

Elective Home Education (EHE)

Protocol for Elective Home Education (EHE)

pupils being referred to the
Education Welfare Service (EWS)

April 2023

This protocol ordinarily relates to children of compulsory school age who are registered as being Electively Home Educated

Elective home education (EHE) is where a parent takes responsibility for their child's education outside the school system. Parents have the right to choose to educate their child at home rather than at school.

The Local Authority (LA) has a duty to ensure that children in their area receive a suitable education and must intervene if it appears that this is not happening. The powers of the LA in discharging this duty are in reality quite limited unless parents choose to work with them: **the legal position regarding the LA's role is complex and is explained** in the guidance ([DFE Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities](#)). The overarching aim is to create and maintain an up-to-date register to show which children are being home educated by their parents within LBR. The integrity of the EHE register is maintained by prompt action to open new cases and close those when children have returned to school, left LBR or when a referral is made to Education Welfare Service (EWS) because no contact can be made in a timely way.

The LA responsibility is undertaken by the Behaviour and Inclusion team; an officer (Elective Home Education Advisor) is employed to make home visits/contacts and advise the Head of Behaviour and Inclusion that children who are educated at home are receiving an education that meets the statutory requirements under Section 7 of The Education Act 1996.

Where the child has a statement of Special Educational Needs/Education Healthcare Plan (EHCP) (or significant SEN which if the child were at school would normally lead to maintenance of a statement EHCP) the EHE Advisor may not have the necessary knowledge and experience to make this judgment securely. In these cases, the LA will arrange for a professional with relevant experience (EHE SEN Officer) to work with the EHE Advisor, usually by accompanying them on a home visit/attendance at a virtual contact meeting.

Current process:

1. If a family wish to opt for EHE studies, they must write to the current school to confirm their decision.

2. At the point of deregistration, if there are new safeguarding concerns that have not been shared with Social Care, school staff make direct contact with the CPAT Team, to raise a new referral, if appropriate.
3. At present, all Secondary schools refer the deregistration letter on to the Head of Education Welfare Services (EWS), who contacts each family within 5 working days (cooling off period) to establish whether the decision to opt for EHE studies is a positive one. Once this decision is confirmed the child can be removed from the school register. This links to the EWS remit linked to Regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.
4. When the EHE team receive sufficient information that a family may be providing EHE studies, they will write to each family and send a copy of the letter by email or contact the family by telephone to request completion of the online LBR EHE Registration form, so that an EHE monitoring visit date can be set. If the EHE form (see link below) is not received within 7 days, the case is referred on to EWS:
<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/home-education-home-schooling/>
5. It is good practice to share information internally and to check the involvement, for example:
 - Social workers contact the EHE Advisor to confirm if a child is on the EHE register.
 - EHE Advisor shares the EHE report following contact with the named SW.
 - EHE Advisor attends all CP conferences for children on the CP register who are also on the EHE register.
 - Joint EHE visits to be conducted when appropriate e.g. with Social Workers, School Nurse, Connexions Officer, Educational Psychologists.

The EHE Advisor will visit/make virtual or telephone contact with each pupil registered as being electively Home Educated at least once a year to provide support/guidance in line with their monitoring duties and complete an Elective Home Education Visit Report.

At the end of the visit/contact it should be explained to the parents by the EHE Advisor that they will be informed subsequently if the home education meets the required standard.

The EHE Advisor will then need to make a judgment as to whether they believe the education provided is suitable or unsuitable. There are no specific criteria on which to base the decision, it is a matter of professional judgment considering the pupil's age, aptitude and ability. During the visit the EHE SEN officer may offer advice to the parent on learning or other strategies and include these in the report.

Following the visit/contact the parents will be informed by way of the visit report of the Elective Home Education Advisor's **judgement**. If the education provided is judged as being unsuitable¹, the EHE Advisor will close the case and refer to the Education Welfare Service for the Statutory Attendance Order process to begin.

The Education Welfare Service will request that a school place is allocated by the LA Admissions team and follow up the SAO process to ensure the pupil either accepts the school place that is allocated or whether further legal enforcement is required.

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¹ The unsuitability of EHE provision will be determined as an outcome following at least 2 contact meetings within a 3-month span when recommendations have been outlined on the EHE report and subsequently not applied or adapted for the current EHE programme of study.