

What is Elective Home Education?

V1. March 2025



Education is the Right of the Child

What the Law Says:

Education Act 1996, Section 7:

Duty of parents to secure education for children of compulsory school age: The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause them to receive efficient, full-time education suitable to:

- (a) their age, ability, and aptitude, and
- (b) any special educational needs (in the case of a child who is in the area of a local authority in England) or additional learning needs (in the case of a child who is in the area of a local authority in Wales) they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

Things to Consider:

- The education must be efficient, suitable, and full-time.
- Elective Home Education (EHE) falls under the “otherwise” category.

Elective home education is a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home– or at home and in some other way which they choose – instead of sending them to school full-time.

Home-educating parents are not required to:

- Have a timetable.
- Set hours during which education will take place.
- Observe school hours, days, or terms.
- Formally assess progress or set development objectives.

Parent/carer responsibilities

The parent becomes responsible for ensuring their child receives a suitable education and all financial responsibility to educate falls on the parent/carer such as resources, examination costs, tutors, or part time alternative provision. Sandwell Local authority do not provide a for a personal budget or direct payments during the initial or review Education and Health Care Plan process.

The local authority does not provide funding, tutors or materials to home educate.

Local Authority Duties:

The local authority has a duty to investigate if a child of compulsory school age in its area is not receiving a suitable education. We do this by:

- Contacting the family and conducting reasonable enquiries,
- By requesting information on the child’s learning.



If parents fail to provide information on learning, it is deemed that the education is unsatisfactory, not meeting the needs of the child, or that the parental duty to educate the child has not been fulfilled, the local authority will decide what action to take. This may include issuing a School Attendance Order.

The Role of the Elective Home Education Team:

The local Authority team provides support and guidance to elective home education families through various means, such as offering:

Home visits (these are consent led, and families have the right to refuse)

- Telephone consultations
- Online meetings via Teams
- Meetings in the community
- Regular newsletters
- Community Drop ins

The team offer initial consultations and progress reviews of learning, which can be done annually if satisfactory. Families needing additional support can have more meetings, and we can also provide guidance for Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, if necessary.

The team can also support students to return to school when EHE is no longer the chosen option or there is a breakdown in Parent/Student and School relationship.

The team can also support your child to remain in full-time education within a school establishment prior to taking steps into Elective Home Education.

N.B. The EHE team do not provide tutoring for children

Important Consideration for Parents:

Parents must be made aware of the **School Admissions Fair Access Panel** decision. If a parent/carer chooses to deregister their child, provide EHE, and then decides to apply for a Sandwell school within 12 months, they will have to return to the school they left.

For more information, please contact Sandwell EHE team:

Email: home_education@sandwell.gov.uk





www.sandwell.gov.uk