



EHE Frequently Asked Questions

I am thinking about Elective Home Education (EHE) for my child, is there someone I can discuss this with?

If your child is currently on roll at a school, you may notify the school that you are considering home education for your child. This is particularly important if your consideration to home educate is mainly driven by difficulties in the relationship between home and school. Elective Home Education is a considerable undertaking which can require a great deal of time and commitment. Please read the rest of this document to ensure you are well informed as to what it may entail.

EHE will not prevent an exclusion from appearing on your child's educational records and will not halt any legal attendance process already established

My child's current school has suggested I remove my child from their roll and register them as EHE, can they do this?

A school should not request or advise a parent to de-register their child from the school to EHE. Any decision to EHE must be made by you. If your child is not comfortable in the school setting you should talk to the school about any reasonable adjustments they might make to improve the situation. This is something one of the Elective home Education Practitioners may be able to help with. Please contact the EHE team directly if you are feeling pressured to remove your child from school roll and they can support you in addressing this with school.

Am I legally obliged to inform the local authority that I want to educate my child at home?

Nottinghamshire County Council, as with all Local Authorities (LA), has a legal duty to ensure its resident children are provided with a suitable education. It is therefore recommended that you record your intent to home educate. Legislation is currently being considered by Government to facilitate a Register of all young people who are not educated in school and this FAQs will be updated to reflect any formal changes. Your school should notify the LA of your intention to Home Educate once you have informed them of your intention.

After I inform the school that I want to EHE my child what happens next?

The school should discuss your intentions with you then inform the Local Authority that you have expressed a desire to home educate.

The responsibility to provide a suitable education for your child then falls to you and will be applicable from the date you remove your child from the school roll, this includes any financial costs incurred

You will receive a letter and acknowledgment from the LA of your intention to home educate your child. An offer will be made for you to discuss educational provision with an EHE Practitioner who will explain your roles and responsibilities and also try to answer any questions you may have. The Practitioner may,

with your agreement, arrange for an EHE Adviser to be allocated to you who will provide ongoing education advice and support through your home education journey.

My child has special needs with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and attends a Special School, can I still home educate my child?

The EHCP will currently indicate the provision that the LA is required to provide and you should contact the LA and ask them to amend Section I of the Plan to record that the child is being educated at home. Additionally, you will need the specific consent of the LA for your child to be removed from the roll of a Special School and you should contact the LA at the earliest opportunity. It remains the responsibility of Notts CC to ensure that your child's needs are met and to carry out an Annual Review of the EHCP. You will be responsible for working towards the outcomes in Section E and providing the framework specified in Section F of the EHCP.

Will the local authority supply resources such as textbooks, exam papers etc?

The local authority does not supply textbooks or pay/arrange for exams. If you make the choice to home educate your child, you will be expected to pay for any exam fees, should you wish your child to sit them, and the cost of textbooks, tuition fees etc all falls on you. It should be noted that examination fees as a private entry can be significant.

What you would have from the local authority is free advice and support, should you choose to accept it, from an EHE Adviser and/or an EHE Practitioner.

Do I have to teach to the National Curriculum?

The brief answer is no **BUT** If you decide to electively Home Educate it will be your responsibility to provide your child with a suitable full-time education programme that meets your child's needs according to age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs.

So, what could/should I teach?

There is no requirement for you to follow a prescribed curriculum. However, the education programme should be well-balanced and prepare your child for life within the community of which he or she is a member. You will need to plan and measure your progress and establish what level your child is working at to facilitate effective learning.

Government Guidance states that Elective Home Education should be age-appropriate, enable the child to make progress according to his or her particular level of ability, and should take account of any specific aptitudes (for example if a child is very good at mathematics, it might focus more on that than some other subjects). In addition, even if there is no specific link with the National Curriculum or other external curricula, there should be an appropriate minimum standard which is aimed at, and the education should aim at enabling the child, when grown-up, to function as an independent citizen in the UK - and furthermore, beyond the community in which he or she was brought up, if that is the choice made in later life by the child.

Provided those key principles are followed you are at liberty to devise a curriculum of your choice that engages your child's interests.

You should also bear in mind that examinations are, for the most part, based on the National Curriculum and should your child look to return to school provision, or you seek private entry to examinations, it would be to their advantage that they had had access to National Curriculum programmes of study whilst home educated.

What does an Elective Home Education Adviser do?

Elective Home Education Advisers are experienced staff with an educational background. Most are qualified teachers with experience across all phases of education including Special Education. Their main role is to provide families with advice and support around home education and will help the local authority fulfil their statutory duty to ensure that a child receives an efficient and appropriate education in conversation with yourself and by evaluating some of your child's work. EHE Advisers have an enhanced DBS check in respect of working with children and are qualified and registered to work in the UK.

I've heard that EHE Professional Practitioners and EHE Advisers just want to get children back into school, is this true?

No, their role is to support families in their home education by offering their advice based on their professional experience to make home education effective for the child. There are a limited number of cases where the educational provision is considered to be failing to meet the needs of the child and in that instance advice is offered as to how provision might be improved. Should the provision ultimately not be considered satisfactory then the LA has a duty to ensure that the child receives an appropriate education that meets with legal requirements and a Professional Practitioner will support you and agree with you next steps for your child to return to a school.

What should I expect from an EHE Adviser visit or virtual meeting?

Most of the EHE Adviser work has been done remotely via video link over the past couple of years due to COVID-19 restrictions. Currently physical visits are being offered, subject to a risk assessment, although virtual visits are still available too.

A physical visit would normally take place in your home but can be at a mutually agreed suitable venue, such as a library or children's centre. The visit would not normally take any longer than one hour and whilst not a legal requirement at the present time it would be helpful if your child was present as they are the focus of this process and their voice is very important. The same principle would apply for a virtual visit.

The Adviser would discuss with you how things have gone since the last meeting, consider some samples of the child's work, answer any relevant questions you may have and possibly make suggestions for future provision by sharing their professional expertise and signposting you to additional resources.

Should the Adviser feel that educational provision is not meeting the required standard they will point this out and discuss with you suggestions as to what might change to provide efficient and appropriate home education.

A timeframe for a follow-up visit will normally be agreed, which can vary from several weeks to 1 year, based on the needs of your child and family and the effectiveness of the provision.

The Adviser will then compile a written report and you will receive a copy through the post or via email within a few weeks.

What happens if I refuse the involvement of an EHE Practitioner and/or an EHE Adviser?

If you do not wish to engage with the Practitioner or Adviser, we are required by law to be satisfied that your child is not missing education. Initially you will be requested to provide a submission to the Council that demonstrates that your child is in receipt of suitable education. If you have support in the delivery of your child's learning, such as a tutor, their report would be a useful source of information.

Consideration will be given to the information you provide and if that evidences that you are delivering efficient and appropriate educational provision for your child the LA will state this and arrange for further contact in around 12 months' time. However, if the LA are not convinced that this is the case they will seek further clarification and additional details to fulfil their statutory duties.

My last visit/demonstration of learning did not leave the LA satisfied that my child is in receipt of suitable education, what happens now?

If after a visit we are unable to be satisfied that a suitable education is taking place, we can work with you to provide a transition back to school. If this is refused a Notice may be served instructing you to ensure your child attends school – a **School Attendance Order under Section 437 (3) of the Education Act 1996**. This is not something undertaken lightly and will involve discussions with you to plan a positive outcome for your child.

What information do you hold about my child on the EHE records?

We hold their full name, date of birth, address, parent details and contact details, whether they have any SEN needs or have an EHC Plan. If your child was on roll at a school, we would be provided with a notification of your request to home educate and details of any concerns held in relation to the safeguarding of your child. We also record details of all interactions you have with the EHE team. School do not transfer any academic information to the local authority.

We ask for your reason(s) for electing to home educate for our monitoring purposes, but you are not obliged to provide this information. For more details on how we store and share this information please see <http://home.nottscc.gov.uk/media/2327233/information-rights-policy.pdf>

What happens if I change my mind and want my child to return to school?

Although you retain the right to apply for school places at your chosen schools, it may not be possible to secure a place for your child at your preferred school. Once your child is removed from the school roll that place may be allocated fairly quickly to another child if the school is oversubscribed or receives further applications. You would need to apply for a school place and places are allocated (if available) in line with the school's published admissions policy. Should you require help and advice about returning your child to school one of our Professional Practitioners can provide this and support you through this process.

You can apply for in year school place admission at

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place>

I still have unanswered questions so who can I contact?

You can contact the Nottinghamshire County Council EHE Team by email ehe@nottscc.gov.uk or phone 0115 9772573

Detailed Government guidance is available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791528/EHE_guidance_for_parentsafterconsultationv2.2.pdf