
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 idea 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, cost and commitment. EHE will not prevent an exclusion from appearing on your child's educational records and will not halt any legal attendance process already established. Please read the rest of this document to ensure you are well informed as to what it may entail.

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

A school should not suggest 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 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.

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 indicate the provision, 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 for/arrange 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. The LA will not facilitate any types of alternative provision for EHE families. In addition, Free School Meals are not available to a family who have opted to home educate, these are only available whilst on the roll of a school.

What you would have from the local authority is free advice and support, should you choose to accept it.

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 broad, well-balanced and prepare your child for life within the community of which they are a member. A planned approach to literacy and numeracy, plus opportunities across a wide range of further subjects and topics, interpersonal skills, socialisation, aspirations and strengths should inform the learning. 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, 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 and enables them to progress.

You should also consider that examinations, for the most part, are 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?

An in-person 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 meeting and this can be done via a platform of your choice (WhatsApp/Teams/Zoom).

The Adviser will discuss with you how things have gone since the last contact, 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.

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?

Local authorities are required by law to be satisfied that your child is not missing suitable education. Initially you will be requested to provide a submission to the local authority that demonstrates your child is in receipt of suitable education. A demonstration of learning can be provided in the form of a written account (paragraphs for each subject), together with a progress report from online learning platforms and/or pictures and copies of work completed, as long as it is sufficient to demonstrate that suitable education is being provided (***we are unable to accept more than four sides of A4 with a maximum of three attachments***). 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 it is reasonable to assume that suitable education is not 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?

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 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. Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to protecting your privacy and ensuring all personal information is kept confidential and safe. For more details see our general and service specific privacy notices at: [Privacy Statement | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

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 (it is recommended you apply for at least 4 and appeal any refusals) and places are allocated 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 Nottinghamshire County Council EHE Team by **email:** ehe@nottsccl.gov.uk or phone **Tel:** 0300 500 80 80

in addition, information for young people, parents, carers and support workers can be found on our **website:** [Elective home education | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

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