

# Information for parents/carers who are considering Elective Home Education



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# Elective Home Education (EHE)

This booklet has been designed to provide you with advice and guidance if you are considering educating your child at home or if you are already doing so.

For the purpose of this leaflet, the definition of 'parent' includes any person who has parental responsibility and any person that the child lives with.

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) recognises that the education of children is the responsibility of parents and carers. The majority of parents decide to educate their children at school. However, some parents decide to educate their children at home. This is known as Elective Home Education (EHE).

If you are considering EHE as the education pathway for your child please contact the EHE support officer in the first instance on 01793 465050 prior to confirming your decision to remove your child from the school's roll.

**SBC's role is not to prevent parents from EHE, but we do want to work in partnership with you. This is to ensure that the home education you offer is effective under the existing legislation.**

# Why EHE?

The Government's aim is to ensure that all young people receive a world-class education which allows them to reach their potential and live a more fulfilled life. Their education should be provided in a safe environment. Parents have the right to educate their child at home and SBC wants all parents to be supported throughout their EHE journey.

A school or SBC should never encourage you to EHE your child and your reason for choosing EHE should not be influenced by any of the following:

- Avoiding non-attendance issues
- Avoiding an exclusion
- Not expecting your child to achieve satisfactory grades (SATS or GCSE's)
- You feel the school is unable to meet your child's needs

## **Educating children at home works well when it is a positive, informed and a dedicated choice.**

Points to consider to help you decide if home education is for you and your child:

- Can I provide efficient, full-time education suitable to my child's age, ability and aptitude?
- Do I have the time and ability needed to educate my child at home?
- Can I take on the full financial responsibility for my child's education including things like; IT equipment, internet access, study materials, text books, exam entry fees or tuition?
- Is my home suitable for undertaking teaching and learning?
- What would happen if I am not available to provide suitable full-time education for a short or long period?
- Have I considered the nature of the education I will be providing each day and how I am going to do that?
- What is the long-term goal of the education and will my child need to sit any exams?
- Have I considered that if I change my mind there may not be a place at the school of my choice?
- If I want my child to have work experience, am I aware that the employer must register the child's work and child employment regulations apply to children who are EHE?  
NB: Apprenticeships are not available for compulsory school age children.

# Do I need to be a teacher to EHE my child?

You do not need to have qualifications to educate your child at home. However, choosing to EHE your child is a huge commitment, which requires dedication, energy and patience.

Under section 7 of the Education Act 1996, it is your duty as a parent to make sure your child receives an efficient full-time education suitable for their age and ability and any special educational needs your child may have. Unfortunately, SBC is unable to provide or fund home tutors.

# Do I have to follow the National Curriculum?

There are many different educational approaches and a wide range of resources and tools available to enable you to tailor an education to your child's needs.

You do not have to follow the National Curriculum but it could be a good tool to help you decide which subjects to study and how to assess your child's achievements in readiness for any exams they wish to be entered for.

# Will I receive funding?

If you choose to EHE your child, you must be prepared to take full financial responsibility. This includes paying the cost for any examinations and home tutors. It will be your responsibility to contact any exam providers directly. More information about the wide range of services and resources available to the EHE community can be found at:

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20066/parental\\_support/15/home\\_schooling](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20066/parental_support/15/home_schooling)

# What if my child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)?

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) can be home educated. Parents must have the local authority's agreement to withdraw their child from school if the child has an EHCP and attends a special school. If your child has an EHCP, please contact the Special Educational Needs Disability (SEND) Service to discuss your decision to EHE. You can contact them at [SENAT@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:SENAT@swindon.gov.uk).

Where the EHC plan gives the name or type of school where the child will be educated and parents decide to educate at home, the local authority is not under a duty to make the special educational provision set out in the plan, provided it is satisfied that the arrangements made by the parents are suitable. Where the local authority and parents agree that home education is the right provision for a child or young person with an EHC plan then the local authority must arrange the special educational provision set out in the plan, working with the parents. In either situation, the local authority must review the plan annually to assure itself that the provision set out in it continues to be appropriate and that the child's SEND continue to be met.

# What do I need to do when I have decided to EHE my child?

You do not need to ask SBC for permission to EHE, but it would help us to support you if you were to notify the EHE support officer of your intentions prior to informing your child's school.

Once you have made this decision, please do inform your child's school in writing and ideally include the following: Your child's name; date of birth and the date which you intend to start educating your child at home. Those with parental responsibility should sign the letter giving their consent to the decision to EHE.

A copy of the SBC EHE policy and guidelines can be found at:

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20066/parental\\_support/15/home\\_schooling](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20066/parental_support/15/home_schooling)

Please let us know if you require a paper copy of the EHE policy and guidelines.

# What happens when I decide to EHE?

The Officers who support EHE families will be notified, and will send you an acknowledgement letter, which will include an offer of a home visit (which is not mandatory). This will give you the opportunity to meet an EHE support Officer to ask any questions you may have regarding EHE and what support is available. Please refer to the EHE guidance for more information.

# Will my child be able to benefit from services such as health screening and immunisations normally provided through the school?

These services are available through your GP. If your child has an EHCP, your child may be eligible to access additional health services.

# Can my child return to school?

Yes. If EHE does not work out as planned, your child can return to a school although many schools in Swindon have waiting lists. Please see the link below for further information on how to apply for a school place:

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/schoolsonline/info/4/school-management/3/schoolmanagement-admissions/3>

If you require support with the application process, please contact us and we will be happy to help.



# Who can I contact?

If you have any questions or concerns relating to EHE please do not hesitate to contact us, we are here to support you, please telephone [01793 465050](tel:01793465050) or email [ehe@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:ehe@swindon.gov.uk)

## **Inclusion & Achievement Services**

Swindon Borough Council  
Wat Tyler House  
Beckhampton Street  
Swindon  
SN1 2JH

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## **Swindon Local Offer**

Information and advice for children and adults in Swindon:

<https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/home>

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