



Rutland  
County Council

# Elective Home Education

*Your Questions Answered*





# Elective Home Education

## Frequently asked questions

This document has been developed to assist with any query that you may have regarding Elective Home Education (EHE) in Rutland. If you have a question that is not answered below please email [inclusion@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:inclusion@rutland.gov.uk)



Rutland  
County Council

EHE Parent

“ It’s still early days for us, but it seems to have been a good choice as my daughter is improving and in a much happier place than she was a year ago. ”

## I am interested in registering my child for EHE, who do I contact?

You might want to start by speaking to the home education national support groups and other parents who home educate first, to hear the pros and cons of home educating. If you decide to go ahead then the procedure is as follows - if your child is currently on roll of a school, you may notify the school that you wish to home educate your child. You may also contact the council by emailing:

**[inclusion@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:inclusion@rutland.gov.uk)**



**VISIT**

**[ahomeeducation.co.uk](http://ahomeeducation.co.uk)**

**For More  
Advice**

## Am I legally obliged to inform my local authority that I want to educate my child at home?

The law does not currently require you to notify your local authority of your intentions to EHE. However, Rutland County Council has a legal duty to ensure its resident children are receiving a suitable education and may intervene, regardless of registration, if it appears this is not being provided. It is therefore recommended that you register your intentions. For further information, Elective Home Education Guidance for parents and schools is provided to you and is available on the Council's website.

## My child's current school has requested I remove my child from their roll and register as EHE, can they do this?

A school cannot request or advise a parent to de-register their child from the school to EHE. Any decision to EHE must be made by you. The responsibility to provide a suitable education to your child will be effective from the date after you remove your child from the school.

## My child has special needs with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), can I still home educate my child?

You have a right to electively home educate your child if you wish. It remains the responsibility of Rutland County Council if your child lives in Rutland or the Local Authority where your child lives to ensure that your child's needs are met. If your child is attending a special school, Rutland County Council must give consent for your child's name to be removed from the school roll.

## Will Rutland County Council supply textbooks, exam papers etc.?

Rutland County Council does not supply textbooks or pay/arrange for exams. If you make the choice to home educate your child, you will be expected to pay for any exam fees, should you wish your child to sit them, and the cost of textbooks, tuition fees etc.

## What happens if I want to enter my child for public exams?

For home schooled children who have studied for a public exam, like GCSEs or A levels, either independently, through a private tutor, or via a correspondence course, it is usually the parents own responsibility to find an exam centre, register for the exam, find a qualified person to assess coursework and enter examinations. Examination Officers do not have to accept private candidates to their exam centre so it is important to know about the systems in place before contacting the officer, that way you will seem organised and he or she will feel more relaxed about accepting your application.

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## Am I required to follow the National Curriculum?

If you decide to home educate your child, it will be your responsibility to provide your child with a suitable full-time education programme that meets your child's needs according to age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs. There is no requirement for you to follow a prescribed curriculum. However, the education programme should be well balanced and prepare your child for life within the community of which he or she is a member.

## What might my child's learning routine look like?

The time allocated to your child's education will depend upon their age but, as a general rule, a minimum of three hours of purposeful and planned educational activity should be arranged each school day during normal school terms. In addition there should be properly supervised individual work. You should consider the amount of time that it will be necessary for your child to be taught. It is a good idea to establish a routine and you should try each day to have varied activities. This is especially important for younger children who cannot concentrate for too long.





EHE Parent

“ At your home you need to think about where your child can work and then you will need: files, folders, plastic wallets, pens, pencils, notebooks and diary, planner and paper. ”

## What about compulsory subjects?

Subjects are not compulsory - the National Curriculum applies only to schools. However, you will probably want to take account of the National Curriculum which specifies certain subjects. Planning your child's work is important and it is useful to develop a clear indication of the programme and methods of assessment. You might find it helpful to record what is achieved and use these records as a basis for discussing with the child his/her progress. It is important for your child's development that they have the chance to mix with other children of all ages not just other family members, on a regular basis. Membership of a young people's organisation should be considered to provide the opportunity for forming relationships in safe and comfortable surroundings. It may also be helpful to consider joining groups for the purpose of expressing any artistic or musical talents. As part of the educational and social experience, school often gives children access to museums, places of interest and different environments. You should consider outings and visits as an integral part of the learning process.

## What if my child has a part time job?

All children, whether in school or home educated, who wish to work part-time, or to take part in acting or modelling are subject to legislation. You must apply to the Council for permission prior to your child doing any work of this kind. Full details of what types of work hours are permitted and application forms, are available from the Inclusion Officer, email [inclusion@rutland.go.uk](mailto:inclusion@rutland.go.uk). When your child reaches the age of 15 years you may wish to consider work experience for them.

## After I notify the school that I want to register my child as EHE with the local authority what happens next?

An officer from Rutland County Council's Inclusion Service will send you a formal registration letter in the post and your details will be entered on the elective home education database that is held by the service. A visit with an Inclusion Officer will be arranged within 28 days of your notification. The Inclusion Officer will provide you with a copy of the EHE Guidance, which is also available on the Council's website.

## What is an Inclusion Officer?

An Inclusion Officer is employed by the Council and is experienced in assessing the quality of educational provision. They meet all required checks for working with children and be qualified and registered to work in the UK.

## What should I expect from the visit?

The visit will be conducted in your child's home unless otherwise agreed by the Inclusion Officer and you. In the case of the visit taking place elsewhere a suitable venue, such as a library or children's centre, will normally be agreed. The visit would not normally take any longer than one hour and the Inclusion Officer would expect to meet with your child. If your child has an EHC Plan, in most cases an Educational Psychologist will arrange to visit you and your child.

## Do I receive a copy of the report form the visit?

You will be provided with a copy of the report within 28 days after the visit.



## Can I provide evidence of home educating my child rather than agreeing to a visit?

If you do not wish to meet with the Inclusion Officer you will be asked to provide a programme of education which may require further follow up information and you can provide an endorsement from professional(s) involved in the delivery of the programme and who would be able to confirm that the education provided, in their view, is suitable.

## My last visit was unsatisfactory, what happens now?

The Inclusion Officer will make recommendations in their report and arrange a further visit within six weeks. However, this does not apply for a child or young person with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). Should the outcome of the visit be unsatisfactory the child or young person will need to return to the provision named on their EHC plan.

If after the second visit the provision is still deemed unsatisfactory, and the Council believes that there is insufficient evidence that a suitable education is being provided, a Notice will be served instructing your child to attend school – a School Attendance Order under Section 437 (3) of the Education Act 1996.

## What information do you hold about my child on the EHE records?

The inclusion service will hold your child's full name, date of birth, address, parent details and contact details, whether they have any special educational needs or disability or have an Education Health and Care plan. We also record dates of your last visit and any information you share with us regarding your child's education plan and we would like to know why you have chosen to home educate your child. We do not ask for your religion or ethnicity.

## How long do you hold my child's details after I register for EHE?

The Inclusion service will keep your details for the duration of your child's statutory schooling; or until you request that you no longer wish to remain registered with the local authority as EHE, for which your details will be deleted after 3 years from the date of your de-registration request. For more detail on how we hold your information, please refer to the Privacy Notice on the Council's website.

# Hear what some of our parents say about Elective Home Education:

“ People worry about socialising with peers. With home education she has a few friends and attends clubs and keeps in touch with a few school friends. Obviously, home education is different for children of different ages. My child would be starting her GCSEs if she were still at school. She will still do this as she wants to achieve and the plan is for her to split her exams out over two years. Home education gives us that flexibility. ”

“ As the parent of a child who is home schooled my time is spent sorting out work for the week and the term ahead - thinking and planning. Making sure and asking the tutors for homework and feedback from the tutors and speaking to the local authority. ”

“ Take time for yourself and even though you will spend lots of time together make sure that the child has time to themselves. ”

“ When looking at topics they can be about whatever you and your child would like, at the beginning of each term decide what the topics are going to be. I also keep magazines that come through the door and look for clubs in the local area that a child can join. A library is also a place that can help with books, computers and local clubs. ”

“ Parents choose to home educate for all sorts of reasons. If you are thinking of this, then my advice would be to talk to parents and home educators so that you can get an idea of the ins and outs. It wasn't an easy decision for us but it was the best one for my daughter. She became both physically and mentally ill and the school environment exacerbated this. She went to a lovely supportive school and despite their best efforts to help her in any way they could, her mental health deteriorated and she became too ill and wasn't coping. There were other options for her, but we chose to try home educating as it seemed like it could take the pressure off her mental health, allow her to learn at her own pace, allow her to rest on bad days and allow her to study and learn in a more individualised way. ”



# I would like some further information and advice, where can I find it?

For more useful information in regards to EHE you may be interested in reading the following webpages:

[www.electivehomeeducationservice.co.uk](http://www.electivehomeeducationservice.co.uk)

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents)

[www.educationotherwise.org](http://www.educationotherwise.org)

**Rutland Local Offer**

[www.rutland.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localoffer)

**Rutland Information Service**

[ris.rutland.gov.uk](http://ris.rutland.gov.uk)



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