

Frequently asked questions

Do children have to go to school?

What are the parents' actual responsibilities?

What should a home educated child learn?

What is 'compulsory school age'?

What is Suffolk County Council's duty under the 1996 Education Act?

What support is available from the Elective Home Education Service?

What support is available for children with special educational needs and disabilities?

How is the Elective Home Education Service involved in education at home?

What if the Elective Home Education Adviser has concerns or reservations about the education at home programme?

What if I decide to educate at home and then change my mind?

Are home educated children able to attend a Further Education College part-time?

Where can home educated learners sit formal exams?

How do I find out about post 16 options?

What is Suffolk County Council's duty in relation to safeguarding home educated children?

What should you do if still undecided about whether home education is right for your child?

Answers to all these questions can be found at

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/advice.page?id=51>
[Dft_AzVnA](#)

Or by calling and chatting to an advisor who will be happy to help.

Jake Paddy 01473 265537

Emma Sealy 01473 264588

Sarah Al-Quasmi 01473 263528

Elective Home Education

A guide for Suffolk Parents.



Every parent of a compulsory school age child has a duty to ensure their child receives a suitable and efficient education either by enrolling them in a school and ensuring they attend or by taking full responsibility for their child's education, which is Elective Home Education (EHE).



Some parents choose to teach their own children and some choose to employ tutors or use online schools and activities led by others.

Lots of activities are part of a child's education. A Home educated child does not have to follow the National Curriculum, learning can be linked through



experiences and opportunities which allow them to develop in line with their age, aptitude and ability. The EHE team in Suffolk can provide parents with advice, guidance, and signpost to resources.



Taking control of your child's education is a big commitment, so these notes of guidance have been put together to help you. Please do not underestimate the amount of time and work this will mean for you as the primary educator.

To help with making this big decision you can contact the Elective home education team to discuss your questions before you deregister your child.



I have decided this is right for my child what should I do?

- If your child attends a mainstream school, you must write to the Head teacher and inform them of your decision and the

date you intend to commence electively home educating your child.

- The Head teacher will then remove your child from the school roll and inform the education welfare service (as required by law).
- If your child attends a special school (named in their Education, Health and Care Plan), you must contact the Family Service team and the Elective Home Education team, who will discuss your proposal with you. Once the service is confident with your proposal, they will instruct the Head teacher of the school to deregister your child. The legal responsibility for education then passes to you as the parent.

The Elective Home Education team will write to you, to ask you to share your plans. This may be in the form of:

- Completion of a form which will ask a series of questions about the provision you are or intend to make.
- Sharing specific examples of learning e.g. pictures/ paintings/models, diaries of work, projects, assessments, samples of work, books, educational visits etc.
- Your educational philosophy or ethos as well as;
- A written report stating: Opportunities for your child to be stimulated by their learning experiences. Information showing a broad spectrum of activities to cater for wide variety of interests appropriate to your child's stage of development and the progress they are making. It could include information on the resources you have been using, physical activity opportunities, online resources, opportunities for appropriate interaction with other children and adults.

Alternatively, if you prefer to meet with an EHE officer, either at your home, our office or somewhere else such as a local library, we are

happy to come to you. Alternatively paper work can be posted or emailed to the Elective Home Education team in your area.

After this we will contact you annually for an update on how things are going. The purpose of this annual contact request is to confirm you are still educating at home, discuss your opinions on the progress made by your child and support you with the next stages should you so wish.



If your child has an EHCP you will be asked to provide information on how you are planning to ensure that your child can make progress with the objectives that are on the plan. You do not have to do this in the same way as a school would, but you will be asked to demonstrate that they are making progress. This will usually be in a meeting with the consultant. We try where possible to do this alongside the Annual review of the plan, so as not to add to your need to come to meetings, but it can be done separately if you prefer that. Whatever you choose, it must be done annually.

Please take the time you need to think about electively home educating your child. Taking control of your child's education is a huge responsibility and will take a great deal of your time and energy.

The cost of books, materials, resources, examinations (if required) and educational trips are the responsibility of the parent. Plan what you intend to do with your child before deciding to home educate. One of the benefits of school life is the social interaction between children

and young people. You will need to make a determined effort to maintain social networks for your child to prevent them from becoming isolated.

If an issue at school has prompted your thinking about EHE, always try to resolve any problems at school before taking such a big step. The Elective Home Education team may be able to assist you or help you to find another school more suitable to your child's needs without the need to deregister them to do this.

Sometimes a reduced school timetable can be arranged for a short period of time to support an anxious or worried young person to have a successful return to school.

If you do decide to educate your child at home, your decision will be respected.

Please look at our website on Suffolk Info link for more information or contact us.

Elective Home Education
Children and Young People's Directorate
Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich
IP1 2BX

Telephone: 01473 265139

Email: EHE@suffolk.gov.uk

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