

# 10 things you should know about Elective Home Education



Northumberland Education Welfare Service is part of the Virtual School in the Education and Skills Service

1

Education Welfare work to ensure the local authority's statutory duties and responsibilities for safeguarding children in relation to school attendance, elective home education, children missing education, child employment and performance licensing are carried out to the highest possible standard.

2

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

3

Parents choose to home educate for many reasons, for example; cultural, religious, philosophical, specific SEN needs.

If you are considering home educating to avoid prosecution for non attendance at school or because of a disagreement with school we would advise you to contact the school directly or contact education welfare service to discuss your options.

4

You do not have to ask permission to begin educating your child at home unless your child attends a special school. If your child does attend a special school then you must consult with the local authority before home educating.

5

You are required to inform the school in writing that you intend to home educate your child. The school will then inform the LA.

6

The LA would not be able to offer you any financial help towards educating your child at home. You will need to consider the cost of writing equipment, text books, paper, examination fees, college placements etc.

7

You do not have to teach the National Curriculum. You should, however, consider the effects it may have on your child if the National Curriculum is not followed. It may cause your child to fall behind in terms of their social/academic achievement compared to other children his or her own age who are attending a school. You are able to teach your child on any day of the week and choose the hours that you feel are suitable. You should consider that children in schools receive around 25 hours education a week over 38 weeks a year, this is considered full time education.

8

Elective Home Education is not the same as EOTAS. Local authorities provide home tuition if a child is sick and cannot attend school. If your child is home educated the local authority does not provide tutors or keep a bank of tutors for you to contact.

9

In the majority of cases, families who home educate provide their child with a great education. Occasionally a parent can not meet the needs of their child. If it appears the education you are providing is unsatisfactory, the LA could issue a School Attendance Order which will require your child to be placed on a school roll.

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.

10

We are always happy to discuss any queries you may have:

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