



One Minute Guide



What is Elective Home Education?

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that it is the duty of the parents of children of compulsory school age to ensure that they receive an efficient, full-time education which is suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, and to meet any special educational needs.

Parents may fulfil this duty either by ensuring regular attendance in school or otherwise. The word 'otherwise' affirms parents' right under the law to educate their child at home instead of sending them to school. This is known as Elective Home Education (EHE). Parents must take full responsibility for all education arrangements and any financial responsibility, including the cost of any public examinations.

Parental Responsibility

Parents are advised that the decision to home educate should be planned and to consider their child/children's view, before making a final decision.

- If parents decide to electively Home Educate their child/children and they are attending a mainstream school, parents must inform the Headteacher in writing of their request to withdraw to EHE. If they are not on a school roll, parents must inform Wakefield Local Authority directly.
- The Education Welfare Service (EWS) make initial contact with parents, following a referral from school. Parents are requested to outline their plan of home education for their child/children. This is assessed for suitability by EWS.
- Where a child has an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), parents need to outline their plan to cover the needs as set out in the EHCP. Parents should also inform SENART of their decision to EHE so a consultation can take place, due to a change in establishment. Where a child has an EHCP and attends a specialist provision arranged by the Local Authority, they cannot be removed off that school roll without the consent of SENART.

Parents who are home educating their child/children are expected to satisfy the Local Authority that their child/children are in receipt of an efficient, full-time education which is suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, and to meet any special educational needs.

Schools' Responsibility

When a school is informed by a parent that the child will now be home educated, they must notify the Local Authority. Schools are requested to complete and submit a referral form with information including personal details, school attendance of the child to this point, attainment, information of any other agencies supporting the family and any concerns on the child being home educated.

Schools may keep the child on roll for 10 days as part of a voluntary agreement to ensure that the parent has made an informed decision. Schools will offer a meeting with parents to discuss their decision and offer support within these 10 days. EWS can attend these.

Schools may remove the child from the school roll once they have contacted the Local Authority and EWS confirm a referral has been received.

Local Authority Responsibility

When EWS receives a referral, they will make initial contact with parents to enquire about their plan of education for their child/children.

Following the initial plan of education, EWS will then contact parents approximately 3 months from the start of EHE for an informal enquiry.

Depending on the suitability of the information provided for both, EWS may request further information to satisfy that a suitable education is in place. The Local Authority has a duty to determine if education is suitable in line with section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

If the information provided by the parent/parents satisfies this, then informal enquiries will be requested in approx. a year's time.



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If the information provided by the parent/parents to describe their child/children's education does not satisfy the Local Authority that the child/children are in receipt of a suitable education, EWS will initially seek further details. If the information provided by the parent/parents satisfies this, then informal enquiries will be requested in approx. a year's time. If after further information is provided or if no information/response has been received, then the Local Authority is entitled to conclude that it appears that the child is/children are not receiving a suitable education.

If education is deemed limited, EWS will initially offer support and advice to parents. This will result in contact being more frequent to establish if a suitable education has then been put into place, or if no significant improvements have been made.

If EWS conclude that the child/children are not receiving an efficient, full-time, suitable education they have a duty to pursue this. Actions may include referring to Children Missing Education (CME) for further investigative checks or pursuing legal procedures and a School Attendance Order (SAO) being issued. At this stage or at any point where EWS have reason to believe there are safeguarding concerns, a referral may be made to Early Help or Social Care.

Key Information

Please refer to the Wakefield Council website for further information on EHE:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/education/education-welfare-service/elective-home-education-ehe>

On the website you can also find:

- Wakefield Council's EHE Policy
- An EHE parent guide

Key Contacts

Notifications from schools, parents and practitioners from partner agencies should be sent to:

ehe@wakefield.gov.uk

You can contact the Educational Welfare Service on: 01924-307451