



Considering Elective Home Education when your child has SEND

A brief checklist for parents of children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

- **Is it 'elective'?** in other words is it what you want to do because you feel it is best for your child or young person, and you feel able to educate them at home?
- **Is it because of attendance issues and possible concerns about prosecution?**
If yes, then be aware that there may be better ways to deal with this. Have you discussed it with your child's school? If you have and that has not moved things forward, for further advice you could contact:
attendance@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- **Is it because of exclusions or concerns about a permanent exclusion?**
If yes, then be aware that there may be better ways to deal with this. Have you discussed it with your child's school? If you have and that has not moved things forward, for further advice you could contact: ert@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- **Is it because you are concerned about bullying?**
If yes, then be aware that there may be better ways to deal with this. Have you discussed it with your child's school? If you have and that has not moved things forward, for further advice go to: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/keeping-children-and-young-people-safe/bullying> or contact Learner Engagement Services on **01865 323513**
- **Is it because of behaviour difficulties at school?**
If yes, then be aware that there may be better ways to deal with this. Have you discussed it with your child's school? If you have and that has not moved things forward, for further advice you could contact **SENDIASS** on **01865 810516** or e-mail sendiass@oxfordshire.gov.uk.
- **Is it because you don't feel your child is receiving enough support for their SEND or may have special needs that haven't been identified?**
If yes, then be aware that there may be better ways to deal with this. Have you discussed it with your child's school? If you have and that has not moved things forward, for further advice you could contact **SENDIASS** on **01865810516** or e-mail sendiass@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- **Is it because they have medical needs that you are concerned about?**
If yes, then be aware that there may be better ways to deal with this. Have you discussed your concerns with the healthcare professionals who know your child? The school will have a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and a named person who is responsible for its implementation – this may be the best person from school to contact. If you have and that has not moved things forward, for further advice you could contact **SENDIASS** on **01865 810516** or e-mail sendiass@oxfordshire.gov.uk

➤ **Does your child have an Education Health and Care plan?**

If yes, before making a decision to home educate, you should ring your child's SEN Officer to discuss your reasons for taking your child off the school roll as their EHC plan will need to be changed to show they are now being home-educated. It is advisable to request an early annual review before taking any steps towards taking your child off a school roll to see whether there are any appropriate alternatives to home education.

IMPORTANT

- You need to be aware that if you choose to electively home educate your child with an EHCP that you become responsible for delivering the provision outlined in their plan and at your own expense.
- The LA have to agree that the education you can provide is 'suitable', in other words that it will meet your child's needs so you will need to explain how you plan to do this.
- You will no longer have the same access to some of the LA SEN services like Educational Psychologists or SEN Support services.
- Any therapies, like Speech and Language therapy or occupational therapy, outlined in your child's plan would continue but any programme normally delivered in school would be your responsibility to deliver and then most of the therapy provision would be delivered in a clinic setting and not at home.
- Social or communication outcomes that need group work couldn't be delivered without a peer group.

➤ **Is your child with an EHCP at mainstream school or setting?**

If yes, then you do not need the LA's permission to take them off roll but you should discuss any reasons and concerns with your SEN officer before you submit a written request to school to have them taken off roll to school. You could also ring **SENDIASS** on **01865 810516** to talk things through.

➤ **Is your child with an EHCP at a special school?**

If yes, then before you take them off the school roll, you **must** have the LA's permission. It is important to discuss the reasons for your decision with your SEN Officer and consider requesting an early Annual Review.

IMPORTANT If you are electively home educating and have made suitable arrangements for your child or young person's special educational provision, the LA remains under a duty to maintain the EHC plan and to carry out a review of the EHC plan on at least an annual basis.

The most important thing is that Elective Home Education is your choice and you are not doing it because you feel you have no alternative. Make sure you have thought about the longer term and whether this is something you will want to do for the rest of your child's school career. It is important to have an exit plan if you are feeling that you want to commit to elective home education for a shorter period. Be aware that it might not be possible to return to the school your child previously had attended and that there may be difficulties finding an appropriate place

A well-thought-out decision and well-planned elective home education can be very positive for some children with SEND and the Local Authority Elective Home

Education team have guidance to share with you. Be aware they are a very small team who work term time only. ehe@oxfordshire.gov.uk