



Elective Home Education

The term Elective Home Education (EHE) is used to describe when a parent assumes responsibility to educate their child at home or ensure they are receiving full time education other than at a formal school setting.

What does the law say about Home Education?

Home education is legal in the UK as long as a School Attendance Order is not in place for the child. It is considered one of the “otherwise” options referred to in The Education Act 1996.

The Education Act 1996 - Section 7 states;

“It is the duty of parents to secure education of children of compulsory school age.

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

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

(b) to any special educational needs (in the case of a child who is in the area of a local authority in England) or additional learning needs (in the case of a child who is in the area of a local authority in Wales) he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

When can I start home educating my child?

Children are of compulsory school age at the beginning of the first school term *after* their 5th birthday. Meaning many children who start school in Reception in the September are not actually of compulsory school age.

Parents who are electively home educating can start as soon as they wish, but things should be in place by the time the child is of compulsory school age if they are not going to attend a formal school setting.

If a child is on roll at a school, a parent can choose to begin home educating at any point during the child’s school career. To do so, a written notification must be provided to the headteacher asking for them to be removed from the school admissions register. This should only happen if the decision has been made by the parent; schools should not insist that a parent take their child off roll or home educate.

If your child is at a school and has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), you will need to make the local authority aware of your wish to home educate.



Is there funding available for home education?

For the vast majority of families it will be the parent’s responsibility to fund the associated costs of educating their child. This includes the cost of resources and materials, as well as costs of any formal exams the child may wish to sit in the future. However you may be able to access local library or specialist lending services for short term loans of resources or equipment.

For children with an EHCP there are different funded and non-funded options depending on the provision specified in the plan due to your child’s individual needs. It is important to note that home educating a child with an EHCP does not automatically mean the Local Authority will fund their educational provision at home. To ensure that the best option is put in place, it can be beneficial to get support from your local SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) or other relevant education support organisations that cover your area. If your child has an EHCP and you are finding it difficult to secure an appropriate school provision and are considering EHE, it is worth researching the EHCP packages that fall under the category of “Education Other Than at School (EOTAS)”.



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What does my child have to learn?

The beauty of home education is that there is complete flexibility when it comes to what, when and how your child learns. Families do not need to follow the National Curriculum and they do not need to stick to traditional schooling methods or timings. The only expectation, in line with The Education Act, is that the child's receives efficient education that is suitable for their age, ability, aptitude and any additional needs. There are countless different ways children can learn and there may be some trial and error to find out what methods work best for your family.

Common learning methods include;

- Project or theme based
- Child-led or autonomous learning
- Practical or kinaesthetic style activities
- Life skills or vocational focused
- Forest school or nature based
- Online learning
- Small group or 1:1 tuition



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It can be helpful to do some research and perhaps speak to other families who are further along the home education journey. Having your child involved as much as appropriate with what/when/how they learn can be a real motivator for them.

Free online Educational Resources

Primary

- Twinkl** - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>
- NRICH Maths** - <https://nrich.maths.org/>
- BBC Bitesize** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Oxford Owl** - <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
- Primary Resources** - <http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/>
- The British Library** - <https://www.bl.uk/learning/>

Secondary

- Twinkl** - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>
- NRICH Maths** - <https://nrich.maths.org/>
- BBC Bitesize** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Barclay Life Skills** - <https://barclayslifeskills.com/>
- SENECA** - <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>
- The British Library** - <https://www.bl.uk/learning/>
- Youth Employment** - <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/home-education-uk-resources/>



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Where can I find information or advice on home education?

You might be surprised by what is available in your local area for home educated children, and the best way to find out is to speak to other home educating families. Quite often there are hidden treasures that are difficult to find information about via online search engines.

Local Home Education Facebook Groups

- SEN Home Education in Essex - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/166039887285902/>
- Home Education Essex - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/160003064111014/>
- Essex Home Education Meet-Ups - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/748782115157823/>
- Essex Home Educators - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/726869220722733/>



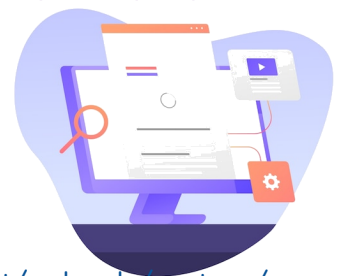
Forest Schools

- Essex Wildlife Trust - County Wide, with some SEN specific sessions - <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/what-we-do/outdoor-learning/forest-school>
- Billericay Forest School - <https://www.billericayforestschool.co.uk/>
- Tipi Woods (Margaretting) - <https://www.facebook.com/tipiwoods/>
- Danbury Country Park Home Education Sessions - <https://www.explore-essex.com/whats-on/home-education-sessions>
- Forest School for All (Grays) - <https://www.forestschoolorall.co.uk/>
- Wild Child Forest School (Epping Forest) - [Wild Child Forest School | Facebook](#)
- Muddy Boots Forest Adventures (North Essex) - <https://bookwhen.com/muddyboots#focus=ev-sjdz-20230726091500>
- Nature of Learning (Saffron Walden) - <https://www.natureoflearning.co.uk/>
- Twiggles Explorers (Enfield) - <https://www.twiggles-explorers.co.uk/>



Further information on the practicalities of home education, as well as statutory or legal guidance

- Suffolk SENDIASS - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uez_w6ifwPM
- Education Otherwise - <https://www.educationotherwise.org/starting-out/>
- Educational Freedom - <https://educationalfreedom.org.uk/>
- Home Education UK - <https://www.home-education.org.uk/>
- Department for Education - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791528/EHE_guidance_for_parentsafterconsultationv2.2.pdf
- Child Law Advice - <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/home-education/>



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