

FAQ

Elective Home Education

The information within this document may not be applicable if your child has an EHCP. Please contact the SEN team on 01743 254267 or SENteam@shropshire.gov.uk.

What is EHE?

EHE is the shorter version of Elective Home Education. Some families use the term home schooling. This is when parents or guardians decide to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school.

Is Home Education legal?

Yes, it is legal in all parts of the UK.

The law states that “the parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs s/he may have”. For most children, this is by attending school, however parents can choose to provide this education at home.

I’m considering EHE – what do I need to consider?

The main areas you need to consider before making the decision to EHE are:

- Where is your child going to complete their work?
- Who will be supervising your child?
- How are you going to monitor your child’s progress?
- What resources do you have/will you need?
- Are you going to follow the National Curriculum or create your own programme of study?
- How are you going to ensure your child has an education that is suitable to both their age and ability?
- How are you going to structure your child’s learning?
- What do you hope to achieve through EHE (what are your aims/targets/ethos)?
- What other opportunities can you offer your child e.g. do they have special interests & aptitudes?
- How are you going to provide age appropriate social opportunities for your child?
- How are you going to provide opportunities for the physical development of your child?
- How will you fund your child’s education? Are you aware you will be fully responsible for all costs related to your child’s education (including any exams)?

Who do I need to inform that I want to EHE?

If your child has never attended school, we advise families to inform the Local Authority via email: eas@shropshire.gov.uk. If your child currently attends school, we encourage families to inform the Headteacher by email or letter of their decision to deregister their child.

FAQ

Elective Home Education

What happens next?

The school will remove your child from their roll. They will then inform the Local Authority who will send you a letter informing you that your child has been added to the EHE register. You will then be allocated an EHE Support Officer who make contact. Following this you will be contacted in 3-6 months time. EHE Support Officers meet with large numbers of EHE families on a regular basis, they are therefore well placed to share new ideas, resources and promote good practice. Their role is to:

- support families where necessary
- offer advice to enable families to provide the best possible education for their child and
- satisfy the Local Authority's duty to establish that every child receives a suitable education.

Will I get any financial support?

No. When making a decision to provide education at home for your family you need to recognise you will have to meet the full cost, resources including books, stationery, courses and exam fees. Although computers are by no means essential, they and internet access, are a very useful resource for both parents and young people. Internet access if not available at home can be sourced at libraries and other community facilities. An extensive range of educational publications, programmes and worksheets can be bought from a variety of sources. We have collated a document of useful web links you may choose to explore: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance-or-exclusion/elective-home-education/>.

Does my child have to do exams?

No. There is no requirement to complete any exams or qualifications. However, your child may want to do exams and qualifications. These can open up a wider variety of Post-16 choices. Please refer to our Qualification Guidance factsheet for further information: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance-or-exclusion/elective-home-education/>.

How many hours do I need to educate my child for?

Parents must provide an 'efficient, full-time education suitable for the age, ability and aptitude' of their child. There is currently, no legal definition of 'full-time'. Children normally spend between 22 and 25 hours a week at school for 38 weeks of the year. Establishing a routine works well for many children and can help sustain an ongoing engagement with learning. It is also important to ensure that breaks and 'downtime' are planned for.

What curriculum do I need to follow?

Parents must provide an 'education suitable for the age, ability and aptitude' of their child. They do not have to follow a set curriculum. However, some parents choose to follow the National Curriculum, some use this document as a starting point and adapt it accordingly and others create their own curriculum. We advise that each day should have varied activities to support engagement and promote progress.

FAQ

Elective Home Education

Do I need a timetable?

No. However, you may find having a timetable helps you to organise you and your child's educational provision. A set structure and routine helps create healthy boundaries between education and non-education time and informs your child what they are doing and when.

Are there any support networks?

Yes. There are many support groups available. We suggest you look on Facebook for local groups. National organisations such as those below, are a great source of support and ideas:

Education otherwise: <https://www.educationotherwise.org/>

Home Education: <https://www.home-education.org.uk/forums.htm>

Ed Place: <https://www.edplace.com/homeschooling/communities-support>

Ed yourself: <https://edyourself.org/>.

How can I ensure my child still has social interactions?

You will need to arrange opportunities for your child to maintain friendships they may already have. Getting together with other EHE families is also a great way to network and to socialise. We encourage EHE families to consider joining local groups and clubs, such as sports clubs and youth groups (e.g. Scouts, Guides, Cadets etc). Shropshire's Family Information Directory can be found here:

http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/shropshire/fid/family_results.page?familychannel=2572.

Do I have to teach my child myself?

No, but you do remain responsible for your child's education. Some families choose to use an online provision or a personal tutor. These options do have financial implications. We advise that if you opt for face-to-face provision, you ensure anyone working with your child has the following:

- DBS clearance
- Suitable qualifications
- References from previous families.

What should I expect from the EHE Support Officer visit?

Your EHE Support Officer will meet you in your home or in a mutually agreed venue, such as a library, cafe or children's centre. The visit will last approximately one hour. The EHE Support Officer will discuss your child's education, provide advice in relation to resources and give you the opportunity to showcase your child's work. If your child is present, they can share their work and experiences themselves. The EHE Support Officer will advise whether the provision you have in place is suitable for your child or whether there are areas that need to be developed. They will discuss this with you and provide specific guidance to support you.

What work will I need to show the EHE Support Officer?

You need to demonstrate that the education provided is 'suitable for the age, ability and aptitude' of your child. You also need to demonstrate that progress is being made. Most

FAQ

Elective Home Education

families do this by showing examples of their child's work (including test results). You may like to keep folders of work, photographic evidence and objects created. This can be an electronic record.

Do I have to have a visit?

If you would prefer not to meet with your allocated EHE Support Officer, you will be asked to provide information about the education your child is receiving. This could be in the form of a written education report supported by evidence of their learning (such as an education plan, a diary, photographs or copies of your child's work). You will be required to send this report annually. Please inform your EHE Support Officer if you would like to go back to having a visit.

Can my child do work experience?

Yes. However, parents are responsible for arranging work experience. They also need to ensure that their child is safeguarded during work experience. We advise parents to complete the quality assurance checklist available: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance-or-exclusion/elective-home-education/>. Work experience is at the discretion of parents, but it must not limit other educational progress.

Can I get support with Post-16 opportunities for my child?

There is a Post-16 team for Shropshire. Details can be found here: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/young-people/post-16-options/>

What happens if the education I provide is unsatisfactory?

Under Section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996, Local Authorities must act if it appears that a child or young person is not receiving a suitable education. If an EHE Support Officer visits you or assesses the annual report you have provided and is unable to establish that your child is receiving a suitable education they will advise of improvements you need to make in their report. Evidence of improvements made will need to be supplied at a repeat visit or in a further report. Alternatively, if you wish your child to return to school, your EHE Support Officer will support you to do this.

If the provision continues to be unsuitable and the EHE team believes that there is insufficient evidence that a suitable education is being provided, a referral will be made to the Children Missing Education (CME) team. At this stage you may elect to register your child at a school. The education access service can support you with this.