

**What is Elective Home Education (EHE)?**

Elective Home Education 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 I need to consider before making the decision to EHE are:

* How am I going to ensure your child has an education that is suitable to both their age and ability?
* Where is my child going to complete their work and who will supervise them?
* Am I going to follow the National Curriculum or create your own programme of study? How am I going to monitor progress?
* What resources do I have or need?
* How will I structure my child’s learning in the day/week?
* What opportunities can I offer my child e.g. do they have special interests & aptitudes that can be developed?
* How will I provide age-appropriate opportunities for social and physical development?
* How will I fund my child’s education? (I will be fully responsible for all costs related to my child’s education, including any exams)

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

If my child has never attended school, it would help to inform the Local Authority via email: eas@shropshire.gov.uk.

If my child currently attends school, I need to inform the Headteacher of my child’s current school of my decision.

**What happens next?**

School will inform the Local Authority who need to carry out their duty to keep children safe and be alerted to any concerns/risks that need exploring first. Children’s personal needs will be taken into account, however if a child is being supported under a Child Protection Plan or significant safeguarding situation then the local authority might expect a child to continue at school. If EHE progresses the school will remove my child from their roll. I will then be allocated a Support Officer from the Education Access Service (EAS) who will make contact.

The Support Officers meet families choosing EHE on a regular basis and are well placed to share new ideas, resources and promote good practice. Their role is to:

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

**Will I get any financial support?**

When making a decision to provide education at home I need to recognise I will have to meet the full cost, including for resources eg books, stationery, courses and exam fees.

Although computers and internet access are by no means essential these can be 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. EAS have collated a document of useful web links to help: [https://shropshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance-or-exclusion/electivehome-education/.](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, my 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/electivehome-education/.](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?**

I must provide an ‘efficient, full-time education suitable for the age, ability and aptitude’ of my 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?**

I must provide an ‘education suitable for the age, ability and aptitude’ of my child.

My child does not have to follow a set curriculum, however I might choose that they follow the National Curriculum or adapt it accordingly. Some parents create their own curriculum. EAS advises that each day should have varied activities to support engagement and promote progress.

**Do I need a timetable?**

No but I may find having a timetable helps me to organise my child’s educational provision. A set structure and routine can help create healthy boundaries between education and non-education time and informs children what they are doing and when.

**Are there any support networks?**

Yes, there are many support groups available. I can look on Facebook for local groups. National organisations can be 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/.](https://edyourself.org/)

**How can I ensure my child still has social interactions?**

I will need to arrange opportunities for my child to maintain friendships they may already have. Getting together with other EHE families is also a great way to network and to socialise and I might want to explore my child joining local groups and clubs eg in sports, arts or other 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.](http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/shropshire/fid/family_results.page?familychannel=2572)

**Do I have to teach my child myself?**

No, but I do remain responsible for my child’s education.

Some families choose to use an online provision or a personal tutor. These options do have financial implications. EAS advises that if any family opts for face-to-face provision that they ensure anyone working with a child has DBS clearance, suitable qualifications and references.

**What should I expect from the EHE Support Officer visit?**

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

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

I will need to demonstrate that the education provided is ‘suitable for the age, ability and aptitude’ of my child and that progress is being made. Most families do this by showing examples of their child’s work (including test results). I may like to keep folders of work, photographic evidence and objects created, this can also include electronic records.

**Do I have to have a visit?**

If I would prefer not to meet with my allocated Support Officer, I will be asked to provide information about the education my child is receiving (as above) and this report is needed to be provided annually. If I would like to go back to having a visit, I can contact eas@shropshire.gov.uk or contact my Support Officer directly.

**Can my child do work experience?**

Yes. However, I am responsible for arranging work experience and ensure that my child is safeguarded during work experience. EAS advises parents to complete the quality assurance checklist available: [https://shropshire.gov.uk/schools-andeducation/school-attendance-or-exclusion/elective-home-education/.](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 mustact if it appears that a child or young person is not receiving a suitable education. If a Support Officer visits me or assesses the annual report I have provided and is unable to establish that your child is receiving a suitable education they will advise me of improvements needed to be made. Evidence of improvements made will need to be supplied at a repeat visit or in a further report. Alternatively, if I wish my child to return to school, the Support Officer will support me to do this.

If the provision continues to be unsuitable and EAS believe there is insufficient evidence that a suitable education is being provided, then as a next step my child could be considered as a ‘Children Missing Education’. At this stage I may elect to register my child at a school. EAS and/or the Support Officer can support you with this.

**If my child has an EHCP I will need to contact the EHCP team because there are some differences in the information above. Contact details are** **EHCPTeam@shropshire.gov.uk** **or 01743 254267.**

**Please find Shropshire’s EHE Policy here** [**Elective home education | Shropshire Council**](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance-or-exclusion/elective-home-education/)