

Thinking of Home Education?

Teaching your child at home may be the right course of action for your family but it is an important decision. We recommend that **before** deregistering your child from school you take a look at the information provided below:

What is Elective Home Education?

Elective Home Education is where parents or carers of a child decide to educate their child at home instead of sending them to a school.

What are my legal requirements?

S.7 of the Education Act 1996 states that the parent of a child who is of compulsory school age has a legal duty to see that their child receives: "an efficient full-time education suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs she/he may have, either at school or otherwise".

Parents can therefore make the decision to educate their child at home. The education provided must be 'efficient and suitable for the particular child'. However, before you make your final decision you may find the following websites helpful:

www.edyourself.org
www.heas.org.uk
www.education-otherwise.org
www.ahomeeducation.co.uk

Also have a look at the information about Elective Home Education on Peterborough City Council's website:

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/home-education>

Reasons for Elective Home Education (EHE)

It is important that you make your decision for the right reason therefore, firstly ask yourself this question - is your decision solely related to a change in lifestyle choice and a desire to educate your child yourself?

If your answer is **no** and/or you have considered EHE as a possibility due to either a problem with the current school, a barrier to learning such as special educational needs, health needs, peer relationships, bullying or in this current climate related to concerns around COVID 19, you may find the following advice helpful prior to making a final decision about Elective Home Education:

Relationship breakdown with school staff

If you're having problems with your child's school, consider contacting the teacher, Headteacher or school's governing body **before** looking at EHE or alternative schools.

Your school **must not** request or advise a parent to de-register their child from the school to home educate. Any decision to home educate must be made by parents/carers and should only be made when they are prepared and ready to take on the responsibility of providing suitable education at home or otherwise.

Friendship concerns or bullying

In the first instance speak to the class teacher, Head of Year or Headteacher and explain your worries. Before you make a final decision to withdraw your child, speak to the school and work together to try and find the right solution.

Medical concerns

If you feel that your child has health needs that are not currently being met within school. Many children have medical conditions that significantly affect their school life. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCP) are specifically for children with medical needs. They set out the child's medical condition, any support needed and any emergency procedures. Schools have particular responsibilities for pupils with medical conditions. Please look on the school website for the school's policy on Pupils with Medical Needs.

SEN concerns

If you feel your child's needs are not being met by the school, before you withdraw your child from school ask to speak to the Special Education Needs (SEN) Co-ordinator at the school. They can listen to your concerns and look into other support that may be available to you and your child. Your school will have a SEN policy on its website detailing available support.

<https://fis.peterborough.gov.uk/kb5/peterborough/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=8>

Risk of Exclusion

My child is at risk of exclusion if they stay at the school. If your child is at risk of exclusion they should be receiving support from within the school or in partnership with other agencies to reduce the risk of exclusion. Please look on the school's website for a copy of their Behaviour Policy and continue to work in partnership with the school. If in doubt and unsure what to do contact the EHE Team (homeeducation@peterborough.gov.uk) who can help you with advice.

COVID 19

If you are concerned about the impact of COVID 19 you should talk to your school. All schools must have a risk assessment in place and follow all the guidance issued by the government and the DFE to keep all of the school community safe. Each school takes your child's safety extremely seriously and will do everything they can to support a return to full-time education for all children in a safe and secure environment.

Elective home education is a big decision, so we want to ensure you have as much information as possible before you come to a decision. Below are some questions and answers about EHE:

Do I have to notify the school or the local authority that I am home educating?

No, however for the school to remove your child from the register they must have written notification from the parent that they wish to deregister their child and preferably the reason for this request. If you **do not** do this your child's absences may be recorded as unauthorised and may be treated as non-school attendance which may lead to legal action being taken against you.

Once you have written to the school requesting your child be removed from the school roll, the school is required by law to notify the local authority of the deletion.

My child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) can I deregister for EHE in the same way?

Yes, if your child attends a mainstream school, however we would advise that prior to this yourself and the SEN caseworker convene an early annual review to review your child's place of education. If your child has an EHCP and attends a special school the consent of the Local Authority must be sought before removing the child's name from roll.

Will the LA provide me with the curriculum and resources to home educate?

No, elective home education is a lifestyle choice and requires significant commitment in terms of time and resources. There's no funding available for home educators and the council do not provide curriculum guides, teaching or resource packs.

You will be required to assume **all financial responsibility** which may include books, paper, educational visits, equipment and subscriptions to online resources,

Will my child be able to return to their school if I change my mind?

If you remove your child from a school, and then change your mind and wish your child to return to a school you must submit an application in the usual way. Please be advised you may not be offered your preferred school or even your child's last school. You will be required to continue with elective home education until your child is enrolled at a school.

Can I take a break from my child's learning whilst we decide what's best?

No, from the date that your child's name is removed from the school register **you** will be responsible for providing a full time, efficient education that is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude.

Will I have to meet with the local authority EHE Officer?

No, not if you do not want to. Once you have written to the school requesting your child's name be removed from the school roll, the school is required by law to inform the local authority of the deletion from the register. This will generate an initial contact from the EHE team which provides information about events that you may be interested in, access to free workshops and resources as well as support and advice.

Do I have to provide evidence of my child's learning?

No, however, the LA is duty bound to ensure all children have access to a suitable education. The EHE team aim to work with parents and support them in their elective home education. Where no evidence of education is provided or where it is deemed unsuitable, the local authority will take necessary steps for formal action.