

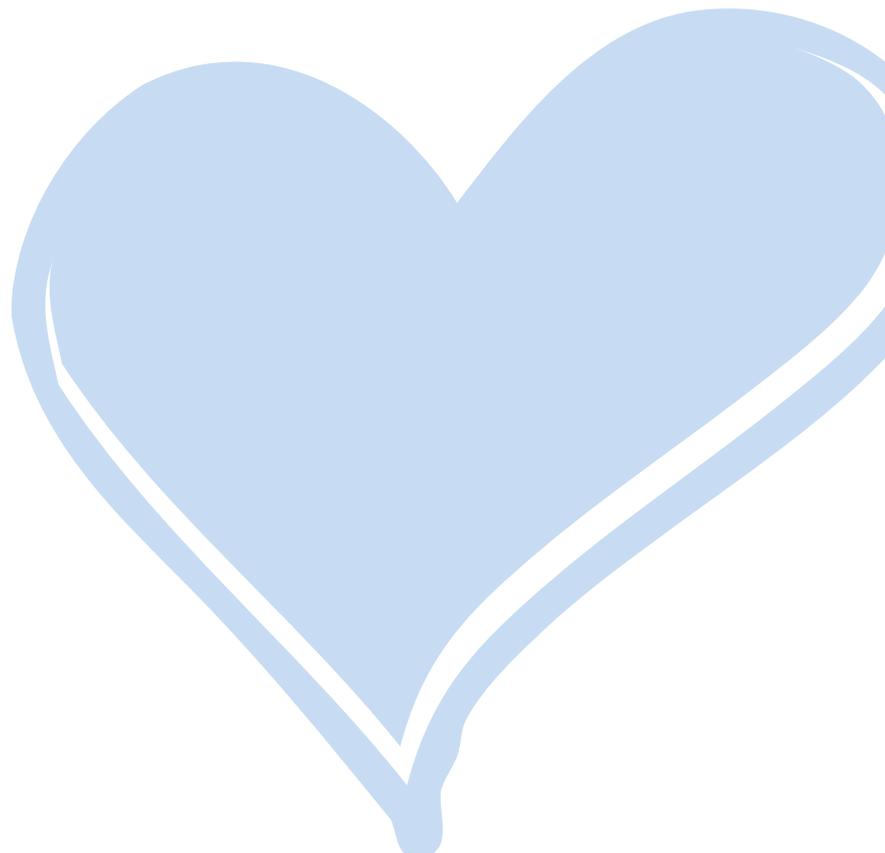


Elective Home Education (EHE)

A Bitesize Guide for Parents and Carers

November 2019

Education Welfare Service



Frequently Asked Questions

1. **When is Education Compulsory?**
2. **What do you need to consider before deciding to Home Educate?**
3. **Questions to ask yourself and discuss with your child when considering EHE.**
4. **What if my child has Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan?**
5. **What if my child's school has suggested I consider home education?**
6. **What if my child has never been on a school roll or is not yet of compulsory school age?**
7. **What if I want my child to go to College for pre-16 learning?**
8. **What is Cornwall Council's duty in respect of parents who are home educating?**
9. **What do I need to do if I decide to home educate?**
10. **What happens next?**

1. When is Education Compulsory?

The law requires a child to be educated from the age of five to the age of sixteen and it is parents' responsibility to see that this happens. A child continues to be of compulsory school age until the last Friday of June in the school year that they reach the age of sixteen.

Most parents carry out this legal duty by enrolling their child at a local school. However, for a wide variety of reasons, some parents and carers decide to take on the duty to educate their children themselves, that is, to educate at home.

2. What do you need to consider before deciding to Home Educate?

Please think carefully about electively home educating your child. Taking control of your child's education is a big responsibility and does take a great deal of your time and energy. In addition, the cost of text books, study materials, resources, tuition fees, exam centre and examinations fees (if required) and educational trips are all the responsibility of the parent. It is also important to maintain social networks for your child.

3. Questions to ask yourself and discuss with your child when considering EHE.

- Are you considering EHE as a positive choice or do you feel you have no alternative?

If the latter, we would strongly advise that you discuss this with the EHE Service before taking further steps to remove your child from school.

- Have you discussed home education with your child and is he/she positive about the suggestion?
- Do you any previous experience of teaching or in providing home education?
- Do you have the time to devote to your child's education? Who will supervise him/her during the day? The law requires parents to secure appropriate full time education, so home education should occupy a significant proportion of a child's life.

- Do you feel confident you can teach your child effectively or can you provide a qualified, DBS checked tutor?
- Are you able to provide the necessary resources to support your child's education? Does he/she have safe, supervised access to information technology and the internet?
- Will your child have opportunities to have social experiences with other young people and make friends?
- Can you provide opportunities for your child to take part in physical exercise?
- Do you want your child to take GCSEs or other qualifications?

If so, you are responsible for finding an exam centre willing to accept external candidates for the appropriate exam board and for meeting all of the costs of the examination which can be in the region of £150 per subject.

- Is there any likelihood of a future return to school?

If so, there is no guarantee there will be a place available at your previous school. An in year application will need to be submitted to the Local Authority.

You should also be aware that:

Any employment that your child takes part in will require a work permit issued by the Local Authority and will be restricted in terms of nature and amount as would be the case for all children of compulsory school age.

If your child accesses a work experience placement, they must be at least 14 years old and you would be responsible for ensuring the suitability of the work experience placement including undertaking risk assessments and checking insurance is in place.

Apprenticeships are not available to children of compulsory school age.

4. What if my child has Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan?

Before removing your child from school roll, we would strongly recommend that you talk to the Special Education Needs (SEN) Assessment and Provision team at Cornwall Council (statutorysend@cornwall.gov.uk) or 01872 324242.

When a child is removed from school roll, access to some SEN support services is limited or no longer universally available to your child. It is therefore important that you are aware of this prior to removal.

5. What if my child's school has suggested I consider home education?

Schools **must not** seek to persuade parents to educate children at home; the Department for Education states this very clearly. If your child's school does suggest this to you, Cornwall Council strongly recommends that you contact the EHE Service for advice and guidance before you make any decisions about home education or write to school to remove your child.

6. What if my child has never been on a school roll or is not yet of compulsory school age?

If your child is not yet of compulsory school age and you have made the decision to home educate, instead of placing on a school roll, you can still register with Cornwall Council for support and guidance. To do this, email the Elective Home Education Service at ehadmin@cornwall.gov.uk

7. What if I want my child to go to College for pre-16 learning?

There is no automatic right to a College placement for home educated children and pre 16 provision for students in Cornwall is currently extremely limited. You would need to approach the College and determine whether a suitable course is available. Be aware that there are no free school meals and no automatic entitlement to transport for home educated children.

8. What is Cornwall Council's duty in respect of parents who are home educating?

The Local Authority does not have a duty to monitor the quality of the home education on a regular basis; however under the Education Act 1996, it does have a legal duty to intervene if it appears that parents are failing in their duty to ensure that their child is receiving a suitable home education.

The Local Authority will be notified by the school of your decision to home educate your child. It will then make enquiries of you to satisfy itself that you are providing a suitable and full time education for your child.

If a parent fails to satisfy the LA that their child is receiving suitable education, the authority may consider serving on the parent a school attendance order, requiring the child to be registered at a school named in the order.

9. What do I need to do if I decide to home educate?

If, after considering all of the above, you make the decision to home educate, you will need to write to the school to make them aware that you would like to remove your child from roll to home educate. Verbal requests are not permissible in law.

10. What happens next?

After the school has received your letter, they will contact the Education Welfare Service at the Local Authority to make them aware of your decision. You will then be contacted by an Elective Home Education Co-ordinator whose role is to support and monitor the suitability of the education provision and arrangements that parents make for the child's home education.

For further details on any section of this guide please refer to the 'Information for Home Educator's' guide which covers area's in more detail. This is available on the Cornwall Council website at:

www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/education-welfare/elective-home-education/

If you would like further advice or wish to speak to someone further you can contact:

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If you would like this information in another format please contact:

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www.cornwall.gov.uk