

Elective Home Education (EHE)

Information for Parents

Bury
Council



Elective home education is the parent or carer's choice to take legal and financial responsibility for ensuring their child receives a suitable, efficient and full-time education out of a school setting (at home or otherwise).

Home education is a huge commitment but can be very rewarding and exciting for you and your child. You are never alone. There is always plenty of help and support available to you from the local authority, the local EHE community and a variety of organisations. Before you decide to start EHE, we recommend that you read this leaflet, conduct your own research and arrange a meeting or phone call with your child's head teacher and/or the EHE team. The law requires a child to be educated from the age of five to sixteen and the parents are responsible to see that this happens either in school or otherwise.

Do I have to tell the Council that I'm home educating?

You do not need to tell the Council when you have decided to home educate where your child is enrolled at a school, Bury Council asks that you inform the school that you are going to home educate in writing and request their name be removed from the school roll. It is the school's duty to inform Bury Council of your decision.

If your child has never been registered at a school, you can inform the local authority of your intention to home educate by emailing ehe@bury.gov.uk.

What are my parental responsibilities?

When electing to home educate you must

- Take full financial responsibility of your child's education
- Provide a full-time education which takes up a significant proportion of the week
- Provide an education that is efficient - works towards and achieves your aims
- Provide an education that is suitable for the age, ability and any SEND needs of your child and equips them for life within the community
- Provide a basic level of literacy/English, numeracy/maths, learning and development
- Provide opportunities for your child to socialise with other children
- Be responsible for your child's education, even if a tutor teaches them
- Supplement education provided away from home (such as tuition)
- Safeguard your child following safer recruitment checks e.g. check anyone working with your child (e.g. a tutor) has an up-to-date enhanced DBS
- Pay and source exam or qualification providers should you wish for your child to take qualifications (e.g. FSQ/GCSEs/IGCSEs)
- Provide a suitable environment for learning

Important facts about EHE

- You do not have to provide us with any qualifications
- You do not have to use the National Curriculum or make formal plans
- Children learn best when they are happy, interested and engaged
- There are different approaches to education
- It can take a while to find the approach or approaches that work for you and your family
- The transition from school to home education can be challenging at first but there are ways to manage this
- The Council will not be able to provide tuition or educational resources e.g. teachers once your child is EHE



- There is no funding for EHE
- Your child will not be entitled to free school meals or transport to out of school providers
- You can contact admissions to apply for a school place at any time if you change your mind
- It is not guaranteed that your child will get a school place immediately or get into their previous or your preferred school
- Gaining evidence to support an application for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) can be difficult
- Apprenticeships are not available to children of compulsory school age

When is EHE not recommended?

EHE should always be a positive choice without pressure. (Please contact the EHE team if this is not the case). You should not choose to EHE in an effort to avoid:

- prosecution for poor attendance
- intervention from children's services (interventions will continue)
- permanent exclusion
- addressing a problem with a school, staff member or head teacher
- attendance at a school which is not your first choice



What should you expect from Bury Council?

- Your child's school will inform Bury Council of your choice/decision to home educate
- An EHE officer from the Community Education Team will be in touch to welcome you to the EHE community
- Further contact shall be made to informally discuss your child's education, offering information, support and advice
- We aim to support EHE families with any enquiries and to ensure all children are receiving a suitable education. We recognise teaching and learning can take many forms, and we do not endorse any specific methods of teaching and learning

What will the EHE Officer do?

- Further contact shall be made to informally discuss your child's education, offering information, support and advice
- They will offer support - in the form of information, advice and guidance
- They will ask you about the education being provided at home. This is to satisfy us that the education you are providing is suitable, this is usually by requesting a meeting
- You do not have to meet or discuss your child's education with us, or provide information but, should you choose not to, your EHE Officer could have no choice but to deem the education unsuitable
- Most families provide a suitable education at home for their child/ren
- If unsuitable, we will provide support and suggestions to help you improve the education - ongoing support is usually successful
- On rare occasions where the education is unsuitable for a sustained period, the Council may have to consider action to ensure that your child is placed on a school roll

Can my child be EHE with an EHCP?

Children with special educational needs: Parents also have the right to educate their child at home if they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The EHCP will remain in place and Bury Council must ensure that parents make suitable educational arrangements to meet the child's special educational needs.

It remains the duty of the Council to maintain and review this on an annual basis. On receipt of notification that a parent has requested their child be removed from school and where they have an EHCP, the head teacher will notify the SEND caseworker and the EHE team, and the parent will be contacted to arrange to meet to discuss the provision being proposed. The Local Authority must be satisfied that the child will have their special educational needs satisfied through home education. Parents considering EHE may wish to familiarise themselves with paragraphs 10.30 – 10.38 of the SEND Code of Practice. If a school already attended by your child is a special school and the child is attending it under arrangements made by the local authority, the local authority's consent is necessary for the child's name to be removed from the admission register.

How can I contact the EHE Community Learning Officer?



EHE Checklist

- ☐ Research home education online and talk to other home educators (please ask us for contact details)
- ☐ Read the DfE guidance for parents
- ☐ Consider joining the EHE Facebook Page
- ☐ Identify an approach to education that you could try
- ☐ Speak to your child/ren about the decision to EHE and check they are happy with it; it is important to capture their voice
- ☐ Think about how to support the transition from school to home education
- ☐ Identify your child's abilities and how you can home educate, to cater for their needs and abilities so that progress can be made
- ☐ Identify what your child will begin learning and how Identify an environment conducive to learning where your child can focus
- ☐ Think about other practical learning opportunities inside and outside the home e.g. baking, gardening, board games, swimming, walking in nature and learning along the way. (this list isn't exhaustive)
- ☐ Socialisation and development: Identify opportunities for your child to socialise with other children
- ☐ Understand that if you want your child to take examinations, they are your responsibility to source and pay for
- ☐ Please contact the Community Learning Officer for EHE for a wealth of information about examinations

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet if you have any questions, please contact our Community Learning Officer for EHE on ehe@bury.gov.uk

At Bury Council we would like to support you and to celebrate the work that your child/ren have and continue to achieve, this will include running network events/coffee mornings so that you can meet other parents and children from the EHE Community. Please scan the QR code to provide feedback on what you would like us to include in our upcoming events:

