



Department
for Education

Elective Home Education (EHE): Your duties, our expectations

The Department for Education's guidance on Elective Home Education (EHE) was last updated in April 2019. Guidance has been published for parents and carers and Local Authorities (LAs).

LA guidance outlines the requirements and their duties along with how the Department expects LAs to undertake their duties.

In the context of the coronavirus pandemic, some LAs may be receiving an increase in enquiries from parents about EHE. Where this happens, we strongly recommend that LAs work with schools, parents and carers, and other key professionals (such as social workers) to coordinate a meeting before the parent makes a final decision, in order to ensure the parent fully considers what is in the best interests of each individual child. This is particularly important where vulnerable children, children with a social worker, and those at greatest risk of harm are involved.

LAs normally become aware of a child who is electively home educated once the name has been removed from the school roll. We expect schools and other professionals to engage with LAs where a parent is considering withdrawing their child from school for EHE before the child's name is removed from the roll. This will enable the LA to coordinate a meeting ahead of the child being withdrawn from school and the parent confirming in writing that they are being electively home educated instead. If a child attends a special school and this was arranged by a local authority, the local authority **must** give consent for the child's name to be removed from the roll.

During these meetings, LAs, schools and other relevant professionals such as social workers where appropriate, should work to help parents and carers understand exactly what EHE means, ensure it is a positive choice taken without pressure from their school and signpost the guidance on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) (a short 'what you need to know' document for parents and carers is also available [here](#)).

Ofsted will continue to look for any evidence of off-rolling. Off-rolling is never acceptable. We are clear that pressuring a parent to remove their child from the school (including to home educate their child) is a form of off-rolling.

LAs, schools, and other professionals have a responsibility to help parents fully understand the implications of withdrawing their child for EHE and their ongoing obligations, making clear that:

- Parents assume full financial responsibility,

- Their child may not be able to return to the same school if they change their mind,
- Support from schools will not continue, including any special educational needs support, and
- In cases where LAs are not satisfied a child is receiving a suitable education, the parent may be issued with a School Attendance Order and / or the court may make an Education Supervision Order.

LAs should also make parents aware that in extreme cases, where concerns over the suitability of education extend to safeguarding matters, a Care Order could be made by the court.

Providing the information above should be considered as part of one of a number of ways in which LAs can undertake their duties in respect of safeguarding children.