

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION - PRESENTATION JUNE 2022



Team – Education Welfare Service

wakefieldcouncil
working for you



ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION (EHE)

What is Elective Home Education ?

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 provides that:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause them to receive efficient full-time education suitable -

(a) to their age, ability and aptitude, and

*(b) to any special educational needs s/he may have,
either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.*

Elective home education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school full-time.

Parents who choose to educate a child in these ways rather than sending the child to school full-time take on financial responsibility for the cost of doing so, including the cost of any external assistance used such as tutors and examination costs

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**



EHE Referral process

- Parents considering home educating their child/children – this may include discussion with the school and/or Education Welfare Service, guidance is on the EWS website
- Parents make the decision to Home Educate their child/ children and write to school to formally withdraw
- School completes a form and sends to Education Welfare Service via Cryptshare
- If there are complexities around the child/ family a multi agency meeting will be arranged to ensure the parent has all the information available to make an informed choice (new DfE guidance since October 2020)
- The referral is RAG Rated and Safeguarding checks made on CEMS and Liquid Logic, liaison with Social Care for any pupils who are CP or CiN

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**



Reasons for EHE & current stats

Currently 570 active cases – year on year increase in last 5 years but significant increase since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 cases were 370

Current Main Reasons in Wakefield (2021/2022) in order: (DfE classification)

1. Anxiety/Phobia (25% of all referrals)
2. Personal Philosophy
3. Medical/SEN needs
4. Attendance issues
5. Cultural Beliefs including Traveller children
6. Moving House/no school place at preferred school
7. Behaviour issues
8. Reasons related to Covid 19
9. Dispute with school
10. Bullying

In 2020/2021, top reasons were 1) Covid, 2) Personal Philosophy, 3) Anxiety

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**



EHE Referral process

- If a child has an EHCP then SENART are contacted and the referral will go to SEN panel for consent to determine if educational plans are appropriate to meet SEN needs
- EWS asks schools to hold the school place open for a further 10 school days as a local agreement which allows time for Safeguarding checks and contact with parents
- On registration, parents are asked to complete an administration form detailing their plans for education at home
- An EHE officer will contact the parents to review the education provision and give advice/ information and may signpost to other services
- If suitable education is in place Education Welfare Service will review annually, if the education is not suitable EWS can issue a notice to improve or a School Attendance Order to enforce parents return the child to mainstream school.
- Any evidence of off rolling is challenged
- Half termly meetings with MASH to triangulate cases of concern

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**



EHE ongoing process

For a case RAG rated as green, the LA will contact parents within 3 months and ask for a full report from parents, including curriculum plans and after that, oversight will be yearly in line with national guidance. A yearly report of education provided will also be requested by the EHE team for all cases as a minimum. Contact for reports are made depending on RAG rating so if Red - contact for the report will be within 1 month, Amber - 2 Months. RAG rated at Red would move to termly oversight once educational provision confirmed as suitable, with those RAG rated at Amber splitting into termly or annually dependent on multi-agency discussion.

Attempts will be made to ensure the child is in receipt of a suitable education and if this is not in place after repeated attempts at calling for evidence then formal action would be considered as part of the wider safeguarding plan. Each case has to be judged on its own merits in determining that safeguarding has been the main priority, running alongside the need for a suitable education.

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**



EHE ongoing process

Wider Input

Staff attend the regional EHE members forum and participate in discussion regarding direction of work, legislation and good practice. They also contribute to consultations such as Ofsted, the Elective Home Education Call for Evidence in 2018 and the yearly return of the ADCS survey. The LA supports the call for there to be a national register for children not in school. The EHE Team have made good links with Wakefield Families Together and will attend any cluster meetings as appropriate and have a point of contact in each cluster.

EHE staff also liaise closely with SENART where a pupil who is being Electively Home Educated has an Education and Health Care Plan and also the 0-19 team where specific health and well being issues may be apparent

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**



EHE ongoing process

EHE in context (from 2019 DfE guidance)

There are no specific legal requirements as to the content of home education, provided the parents are meeting their duty in s.7 of the Education Act 1996. This means that education does not need to include any particular subjects, and does not need to have any reference to the National Curriculum; and there is no requirement to enter children for public examinations.

There is no obligation to follow the 'school day' or have holidays which mirror those observed by schools. Many home educating families do follow a clear academic and time structure but it should not be assumed that a different approach which rejects conventional schooling and its patterns is unsatisfactory, or constitutes 'unsuitable' education. The Local Authority has a duty to have contact with the family once a year to assess the suitability of education

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**



EHE ongoing process

Sections 437 to 443 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the LA to act if it appears that a child is not being properly educated, i.e. receiving an education suitable to age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs: If it appears to a local education authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring them to satisfy within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education. (s 437 (1)) If this is not the case and after support has been offered by the team then a legally enforceable court order such as a School Attendance Order can be put in place forcing the child to return to mainstream school.

Safeguarding is at the forefront of all practice and has to be satisfied.

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**



EHE CONTACT DETAILS

Elective Home Education - Tel 01924 307451

[Elective Home Education - Wakefield Council](#)

email – ehe@wakefield.gov.uk

**Improving Wakefield Services
for Children**

