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Elective Home Education – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Can I home educate my child?**

Every parent has the right to home educate their child.

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states:

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

It is important that you understand that when you choose to educate your child at home, you take on financial responsibility for all associated costs including exam fees.

**What does suitable education mean?**

The education must be:

* **Full-time -**there is no legal definition of “full-time” in terms of education at home, or at school. Children attending school normally have about five hours tuition a day for 190 days a year, spread over about 38 weeks. However, home education does not have to mirror this. You should be able to quantify and demonstrate the amount of time for which your child is being educated.
* **Efficient -**there is no legal definition of this. However, it can be interpreted as meaning education which ‘achieves what it is intended to achieve’. E.g. if you intend the child to learn the two times table, they will learn their two times table. This is not the same as the education being ‘suitable’ - because it is possible to deliver efficiently an education which is definitely not suitable. Conversely, it is possible to deliver a suitable education very inefficiently.
* **Suitable -**to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. The education must equip the child for life within the community and must not limit a child's options in later life.

**How do I decide what to teach my child?**

Some families who choose to EHE have shared the following tips:

* Plan your day
* Create a designated learning environment
* Access the free on-line resources available
* Make use of your local library
* Join the local EHE parenting groups
* Arrange for your child to mix with peers - are their local sports or activity clubs they could join?
* Keep a record of progress - photos or scrapbooks are an excellent way to do this.

Whilst you aren’t required to follow The National Curriculum, it can provide a useful starting point. The links below outline the expected learning standards in all curriculum subjects in the UK.

* Primary Curriculum National curriculum in England: primary curriculum - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
* Secondary Curriculum National curriculum in England: secondary curriculum - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

**What support will I get from the local authority?**

The EHE Officer will:

* send an email with useful information about where to find resources and other sources of support.
* have a telephone conversation within 6 weeks to review the education that is in place and offer advice.
* meet with you at home or in a mutually agreed venue to discuss the education you are providing and that it is suitable at least once per year.
* ensure that the school nursing team are aware you have registered as EHE so that they your child has access to the same services that they would in school.
* advise on the process for applying for a school should you choose to do so
* if education is not suitable, the EHE Officer will advise you on what improvements are required to ensure the education is suitable.

**Will I receive any financial support?**

When you choose to home educate your child, you are choosing to take on full responsibility for ensuring your child is provided with a suitable, full-time education including all associated costs. This means that you will be responsible for the costs of any resources, tuition, and exam fees. Additionally, you may be liable for costs associated with any assessments that would normally be arranged by school, for example Educational Psychology assessments.

**What if I change my mind about Elective Home Education?**

Further information on applying for a school place can be found here in [Admissions to schools – Bolton Council](https://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions).

If your child has an EHCP, you should contact your SENDAS Officer.

Please note that you will need to continue to provide education for your child whilst waiting for a school place.

**My child is in year 11 – can I home educate?**

You can home educate your child in year 11. Education must continue until the last Friday of June of that academic year when they will no longer be compulsory school age. Please also refer to the FAQ: Can my child sit exams?   
  
**Can my child sit exams?**

If you would like your child to be entered for GCSE exams, you will need to enrol your child with an independent exam provider. The two centres closest to Bolton are Tutors and Exams in Bolton, and Jay Em Studios in Chorley. You should contact them directly and pay the exam fees; their websites have an extensive list of exams offered and price list. Please note that there are deadlines for entry and additional fees for late registration.

Tutors & Exams: [Bolton Exam Centre - Tutors & Exams (tutorsandexams.uk)](https://www.tutorsandexams.uk/bolton/)

Jay Em Studios: [Jay-Em Studios - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](https://www.jcq.org.uk/private-candidates-summer-2021/jay-em-studios/)

**Can my child access careers advice?**

All year 11 pupils in Bolton receive support from a career advisor (Connexions), helping your child with transition to post-16 education. The EHE Office will pass your child’s details to Connexions upon their registration.

**Can my child attend a course or college while in home education?**

As part of the package that you put together for your child, you may want them to attend online courses or college. You will remain responsible for arranging this education and paying any fees. Some colleges offer 14-16 provision for children who are electively home educated.

The nearest colleges to Bolton which offer 14-16 year old programmes are Myerscough College, Manchester College and Preston College. Please contact the colleges directly to find further details and fill in the application forms if you would like to proceed.

**Can my child work?**

The Child Employment Regulations contain strict rules regarding children’s working hours whether they attend a school or are home educated.

Children below the age of 13 must not work (except children who are involved in entertainment). All children must not work during school times or over a specific number of hours during any school week. Certain work environments are not permitted for children for health and safety reasons.

Any children of statutory school age wishing to have a job must, by law, have a work permit, which must be applied for by their potential employer.

Please check the guidance - [working-while-still-at-school (bolton.gov.uk)](https://www.bolton.gov.uk/downloads/file/181/working-while-still-at-school). Even though your child is in home education, rather than attending school, the same law applies.  
  
**My child has SEND – can I home educate?**

Your right to educate your child at home applies equally where a child has special educational needs (SEN) or has Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP); unless your child attends a special school.

If your child attends a special school, the local authority must provide consent to the school to remove your child from roll. You should contact your SENDAS Officer and request an EHC review to ensure that you understand all options that are available to you when your child has an EHCP.

You can also obtain independent advice from Bolton Information and Advice Service [Home (iasbolton.com)](https://iasbolton.com/)

**Can I apply for an EHCP for my child?**

To apply for an EHCP for your child, please refer to: [EHCP Assessment – SEND Local Offer (bolton.gov.uk)](https://www.bolton.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer/ehcp-assessment)

You can also obtain independent advice from Bolton Information and Advice Service [Home (iasbolton.com)](https://iasbolton.com/)

The statutory timescales for EHC assessments are the same for a child who is electively home educated as a child who is in school.

**Can I apply for a special school or alternative provision for my child?**

Elective Home Education does not increase a child’s chances of securing a place in a special school.

If your child has an EHCP and you would like your child to go to a special school or Alternative Provision, you should contact your SENDAS Officer and request an EHC review. The Officer will complete the review and present the information to Panel for a decision.

You can also obtain independent advice from Bolton Information and Advice Service [Home (iasbolton.com)](https://iasbolton.com/)

**How do I refer my EHE child for autism or ADHD assessments?**

If you want your child to be assessed for autism or ADHD, you can self-refer to CAMHS or ask GP for a referral. You can also self-refer to iThrive. [IThrive 2 – 19 years Referral Form - Bolton Together Charity (bolton-together.org.uk)](https://bolton-together.org.uk/ithrive-2-19-years-referral-form/)   
  
**What can the local authority do to check the standard of education?**

Under [**Section 436A Education and Inspections Act 2006**](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/section/4), local authorities must make arrangements to identify children of compulsory school age in their area who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education other than at school. The EHE Officer will make informal enquiries about the education your child is accessing and will offer you a variety of ways in which to provide this information.

**What formal measures can the local authority take if they do not think I am providing a suitable education?**

Under [**Section 437(1) Education Act 1996**](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/437), local authorities shall intervene if it appears that the parents are not providing a suitable education. The local authority can serve a notice in writing to the parent asking the parent to demonstrate that the child is receiving a suitable education and setting a specified period of time in which the parent must demonstrate this. That period of time should not be less than 15 days from the date on which the notice was served.

If the parent fails to satisfy the local authority within the notice period that they are providing the child with a suitable education, the local authority can serve a school attendance order on them. The school attendance order can name a school that the child should attend. This is usually a last resort and will only be done when all reasonable steps have been exhausted.