Elective Home Education (EHE) is a legal and legitimate choice that parents may choose as the education provision for their child(ren). Sole responsibility for the child’s education is undertaken by the parent/carer and is completed at home or in the community. The child is not registered on roll at an educational establishment, although they may be on a waiting list for admission to a school. This type of education may be temporary or permanent. Serious thought should be given to all the benefits and disadvantages before making a final decision, as it is a big commitment.

If a child has never been registered at school, there is no obligation to notify the local authority of the EHE; however, it is advisable that this action is completed, as it helps when truancy sweeps are carried out.

‘Education Otherwise’ provide a card for electively home educated pupils and parents. They also offer advice on local home education groups and offer discounts on products and places of interest. There is an annual fee for this service.

If you decide to electively home educate a child who has been, or is, on a school roll, you must de-register the child from school; this must be done in writing and you must clearly state that you are taking sole responsibility for the child’s education. A copy of this letter should be forwarded to the Education Welfare Service.

For children who are electively home educated, the London Borough of Hillingdon does not provide:
- a grant
- teaching staff
- stationery or books
- the location for education to take place
- educational visits
- payment for the entry fees of future exams to be taken

In choosing EHE, you do not have to follow the National Curriculum, nor do you have to have your learning in a formal setting. Careful consideration of your style of teaching and learning objectives should be made. If you do not wish to follow a formal route you should remember that the EHE must set the child up with skills for life in the community in the future. Educational activities can be as varied and flexible as you want them to be.
You may provide us with a report detailing the educational provision arranged for the child or a Hillingdon officer may visit you.

The Education Act 1996 section 7 states:

a. “The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable

b. to his age ability and aptitude, and
c. to any special educational needs he may have”

A child must be in receipt of education whilst they are of statutory school age. This is currently between the ages of 5 (the term after their fifth birthday) and 16 (the last Friday in June when they would be a year 11 pupil). Pupils up to 18 years must remain in education, training, employment, voluntary work or a combination from 2014.

There are no set working times for EHE. It is recognised that much learning is completed out of conventional hours due to almost continuous one-to-one contact. It may be helpful to remember as a guide that if a child were at school they would have between 22 and 25 hours of tuition per week for 38 weeks per year.

If a child has a Statement of Educational Needs you may still choose to EHE. However, the statement remains in place and the local authority has a duty to ensure that the child’s needs are met. A Social Care Section 17 assessment is carried out in these circumstances.

Parent Partnership is an independent service that supports and advises parents/carers on all matters regarding special educational needs.

For pupils that are aged 14 and above, who may be in the last two years at school, an option to consider is work experience. Parents/carers must check and ensure that the work placement has the relevant insurances, that health and safety requirements are adhered to and Criminal Records Bureau checks are current. The employment must not be waged and it must be of a suitable type for the child’s age and understanding.

What the London Borough of Hillingdon will do

- Provide you with impartial advice and information
- Send you a letter, which provides sources of advice and guidance
- Request that you complete an annual update form, so that the database may be amended
- Forward basic details to the Information, Advice and Guidance Service of any child, aged 13 to 16, who is electively home educated. The service is a universal service that offers all young people advice on employment or further education
- Refer any child with special educational needs to Social Care; their statement will remain in place
- Make a referral to Social Care or the Education Welfare Service of any concerns regarding the welfare of the child or the educational provision provided.
- Uphold a mutual respect and understanding of the parents’ right to EHE.
- Build a positive relationship between the local authority and the families that choose EHE.
- Provide access to a public examination centre.

For more information, contact

Education Welfare
☎ 01895 250858
✉ educationwelfareservice@hillingdon.gov.uk

Other useful contacts

Ace
☎ 020 7354 8321
✉ www.ace-ed.org.uk

Education Otherwise
☎ 0870 730 074
✉ www.education-otherwise.org

Examination queries
☎ 01608 645 455
✉ www.examstogether.com

Parent Partnership
☎ 01895 277001

If you would like this publication in large type, Braille or on audio tape, or you would like information about this document or council services in your own language, please call 01895 250858.