



Cheshire **E**ast Information
Advice and **S**upport
(**CEIAS**) team

Elective Home Education

A parent or carer can choose to educate their child at home, this is known as 'Elective Home Education' (EHE).

“Under section 7 of the Education Act 1996, parents have the right to educate children, including children with SEN, at home. Home education must be suitable to the child’s age, ability, aptitude and SEN. Local authorities should work in partnership with, and support parents to ensure that the SEN of these children are met...”

Deciding to educate your child at home can be a rewarding choice for parents, but it does require a lot of dedication, hard work and patience.

Schools must not try to persuade parents to educate their child at home as a way of avoiding exclusion, or due to poor attendance.

Equally, if you as a parent are trying to avoid prosecution for poor attendance or, if your child is refusing to go to school or is at risk of exclusion, electing to home educate is not the answer.

Take your time to find out as much as you can so you can make an informed choice.

Things for parents of Children with SEND to be aware of/consider:

- The Local Authority (LA) does not have to provide education, or secure the special educational provision outlined in an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan for a child who is electively home educated, provided they are satisfied that the arrangements you have made are suitable.
- Where a child, who is being electively home educated, has an EHC plan, the LA retains responsibility for maintaining it, e.g. carrying out annual reviews.
- As you will be assuming responsibility to educate your child you must carefully consider whether you are able to provide what your child needs.
- The commissioning body is still responsible for any health care provision detailed in an EHC plan, for example speech and language therapy; although you can make your own alternative arrangements for health provision too.
- Consider carefully how this decision would change your relationship with your child, and with other children in your home who may be continuing to go to school..

- Don't make any hasty decisions, particularly if you are viewing this as a short-term option. Children can quickly get comfortable in the home routine and may find it difficult to get back into any school environment in the future.

Suggested actions where you do not want to electively home educate your child:

You may feel that EHE is your only option but is not a choice you want to make. The following suggestions may help you make an informed choice:

- Consider whether there any changes/adjustments that can be made in school that might make a difference. Ask for a meeting with school to discuss your ideas, share your concerns and agree next steps,. You can ask school if they would consider a referral to a specialist service for advice.
- If your child has an EHC plan and they are either not attending or at risk of not attending (perhaps at risk of exclusion or refusing to go/anxious), you should request that the local authority carry out an early Annual Review. This will enable you to discuss your concerns and talk through options. If you are starting to question whether your child's needs can be met in a mainstream school, it might be that you want to explore specialist schools and this review provides the opportunity to share your views.

How do I elect to home educate?

If home education is a choice you want to make you should speak to the school your child currently attends to let them know your intentions. You then need to follow this up in writing.

If your child attends a mainstream school they will be removed from the register and they must inform the LA, who will contact you to check you have made plans and provide some information.

If your child is currently attending a special school, you will need to get permission from the local authority before they can be removed from the school register.

We would also suggest that you speak to the SEND team to discuss your decision: 01625 378042

Further advice and Support:

Contact Cheshire East Attendance and Children out of school team: 01270 375 255

Visit: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-attendance/elective_home_education.aspx

	<p>Cheshire East Information Advice and Support (CEIAS)</p> <p>Website: www.ceias.cheshireeast.gov.uk</p> <p>Telephone: 0300 123 5166</p>
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