

Elective Home Education

3-minute-read



updated July 2023

What is English law regarding Elective Home Education (EHE)?

- ✓ Parents must ensure their 5-16-aged children receive an efficient full-time education:
 - suitable to each child's age, ability, aptitude and special educational needs (SEN) – most send children to school, whilst some accept full responsibility and home educate called EHE

What is your role as a parent?

- ✓ To ensure each of your children are provided with education which takes into account:
 - a significant proportion of their life, providing well-organised opportunities for their progress
 - individual levels of knowledge, skills and understanding – including fundamental British values
- ✓ To ensure an informed choice – acknowledging full responsibility of EHE:
 - if ever attended school, engage in EHE liaison meetings with relevant school staff
 - if never attended school, inform the Local Authority (LA) of your EHE preference
 - avoiding excessive 'knee-jerk' reactive measures to become providers of EHE

What is the role of Derbyshire County Council (DCC)?

- ✓ To establish positive relationships with EHE families, preferably by annual contact, concerning children's educational entitlement and offering advice/support regarding 'suitability':
 - Safeguarding – ensuring each child's development is not likely to suffer significant harm
 - Guidance – ensuring signposting and indication to specific information

What are essential questions parents may need to think about when considering EHE?

- ✓ Have I acknowledged there is no allocated EHE funding available?
 - ✓ Do I accept there is no obligation for school places to be kept open?
 - ✓ Can I provide the legal standard of efficient full-time suitable education?
 - ✓ Is EHE the best option, taking into account all the educational needs of my child?
 - ✓ Do I recognise additional subsidy and some services/agency involvement may cease?
 - ✓ Does my child agree, having discussed all our concerns with appropriate school staff?
 - ✓ Is this the best time for my child/ren to become EHE, considering transition/GCSEs?
 - ✓ Am I only waiting for a preferred school, preventing penalty and/or exclusion?
- ✓ Can I provide sustained enthusiasm, funding, patience, space, support, time, well-being and commitment to all elements of learning and individual prospects – providing the best life-opportunities for my child?

Parents **have** to provide an education → suitable to their child's age, ability, aptitude and SEN

Parents **should** weigh-up all opportunities → the best for each and every child

Parents **can** work in real partnership → EHE families and DCC

Any further questions about EHE? – email: CS.EHE@derbyshire.gov.uk or telephone: 01629 533720

Please do remember:

- ✓ **Parents have a legal duty: to ensure their children receive an efficient full-time education suitable to age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs (SEN) – the Local Authority (LA) itself has a legal duty to safeguard young people in Derbyshire by means of a reasonable and proportionate approach, making sure each child's development is progressing well.**