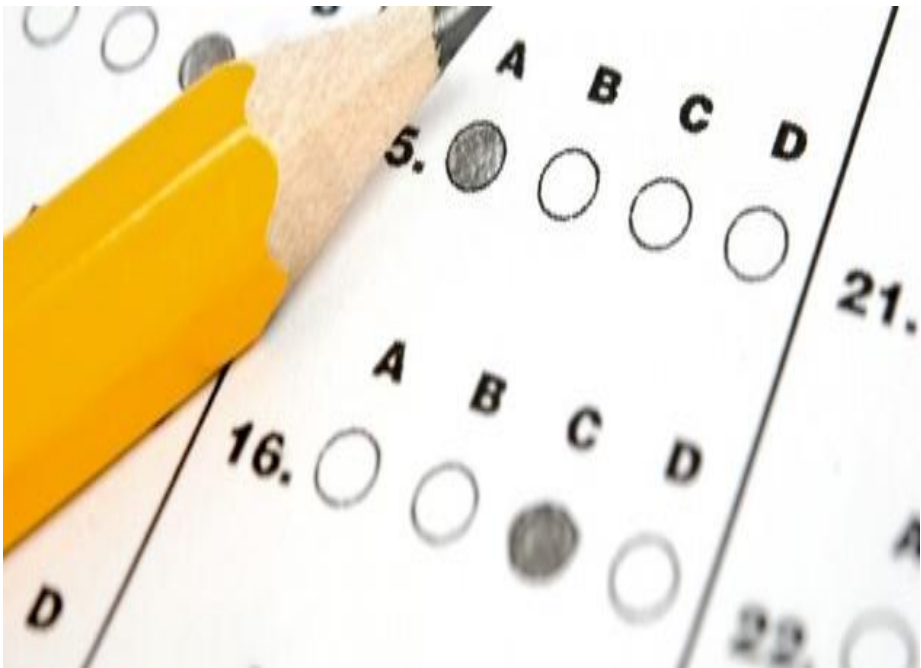


# Elective Home Education (Frequently Asked Questions)

[www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)



## **What is elective home education (EHE)?**

Elective Home Education is where parents/carers decide to home educate their child instead of sending them to school. The parent/carer would have full responsibility for providing a full time education suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs (SEN) they may have.

## **Why do parents choose to electively home educate their child?**

Parents choose to home educate for many reasons often based on their cultural, religious and philosophical views. However sometimes they make this decision as they feel they have no option and that it is in the best interest of their child to withdraw them from school. This can often be the case where they feel their child's special educational needs are not being met or they are concerned about bullying or other problems.

If you are considering home educating your child because of an unresolved issue or disagreement with the school, we would advise you to ensure you have spoken to the school directly and made them fully aware of your concerns before making this decision. It would also be advisable to contact the School Attendance Team at Portsmouth City Council to discuss your options before making the important decision to deregister them from the school roll.

**It is vital that parents/carers do not feel pressured into believing this is the only course of action open to you especially if educating at home is not what you really want to do.**

## **Do I need permission to electively home educate my child?**

No, you do not need permission to home educate your child unless they have a statement of special educational needs or an education health and care plan, in which case you should contact the LA Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Team before removing your child from the school roll.

## **How do I de-register my child to educate them at home?**

You are required to inform the school in writing that you intend to home educate your child at which point the school will deregister them from their roll.

Please note that schools have a legal duty to inform the Local Authority when a pupil is removed from their roll.

## **Would I get any financial help to educate my child?**

No, you would not receive any financial help towards educating your child at home. You will need to consider the cost of all resources required ie. writing equipment, text books, paper, examination fees, college placements, educational visits etc when making the decision.

## **Would I have to teach the National Curriculum?**

No, the National Curriculum only applies to state schools. You should, however, consider the effect it may have on your child if the National Curriculum is not followed. It could cause your child to fall behind in terms of their social/academic achievement compared to other children of their age who are attending a school.

## **Would my child still be able to take exams?**

Yes, but you would need to enrol with an examination board and find out where your local examination centres are. You would also need to consider the cost of the examinations, if coursework is required and whether the education that you are going to provide would enable your child to achieve the relevant qualifications they require for college, training courses etc.

## **Would I need to teach my child during school hours?**

No, you are able to teach your child on any day of the week and choose the hours that you feel are suitable for your situation. You should consider that children in schools receive around 25 hours education a week, over 39 weeks a year, this is considered full time education.

## **Is elective home education the same as home tuition?**

No, Local Authorities provide home tuition if a child has a long term, evidenced illness/condition preventing them from attending school. If your child is home educated the Local Authority does not provide, nor recommend, tutors for you to contact.

## **What if the education I provide is not satisfactory?**

In the majority of cases, families who choose to home educate provide their child with a good education. However, if it appears that the education you are providing is unsatisfactory, the Local Authority may issue a School Attendance Order which will require parent/carers to place their child on the roll of an identified school.

## **Can I change my mind once I have decided to home educate my child?**

Yes, quite often children or their parents find that home education is not for them. We can advise you on how to get your child back into a school and depending on the circumstances this might mean returning to the school from which your child was deregistered initially, although clearly applications can be made to alternative schools with available places by parent/carers.

## **What happens to my child's Education Health and Care Plan if I choose to home educate them?**

Parents have a right to educate their child at home where a child has special educational needs, irrespective of whether the child has an Education Health Care Plan/statement of special educational needs or not. It does, however, remain the duty of the Local Authority to maintain the statement/EHC plan and review it annually, following procedures set out in chapter 9 of the SEN Code of Practice.

## **Can I speak to somebody if I have any further questions about Elective Home Education?**

Yes, you can contact the Local Authority's School Attendance Team (details below) who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please be aware that this leaflet only gives general advice in relation to Elective Home Education. Should you require further information please contact us or view Portsmouth City Council's Elective Home Education Guidance available on the Portsmouth Local Offer. Alternatively you can view the Elective Home Education Guidance produced by the Department for Education (links below)

[www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org](http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org) and search for Elective Home Education

[Dfe Elective Home Education Guidance](#)

**School Attendance Team** Telephone: 023 9284 1419  
email: [electivehomeeducation@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:electivehomeeducation@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

**SEND Team** Telephone: 023 9284 1238  
email: [seneducation@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:seneducation@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)