Elective Home Education – A Guide for Parents

What is Elective Home Education?

All parents have a duty to ensure that their children receive an efficient, full time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude. This can be either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996). This means that parents can educate their children at home instead of sending them to school.

Within Elective Home Education (EHE) parents are not required to:

- Teach the National Curriculum
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum
- Have a timetable
- Have premises equipped to any particular standard
- Set hours during which education will take place
- Have any specific qualifications
- Make detailed plans in advance
- Observe school hours, days or terms
- Give formal lessons
- Mark work done by their child
- Formally assess progress or set development objectives
- Reproduce school type peer group socialisation
- Match school-based, age-specific standards.

If you decide to educate your child outside of school it is your responsibility to plan her/his education and to carry it out.

How do I start?

If your child has never been to school, there is no action for you to take prior to starting home education, though advising the Local Authority (LA) is highly desirable. However, if your child is in school, you must formally de-register in writing to indicate that you intend to educate your child at home.

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) can be home educated. When a child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) or a Statement of SEN which names a special school, the child's name may not be the removed from the school's register without the consent of Barnsley Council. Please note that Barnsley Council has a duty to maintain any EHCP/Statement of SEN and to review it annually even if you are home educating.
What are Barnsley Council’s responsibilities?

Barnsley Council have a statutory duty to ensure that all children are receiving an efficient and suitable education in line with their age, level, aptitude and abilities including any special educational needs. The Assessor for Elective Home Education is a teacher who specialises in EHE. The role of the Assessor is to assess the provision of EHE and advise parents where necessary. Once a child has been deregistered from school, the Assessor will ask (via a phone call and/or letter) to meet with the child and parent/guardian. This meeting normally takes place at the family home, but an alternative venue is possible on request. If the educational provision is deemed to be satisfactory, visits will take place on an annual basis. Where there are any issues, the assessment would be more frequent and advice will be given by the Assessor. The Assessor can offer advice and support to parents on EHE matters if requested. The Assessor is not able to direct the learning which takes place nor can they accept any responsibility for it. The Assessor will provide a report on each child summarising the meeting with the child and the suitability of the home educational provision.

Costs of home educating

Parents are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and think carefully about the costs associated with educating children at home. There are no funds directly available neither from Barnsley Council nor from the Department for Education (DfE) for parents who decide to home educate their children. Local Authorities have no legal duty to provide financial support to parents who choose to home educate their children.

What other support is available?

There are dedicated support networks run by home educators to help parents whose children are home educated. Home Education support organisations and local groups also offer opportunities for social and educational activities. Local Home Education Groups can be found on Facebook and Yahoo websites.

Ceasing to home educate

If you decide at any time that you would like your child to return to school, or to go to school for the first time you will need to contact the Schools Admissions Team to apply for a school place. Please note that the school of your choice may be full for your child’s year group and that you may need to appeal for a place or consider applying to a different school.
Early Years and Primary Resources

There are hundreds of useful websites that will provide useful materials for Elective Home Education.
There are games and interactive resources on the BBC Bitesize websites which can be accessed from the site www.bbc.co.uk/schools/. The Times Educational Supplement has a vast range of materials on its site: www.tes.co.uk

There are various ‘grids for learning’ around the country – e.g. London grid for learning, Yorkshire and Humberside grid for learning which have free resources on them too. http://cms.lgfl.net/web/lgfl/homepage and http://www.yhgfl.net

Mathematics
Woodlands Maths – Maths games (Key Stage 1 and 2) http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/
Conquer Maths – includes video lessons requires membership but no subscription (Key Stage 1-5) http://www.conquermaths.com/
Nrich – Problem solving. Subscription required (Key Stage 1-5) http://nrich.maths.org/public/
Mathletics – Subscription required (Key Stages 1-5) www.mathletics.co.uk
My Maths – Subscription required (Key Stage 2-4) www.mymaths.co.uk

English
Letters and Sounds - phonic resources (Key Stage 1) http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/
Literactive: Help for early readers. Subscription required (Key Stage 1) http://www.literactive.com/Home/index.asp
Study Dog: great for reading. Subscription required (Key Stage 1) http://www.studydog.com/
Teach It – Worksheets and downloads requires membership but no subscription www.teachit.co.uk
The Literacy Shed – Loads of ideas and inspiration (Key Stage 2 and 3) http://www.literacyshed.com/

Science
Planet Science: www.planet-science.com
BBC Science: www.bbc.co.uk/sn/
Nature Detectives: Woodland Trust Site (Key Stage 1 and 2) http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/
Art
I am an artist: http://www.iamanartist.ie/index.aspx
Kids Tate: http://kids.tate.org.uk/
MOMA Interactive: http://www.moma.org/interactives/destination/

History
English Heritage: Teaching activities (Key stage 1 to 5): http://www.heritage-explorer.co.uk/web/he/teachingactivities.aspx
Q files: illustrated encyclopaedia (Key Stage 2) http://www.q-files.com/home/

Geography
Geography Association: http://www.geography.org.uk/resources
Map Zone: http://mapzone.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/

Languages
123 Teach Me: Free online Spanish courses: http://www.123teachme.com/

General Resources
Ambleside on-line - https://www.amblesideonline.org/
Primary Resources - www.primaryresources.co.uk
The Khan Academy - https://www.khanacademy.org/

Text and other resources books can be purchased on Amazon or directly from the publishers:
CGP - https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/
Galore Park - http://www.galorepark.co.uk/
Oxford Reading Tree - https://global.oup.com/education/content/primary/series/oxford-reading-tree/
Scholfield and Sims - http://www.schofieldandsims.co.uk/
Usborne - http://www.usborne.com/

Age-specific information is available from the EHE Assessor on request.