

Five-minute guide



BARNSELEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Elective Home Education

September 22

What is Elective Home Education?

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that it is the duty of parents of children of compulsory school age to ensure that they receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to meet any special educational needs. Parents may fulfil this duty either by ensuring regular attendance at school or otherwise. The word 'otherwise' affirms parents' right under the law to educate their child at home instead of sending them to school. This is called elective home education (EHE). Parents take full responsibility for all education and access to exams

Where a local authority provides home tuition or an alternative education placement is organised by school this is known as Education other than at School (EOTAS), this is not EHE.

Local authority responsibility

The local authority is responsible for ensuring that children of school age are receiving a suitable education, however, the Act does not define full-time education and there is no direct comparison with the timetable and educational arrangements for children taught in schools. Parents are not required to provide any particular type of education.

In law, parents are under no obligation to seek permission from the Local Authority to educate their child at home or take the initiative to inform the Local Authority or have regular contact with representatives of the Local Authority. However, failure to provide evidence of education will result in the LA assuming that the education provided by parents is unsuitable.

The Local Authority holds a register of EHE children and encourages schools and parents to inform them of children moving to EHE so safeguarding checks can be undertaken. The Local Authority requests information from parents on the education provided and assess its suitability and signposts parents to EHE networks and support. Where the education provided is deemed as unsuitable the LA will work with parents to return children to appropriate education. Legal process will be used when intervention does not result in a suitable education.

Where families wish to return to mainstream schools, support and advice can be provided by the following services:

EHE@barnsley.gov.uk

Barnsley Admissions 01226 773677

SEND 07736 410647

SENDIASS 01226 787234

Parental responsibility

If parents choose to educate their child(ren) at home, they accept 'full responsibility' for their education and should:

Consider all the issues very seriously. It is a great responsibility and requires a considerable commitment in time and energy to provide a suitable education that meets the needs of the child.

Plan what they intended to do with the child before coming to a final decision considering the costs involved.

Be aware that the child may well miss the social side of school, especially contact with other children and joint activities. There are no grants available to help with home education. Costs of materials, equipment, examination fees and so forth, must be borne by parents.

Be aware that there are procedures in place to return children to the school from which they were removed at the point parents choose to return to school based education.

Understand that if the LA deems the education provided by parents as unsuitable the Education Welfare Service will, place the child on the Children Missing Education Register and work with parents to establish a suitable education. In circumstances where this cannot be resolved swiftly the Education Welfare Service will consider the use legal procedures such as school attendance orders to return children to the school from which they were removed.

What happens in Barnsley

Parents - If the child is attending a mainstream school and parents decide to home educate, they must inform the head teacher in writing. Parents are requested to outline the plans for educating their children at home – this will be assessed for suitability by the EHE Advisor. Legal procedures can be followed if education is found to be not suitable.

Where a child has an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and attends a special school through arrangements made by the local authority, they cannot be removed from that school without the consent of the local authority or if the authority refuses to give consent, without a direction of the Secretary of State for children who have an Education Health and Care Plan, if the Local Authority and parents have agreed home education is the most appropriate provision the LA is required to arrange the SEN provision set out in the EHC plan. All children with an EHCP who are EHE will continue to have an Annual Review of their EHC Plan

Schools' responsibilities - When a school is informed by a parent that the child will now be home educated, they must notify the local authority. Schools are requested to complete a EHE 1 form, with information including the attainment of the child to this point, agencies supporting the family and any concerns on the child being home educated. Where there may be safeguarding concerns, schools must contact Children's Social Care.

Local Authority - When the Education Welfare Service receives an EHE 1 form, from a school or parent, they check whether the child has an Early Help Assessment or is open to Children's Social Care. An initial home visit is undertaken by an EWO to outline the responsibilities of EHE and capture the views of the child. If parents make the decision to continue with EHE the EHE advisor will visit the home within three months of the child being registered, an alternative venue is possible on parental request. The EHE advisor offers impartial advice on suitable age-appropriate resourcing and information regarding gaining qualifications for young people who are EHE. The EHE advisor can also signpost parents towards networks and support for EHE families.

Key contacts and more information

Notifications from schools, parents and practitioners from partner agencies should be sent to:

EHE@barnsley.gov.uk

You can contact the EHE Advisor Laura Collins, on the following
lauracollins2@barnsley.gov.uk or 07443301881

Barnsley Council EHE Website: www.barnsley.gov.uk- Schools and Learning – Education – educating your child at home