**Elective Home Education**

**What does ‘Elective Home Education’ Mean?**

Elective home education is a term used to describe 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.

**Legislation**

According to Section 7 of the Education Act, there is a duty for parents to secure education of children of compulsory school age. The Act states:E+W

“ 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 “

**Financial implications of Electively Home Educating**

Parents who choose to educate a child at home rather than sending the child to school full-time, must understand that they must take on financial responsibility for the cost of doing so. This includes the cost of any external assistance used such as tutors, parent groups or part-time alternative provision. Examination costs are also the responsibility of parents if a child does not attend school full-time.

**Local Authority Duties**

Local Authorities are under a duty to identify children not receiving an education. 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 otherwise than at school.

Local Authorities may undertake visits to the home of a child who is being electively home educated to ensure they are receiving a suitable full time education. Although the LA cannot insist on entry to a parent’s home, if they are not satisfied parents are providing suitable education –they can issue an attendance order. If evidence is not given to prove education is suitable the LA may uphold their safeguarding duty and refer to Children’s Social Care.

Does a Parent need permission to Electively Home Educate?

Parents of children who attend mainstream settings, can choose to remove them from the schools admission register (off roll) and electively home educate. This is the case for those children with or without an EHCP Education, Health and Care Plan. However, for parents of children attending specialist provision, the LA must give permission for them to be removed from the schools admission register (taken off roll).

Obligations

There are no obligations to follow the national curriculum or the same syllabus/topics as a school. There is no obligation to have rooms or premises equipped to a particular standard. The school day does not have to match school terms, days or hours and you do not have to have a scheduled timetable. There is no requirement for parents who choose to Electively Home Educate to be registered with the Department for Education or with OFSTED.

Flexi Schooling

Although children being home-educated are not normally registered at any school, parents sometimes choose to make arrangements for a child to receive part of the provision at a school. The purpose of this will often be to provide education in specific subjects more easily than is possible at home. This is known as ‘flexi-schooling’. Schools are under no obligation to agree to such arrangements, but some are happy to do so. When a child is flexi-schooled, parents must still ensure that the child receives a suitable full-time education but the element received at school must be taken into account in considering whether that duty is met, just as it should be when a child attends other settings on a part-time basis as described above.

Elective Home Education for children with an EHCP

Whilst the LA have no duty to secure the Educational provision set out in an EHCP for children who are Electively Home Educated, parents doing so is not a reason for the LA to cease to maintain the plan. An EHCP may be amended to reflect that the parent is making suitable alternative arrangements. The plan should continue to be reviewed annually and the LA must be satisfied that the arrangements being made are suitable. If the LA is not satisfied that suitable arrangements are being made for a child with an EHCP, the LA can name a suitable school and could take action against parents if they do not send their child to the named school.