



# Thinking of home educating your child?

Information for parents considering Elective Home Education (EHE)

## Reasons for Elective Home Education (EHE)

### **Is your decision solely related to a change in lifestyle choice and a desire to educate your child yourself?**

If your answer is no, you are one of many parents who tell us there are other reasons why they might consider EHE for their child. This could be a problem with your child's current school, or a barrier to learning such as special educational needs, health needs, peer relationships or bullying. Below are some areas that parents often ask advice on and may be helpful in making your decision:

#### **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. A school cannot 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 the parent/carer and only once they are prepared and ready to educate at home.

#### **Friendship concerns or bullying**

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

#### **If your child has unmet special educational needs**

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.

If you require further information you can visit the SEND local offer for Southend at [www.LivewellSouthend.com](http://www.LivewellSouthend.com) where you can find information about other services and local support groups. The education you provide must meet the send needs of your child.

#### **If your child has health needs that are not currently being met within school**

Many children have medical conditions that significantly affects 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.

## **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, call the EHE Team who can help you with advice and contact your school on your behalf if you are struggling to be heard. Home education is a big decision, so we want to ensure you have as much information available before you make your mind up.

## **EHE: Mythbusting**

### **I do not have to notify the school or the local authority that I am home educating**

**TRUE:** However for the school to remove your child from the register they must have written notification from the parent that they are home educating. If you do not do this your child will be recorded as absent or missing and the school is duty bound to make a child missing education referral to the local authority. Once you have written to the school requesting your child be removed from the school roll, the school is required to notify the local authority. If your child has an Education Health Care Plan the SEND Caseworker should 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.

### **The council will provide me with the curriculum and resources to home educate**

**FALSE:** 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 or resource packs. Any additional costs to support your preferred style of learning, such as books, paper, educational visits, equipment and subscriptions to online resources, will need to be provided by parents/carers.

### **Its easier and quicker to get accepted at another school if you home educate first**

**FALSE:** Schools must adhere to the legislation in responding to all admission applications regardless of their current education. 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 get your preferred school or even your last school, available school places are limited to just a small number of schools.

## **I can take a break from my child's learning whilst we decide what's best**

**FALSE:** From when 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. You do not need to be a qualified teacher, but by working together and identifying how and what your child will be learning and how they will socialise with other children of their age, will equip them for their future success both as a child, young person and adult.

## **I will have to meet with the local authority EHE advisor**

**FALSE:** Once you have written to the school requesting your child's name be removed from the school roll, the school is required to inform the local authority of the deletion from the register. This will generate an initial contact from the Southend EHE team requesting you register your child as home educated with us. This enables the EHE team to keep you informed of events in and around the borough that you may be interested in, access to free workshops & resources as well as offer support and advice. Each year we will offer you the opportunity to meet with an EHE advisor to discuss and celebrate with you on your child's progress.

The local authority is duty bound to ensure all children have access to a suitable education and aim to work with parents, carers and children to see examples of education and progress being made. Where no evidence of education is provided or where it is deemed unsuitable, the local authority will take necessary steps for formal action.

## **My child can be entered for GCSE and other recognised examinations**

**TRUE:** For home schooled children who have studied for a public exam, like GCSEs, IGCSEs (International GCSE) or A levels, either independently, through a private tutor or via a correspondence course it is usually your own responsibility to find an exam centre, register for the exam, find a qualified person to assess coursework and enter for examinations. You will need to pay for examinations, and organise any qualifications for your child. You can find more information about taking GCSE and IGCSE exams as a private candidate on Oxford Open Learning at [www.oool.co.uk](http://www.oool.co.uk) and AQA at [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk).

Within Southend there are Alternative Providers and Colleges who offer free limited places on Year 10 & Year 11 courses. There is currently only one Southend school that offers home educators to sit GCSE's as an external candidate (at a cost to the parent) For information please contact [ehe@southend.gov.uk](mailto:ehe@southend.gov.uk).

**For more information or support please contact the EHE team on [EHE@southend.gov.uk](mailto:EHE@southend.gov.uk) or call 01702 215909**