- To take full responsibility of your child's education.
- Ideally, you should tell your child's school and/or the local authority that you wish to home educate

your child so you can be supported with your decision.

- Get permission from the Supervising Officer if your child is subject to an Education Supervision Order. Advice on how to do this can be obtained by contacting the Attendance Team on the number below.
- Considerations in step 4 above.

What is the responsibility of the City of Wolverhampton Council?

- To keep a record of who is being home educated and if the education you are providing is suitable.
- To send a welcome pack.
- Arrange a EHE Officer to contact you about your decision to educate your child at home and offer guidance and support.
- To respect your decision and offer you further support by visiting you either face to face or virtually, emailing you or calling you.
- To offer a home visit at least once a year to see if we can support the progress of your child's education. You do not need to respond to this request legally, but we may have to take further action if you don't, especially if we have reason to believe you are not providing a suitable education.
- To work with your family and address any worries.
- To give you the chance to adapt the education you are providing.
- To request examples of the education taking place such as resources, examples of work, record of learning etc. If you fail to give evidence of your child's education, we may issue a school attendance order as outlined in Section 437 of the 1996 Education Act. As a result, parents/carers may need to register their child at a named school within a certain timeframe.

We aim to work with you as parents to ensure children are receiving a good education and legal action will always be a last resort.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the information in this leaflet, please contact us using the following details:

Telephone: **01902 550621**

Hannah Hill

Elective Home Education Officer

Sadie Faulkner

Elective Home Education Support Officer

Please go to wolverhampton.gov.uk/eheinfo for more information and frequently asked questions about Elective Home Education.