

# Emerson Park Academy



## **ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION POLICY ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023**

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### Elective Home Education (EHE) Policy Version Control 2022/2023

Changes	Page
The whole EHE Policy has been reviewed and updated in line with current and new legislation	Throughout

## 1. Vision

- 1.1 This policy is designed to give parents an opportunity to be fully informed before making a final decision to withdraw their child from school to EHE.
- 1.2 All schools work collaboratively to support parents to encourage their children to remain in mainstream education and work in unity to commit to securing an inclusive ethos within Havering.
- 1.3 The local authority is committed to a successful education for all children and recognises that EHE can work well for some.
- 1.4 If, after careful consideration, parents decide to educate at home, the local authority hopes that this proves to be a happy and constructive experience. The local authority is not able to provide teaching support or detailed curriculum plans, but will offer encouragement and advice.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 Throughout this policy 'parents' should be taken to include all those with parental responsibility, including guardians and carers as well as natural parents without parental responsibility. The term 'child' or 'children' refers to all children and young people who are legally required to receive an education.
- 2.2 This policy relates to children of compulsory school age. Elective Home Education (EHE) is when a parents' provide education for their child/ren at home, instead of sending them to school.
- 2.3 The local authority recognises that parents have the right to educate their children at home at any stage up to the end of compulsory school age. This right applies equally for the parents of children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

## 3. The Law Relating to Elective Home Education

- 3.1 The responsibility for a child's education rests with the parents.
- 3.2 Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that:

*"The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs he may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise."*

- 3.3 Children who attend school, normally receive approximately five hour's tuition per day for 190 days per academic year dependant on their age.
- 3.4 Education should aim to enable children to gain qualifications and progress into independent citizens and should not directly conflict with Fundamental British Values defined in government guidance.

## 4. School / Academy Responsibilities

- 4.1 When a parent is requesting to home educate, the school must notify the local authority at [EHE@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EHE@havering.gov.uk) immediately.
- 4.2 Schools **must not** remove the child from the school register until confirmation is received from the local authority as this will ensure parent has had an opportunity to discuss their reasons with the local authority.
- 4.3 Following communication between the local authority and the parent(s) the school will be informed of the date, if the child is to be removed from their school register.

4.4 Under no circumstances should a school / academy seek to persuade parents to educate their child at home as a way of avoiding an exclusion or because the child has poor attendance or other known issues.

## 5. Children's Rights

5.1 The United Kingdom has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Article 12 of the UNCRC requires states to provide a right for children to express their views and for due weight to be given to those views, in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

5.2 This does not give children authority over parents, and a decision to educate a child at home is a matter for parents. Parents should, however, consider whether home education is realistically possible in their family's particular circumstances, and if their child is happy to be educated in this way. The child has a right to request to see the LA advisor if they feel they are not receiving adequate education.

## 6. Children's Welfare

6.1 Where families who are known to Social Care & Early Help and have a Child In Need (CIN) or Child Protection (CP) plan, they will be subject to a plan review meeting before parents/school remove the child/ren from the school register.

6.2 The EHE Advisor will consult with the family's social worker to ascertain a date for a meeting to take place. This will ensure that any additional risks posed to the child/ren are assessed and factored into the CIN or CP Plan to support the pupil and family.

6.3 The local authority believes in positive relationships and mutual respect with families and services working with children and have monitoring and welfare responsibilities under legislation; therefore, the local authority are sure parents will understand that it will be necessary, as part of their general duty to make contact with parents and their child at least once a year to evaluate the child progress and welfare.

## 7. Parental Rights and Responsibilities

7.1 Parents should not feel pressured to remove their child from the school register if their child is having difficulty with learning, if there are behaviour or attendance issues or to avoid a formal exclusion.

7.2 If a parent feels that they are being pressurised to remove their child to home educate, they should immediately inform the local authority at [EHE@haverling.gov.uk](mailto:EHE@haverling.gov.uk).

- 7.3 If a parent is considering elective home education due to differences with their child's school, they should email [EHE@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EHE@havering.gov.uk) for advice prior to removing their child from the school register.
- 7.4 Where a child is registered at a mainstream school, parents are required to notify their child's school in writing of their intentions to EHE. Parents should ask the school not to remove their child from their register until they have had an opportunity to speak with the local authority and make an informed decision.
- 7.5 Parents who home educate assume the full financial responsibility for their child's education. This includes the cost of resources, educational trips, private tuition, courses and public examinations fees. In addition to financial responsibility, parents must also factor in the substantial commitment of time and dedication in order for their child to succeed.
- 7.6 There is currently no formal requirement for parents to register or seek approval from the local authority to educate a child at home rather than in a mainstream school however, if a parent is considering EHE the local authority would advise that the parent contacts them at [EHE@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EHE@havering.gov.uk) to seek advice on options and support that may be available.
- 7.7 If parents choose to employ others to educate their child, the parent will remain responsible for the education provided and the safeguarding of their child. In these circumstances, parents are responsible for ensuring that those whom they engage with are suitable to have access to children. It is strongly recommended that parents arrange for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check prior to employment and that there are arrangements made for ongoing supervision.
- 7.8 If a job is made available to a home educated child the parent should ask the employer to contact the local authority at [childemployment@havering.gov.uk](mailto:childemployment@havering.gov.uk) to establish if a child work permit is required.
- 7.9 The local authority appreciate parent's co-operation with carrying out their responsibilities effectively to maintain the best interests of the child, particularly in relation to their statutory safeguarding responsibilities.

## **8. London Borough of Havering Roles and Responsibilities**

- 8.1 When the local authority receives the notification that a parent has requested to electively home educate, contact is made by an EHE Advisor to gather information from both school and parent.
- 8.2 The EHE advisor will liaise with schools to ensure the child remains on school register until parents have been provided with guidance and support to explore all educational options.

8.3 Parents will be provided with an outline of the commitment required to provide their child with a full time education that is in alignment with their age and ability. Evidence of how parents plan to educate their child/ren will be required from day one.

8.4 The local authority has no statutory duties in relation to monitoring or supporting the quality of home education on a routine basis. However, they will carry out regular visits to assure themselves that children are receiving an education that is suitable to their age and ability.

8.5 To ensure the local authority meets its safeguarding responsibilities welfare visits will be conducted and where a child is known to social services, the EHE Advisors will liaise with the child's social worker regarding their education.

8.6 Section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996 states that:

*"If it appears to a local education authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring him to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education."*

## 9. Children with Special Educational Needs

9.1 Parents' right to educate their child at home applies equally where a child has Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND). This right is irrespective of whether the child has an EHCP or not.

9.2 Where parents elect to home educate a child with an EHCP, the school **must not** remove the child from their school register. A meeting will be arranged with the parent, school and LA professionals. Parents must be given the opportunity to explore all education establishments.

9.3 Where a child with an EHCP is home educated, the local authority retains a duty to maintain and review the plan annually, following the procedures set out in the Code of Practice for SEND. The local authority will involve the parents within the review process.

## 10. Evidence of Suitable Education

10.1 Parents can decide how best to present evidence of their child's education. Keeping a daily log to record examples of their child's progress is one example.

10.2 The EHE Advisors will assess child's education using a RAG rating system:

RAG	Evidence	Contact	Safeguarding
Red	None	3 months	Refer to Social Care
Amber	Some	6 months	Annual welfare visit
Green	Adequate	12 months	Annual welfare visit

10.3 If no evidence is provided the LA will exercise their statutory duty to ensure the child is not subject to educational neglect and is receiving a sufficient full time education based on their age and ability.

## 11. Formal Qualifications and Exams

11.1 The local authority promote that EHE children take formal examinations. If these are GCSE or IGCSE (International GCSE), this will inform the teaching that parents are expected to undertake.

11.2 Parents will be required to obtain the syllabus of work to be followed for each course with sufficient time allocated to be able to complete the programme of study.

11.3 When contacting the examination boards parents would need to specify that their child is a 'Private Candidate.' These exams would need to be planned for and arranged within the specified time frame advised by the chosen exam centre.

11.4 The local authority suggests that parents may find the National Curriculum a useful basis around which to plan their child's programme of study. The National Curriculum is available from the Department for Education on their website [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk) and a Havering Home Education advisor will be happy to guide you with this process.

## 12. Anti-social Behaviour

12.1 If it becomes apparent that a home educated child is participating in anti-social activities the local authority will approach parents in order to review their child's educational progress as part of their statutory duty.